



## **Oregon Master Gardener Association 3rd Quarter 2020 Chapter Reports**

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Submitted By</u></b>
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# **Benton County Master Gardener Association**

## **3rd Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

### **Community Gardens –**

During the summer volunteers were allowed to resume activities maintaining our local community gardens following guidelines established by OSU during this pandemic.

**Corvallis Central Park –** Activities resumed to maintain a section of the park that Benton County master gardeners have supported for years.

**Fairgrounds Entrance Gardens –** We've gotten back to work sprucing up the five garden beds that greet visitors to the Benton County Fairgrounds. One of the beds has been renovated with new soil, a drip watering system, and plants designed to attract birds.

**Demo Garden –** Despite getting a late start, the demo garden team has been very productive! Take a look at a short video of their efforts

here: <https://oregonstate.box.com/s/kmg7a3ey282jx9cjr15rajte3rhh7>

**Community Garden Action Team (CGET) -** CGET has done "Ask a Veggie Expert" on Zoom and Facebook Live. The six, one-hour sessions this summer have reached a Willamette Valley audience with attendance of 15-25 people per session. Many of attendees are new to gardening or new to the area. We can all learn from one another as we share experiences and resources. We have two more "Ask a Veggie Expert" sessions scheduled in September.

**Plant Problem Scenarios -** Cancellation of in class training prevented us from presenting our Plant Problem Scenario role playing activities in person. With help from a few technical savvy Master Gardeners, we developed an on-line version using Zoom. Breaking into four teams, we successfully presented 12 different scenarios to trainees in both Benton and Linn counties. Feedback from the trainees who attended the sessions was very positive.

**Plant Propagation –** Our plant propagation work groups, 1) Perennials and 2) Tree, Shrub, & Vine are starting up under strict Covid-19 guidelines. We are allowed to have 10 people present, so counting the two leaders we are able to have 8 people sign up. We have reserved 4 of the sign-ups for trainees only and 4 for anyone else. Over the summer some perennials were started from cuttings and last spring, before COVID-19, some plants were started by seed so we have some plants to work with. We will welcome our new trainees and explain the purpose, plans, and rules of the perennial propagation work group. Then we will have people working on potting of rooted cuttings, seedlings and other small plants needing larger pots. We will stick some new cuttings and plant some seeds. Along the way we will discuss our techniques, tricks, tools, medium choices, and answer any questions. The Tree, Shrub, & Vine group has many rooted cuttings to work on and even a few woody plants started from seed.

**Virtual Garden Tours –** Traditionally, the summer member meetings for Benton County have been replaced with garden tours or field trips. This year, we have substituted in-person events by creating virtual tours of member's gardens. Members have submitted their favorite photos which have been uploaded into an album available for viewing on our association website. There has been a different theme for each month. Gift certificates have been awarded to two members each month through a random drawing. The albums can be viewed here: <https://www.bentonmq.org/photo-albums>

Submitted by:  
Richard Taylor, OMGA State Representative

## **CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

### **Third Quarter 2020 Chapter Report - Hood River County**

This summer has been very successful for Hood River County despite the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. We have been following Oregon State University guidelines and finding creative ways to implement the Master Gardener Program. Our Virtual Plant Clinic has been up and running through the spring and summer with community members emailing their questions and filling out our online form. It has been challenging but rewarding learning to navigate our Virtual Plant Clinic program.

OSU Hood River County Central Gorge Master Gardeners offered a free virtual summer gardening seminar series called "Gardening to Save the World". The seminars were set up as webinars so that we could require registration beforehand. This allowed us to gather the names of attendees, including those who were interested but didn't ultimately attend. Details about where they were from, and whether they would like to be sent more information about joining Master Gardeners was also gathered. Everyone who registered was sent a recording of the webinar, and we're also working on publishing a new YouTube channel that will hold all of the recordings in one accessible spot. While 30-60 participants attend each webinar live, the information will continue to be accessible for many more to watch and learn from! Our records show a total of 161 attendees for this series of six webinars. A total of 323 people registered with 92 of those being MG's, including 32 from CGMGA. The rest of the attendees were from the general public, hearing about the event through the newspaper, Facebook, NextDoor, Rockford (a Hood River neighborhood communication website), word-of-mouth, and more. 63 people indicated that they would like to learn more about joining the Master Gardener program. A survey will soon be sent out to all of those who registered. This form will serve as a series evaluation, and the suggestions will be gathered and used for the 2021 Gardening to Save the World. For your information the link to the YouTube channel is [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCueNyOVYulFRcWUc7HHQ/playlists? View as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCueNyOVYulFRcWUc7HHQ/playlists?View_as=subscriber)

We were all very happy to get back to gardening in our demonstration gardens. After receiving permission from OSU to resume work parties MG's gathered armed with buckets, rakes, brooms, clippers, shovels etc. setting out to tame the out-of-control organic matter that had taken over our gardens. Following the guidelines, we managed to distance ourselves and get our work done.

We are excited to announce that the CGMGA 2021 Garden Tour will be held on Saturday June, 19, 2021. It will feature 6 gardens in Underwood and White Salmon, WA. This will be the first time the garden tour will be exclusively on the Washington side. The gardens are beautiful with full views of Mount Hood and the Gorge. The tour will be open to the public from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and we will be organizing Master Gardener volunteers in two shifts: 8: AM-11:30 AM and from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The garden tour is a required education activity of the CGMGA program. We are assuming the COVID pandemic will have stabilized to a level where it is safe and permissive to have a garden tour. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent us from having a physical tour, we will be exploring options for a virtual tour, with video highlights from the selected gardens.

Each Wednesday Master Gardeners are sent a Zoom link to tune into "Master Gardener Connect" from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This time gives us the opportunity to touch base with other Master Gardeners and find out what is happening in and around our community. Last Wednesday the topic for discussion was Service Opportunities with updates from our project garden leaders and ways we can be more involved. The Question of the Week was "What "Aha" moments have you had in your garden or plant clinic this summer. Also, plant problem diagnosis Steps and Practice was discussed along with reviewing the process to accurately identify plant problems.

At this time, plans are being made and coming together for our 2020 Recognition Celebration. This year's celebration will take place in the parking lot of the Hood River Valley Christian Church. A plan has been masterminded by MG's for MG's to Drive In, park, and stay in their cars to receive their certificates of completion. It will be like going to the Drive-In Theater. Not all of our plans are complete, but I am amazed at the creativity of our Master Gardener Community.

This summer has been a bountiful one. I am harvesting tomatoes, green peppers, squash, carrots, cucumbers etc. Living in Lyle, Washington the summer heat has helped my garden grow. The warm fertile soil has nourished my garden vegetables, and I am happy to say "I am Blessed"!!!

Submitted By:

Barbara Kilkenny, State Representative, CGMGA



### **Third Quarter 2020 Chapter Report to OMGA Board of Directors**

Isn't it great to be open just a bit? Our new normal consists of distance gardening and Zoom meetings, but we in Central Oregon are all happy to have our fingers in the dirt again.

**Membership:** We have 77 paid members, 5 associates and 39 trainees. We hold monthly Board meetings via Zoom, to which all members are invited. We will be holding elections via Survey Monkey.

**Community Education:** Our community education is on hold, although Amy Jo, our Horticulture Agent, has been holding community Zoom classes.

**Plant Clinic:** Our Plant Clinic is being held via telephone and email.

**Community Gardens:** Both of our community gardens, Hollinshead and Discovery Park Community Garden, opened in mid-June, barely in time to do vegetable gardening in Central Oregon. Our volunteers made a weekend dash to set up handwashing and sanitizing stations and sign-in sheets, drag out the hoses and hide the wheelbarrows (no shared equipment), and we were already prepared for on-line registration. In a matter of weeks, the gardens went from three-foot-tall weeds to thriving vegetables. The plot renters work on a rotation schedule as only a limited number of people are allowed in at once. A few people opted not to garden this year; they will be able to keep their space next year without being thrown into the lottery. We have three raised beds at Hollinshead which are reserved for persons with limited mobility; one was rented this year and one is being solarized to kill weeds.

**Waterwise Garden:** The Waterwise garden also opened in mid-June. The previous month, not knowing if and when the garden would open, we hired a landscaper (a past Master Gardener) to prune and weed as the garden is open to the public. The Waterwise Garden can only have six volunteers working at a time, so we developed a split-shift on work days so everyone can get some time in. A group of volunteers continues to work on the waterwise garden database, creating plant care records which can be used in the future, and hopefully be shared with the public.

**OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden in Redmond:** Volunteer work started for the gardening season on June 24th and will continue on through October. Transplanting of the All-American Selection Display Garden annual beds took place on June 24th. The rest of the garden maintenance was and will be weeding, deadheading, some pruning and thinning.

**Tech Committee:** Our recently formed Tech Committee registered COMGA with Tech Soup, where we can purchase discounted software. We now have our own Zoom account. Tech Soup also provides G-Suite for

free, which includes Google's Drive storage. We intend to transfer all reports and information currently stored on individual members' home computers into the COMGA Drive.

Report submitted by,  
Janet Dart, COMGA State Representative

## **Columbia County Master Gardener Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

As is true for every summer, our Master Gardeners have been keeping busy in their home gardens - growing and tending annual and perennial flowers, vegetables, and fruits. In July we were given the word we could resume volunteering in our beloved Demonstration Garden on the Columbia County Fair Grounds, with appropriate COVID-19 restrictions, of course. The volunteers and coordinators have focused on the cleanup of weeds and grasses, have planted several Master Gardener-donated vegetables starts, and have been harvesting the perennial fruits and vegetables. The harvests have already been bountiful and have been donated to our local food bank, which is now serving more families than ever in our county and welcomes the extra produce given.

Our Chapter Meetings have been on hold since the pandemic started in March, but we are looking forward to resuming our monthly meetings using Zoom this fall and winter. Hopefully, we will all adjust to the change and be able to enjoy an educational topic and social interaction over the internet. We are eager to learn from our fellow Master Gardeners from around the state who have been able to pivot successfully into online learning and sharing.

Our board members have started to make plans and concessions that the pandemic will continue into next year and have preemptively cancelled our annual Spring Fair Plant Sale. We will be focusing our efforts on supporting local garden sales from other organizations and farmers markets, finding alternatives to in person meetings and educational events, and postponing any need for volunteer hours to be completed this year. We want our community of Master Gardeners to feel as safe as possible during this difficult time.

Submitted By:  
Rachel Krager, OMGA State Representative

## **Coos County Master Gardener Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

We still are not able to have face to face meetings so we are having our monthly meetings by Zoom. At least this has opened a whole new world of electronic know-how for some of us, dealing with audio and video problems that we didn't know we had until now!

Last year we built a couple small demonstration gardens in front of the Extension Office with the grant we received from OMGA. Our advisor, Sam, planted fava beans in the bins and boy, did they produce. Most of us had never seen fava bean plants before and now we know how big they can get. She put a bunch of the beans in a gallon bag and showed us on the next Zoom meeting and asked us all to submit guesses how many were in there. The winner was Claudia and she won a nice little bundle of goodies.

Our group announced the winner of this year's Master Gardener of the Year is Dottie Tucker and winner of Behind the Scene is Jesse Milligan, congratulations to both!



We were not allowed to participate in the Wednesday Farmers Market in Coos Bay as we are a non-food booth and they are only allowing food booths and a few non-foods at this time. The requirements for having a booth were so restrictive we decided it was better to wait until next year

We are having Plant Gardens are still in operation, they are producing hundreds of pounds of produce for the local food programs. People who have rented beds are growing a wide variety of vegetables and flowers, some just growing flowers. The communities are really enjoying walking through and seeing all the pretty plants and flowers. However, several of the gardens are losing produce to "pickers" who are sneaking in and helping themselves to everyone else's hard work. Some of the garden managers are trying to figure out how to stop this, the police are patrolling more, but they may have to put up fences and locked gates. That would be sad as many people like to just wander through and enjoy the view.

We are doing the best we can in dealing with the "current" world and the restrictions that are placed on us. Hopefully it will end soon and we can enjoy our lives again. As someone was pointing out at one of the garden reports, "The best part is that the people growing food in the garden continually talk about how coming to the garden is the best, most peaceful time of their day".

Submitted by:

Terry Harris, OMGA State Representative

## **Curry County Master Gardener Association Third Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

Spring flowers and vegetables are long gone. The "Peapods again?" whine has turned into the "Squash again?" whine. The virus is still with us, but we are coping and slowly resuming activities as we are able to do so.

The class of 2020 was finally able to complete the program, and most are official graduates. They went over their finals by Zoom. They deserve a big congratulations for sticking it out during a very difficult year.



Julia Bott was named "Curry County Master Gardener of the Year" for her development and dedication to the Dig Your Library program, serving on our board as vice president, sitting on the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and helping Lynette McPherson, the garden manager for the Brookings-Harbor School District, with the creation of the Chetco Seed Library.

Ruth Patton received the "Behind the Scenes" award. As treasurer for two years she has had to pick up bookkeeping skills without much experience and upgrade the accounting software. Also, she stepped up to co-coordinate the ABC Preschool MG Program with Sherry Baum, and you'll find her frequently propagating plants and helping at the greenhouse.



*Ruth Patton with her Sunflowers*

## Dig Your Library – Julia Bott:

“Dig Your Library summer programs were also cancelled. This was anticipated so a variety of pumpkins were planted with the goal of providing for fall fun at the Chetco Community Public Library. There are already some small pumpkins growing (and some delicate squash because I must have mixed-up labeling a couple of seed pots). From the looks of these pictures, we can hope for even more. And, if not, at least the bees are happy. The milkweed is also being monitored for eggs. None have been found. Reports of local Monarch butterfly are just starting so I’ll keep looking. It’s sad that the kids are missing the garden. However, I really feel for our local Master Gardener volunteers who are missing their time at Dig Your Library each time I get a text or call from them asking about helping. Dig your Library will be back...some season.”

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – Julia Bott

“After the early June letter from Gail Langellotto and LeAnn Locher, the chapter undertook some of the activities suggested. These included one of the weekly zoom meetings having a black man, who works as a recruiter for the State of Oregon, as a guest for a candid conversation and providing relevant links and materials to members. Three members, Michelle Arnold, Julia Bott, and Pat Cahill took a deeper dive into the literature to look for ideas that may work for CCMG. It was discussed at a board meeting and an email was also sent to members asking for their input and ideas. Working with Scott, the group is developing a few recommendations that fit our situation. These will be on the agenda at the September board meeting.”



As of this August public events in Curry County are still cancelled but the program at ABC Preschool is starting up again. The school gardens, Riley Creek in Gold Beach and Driftwood Elementary in Port Orford are being maintained; planted, harvested, and weeded. If the food is not used by the school, it is taken by the volunteers or donated to food pantries. Plant clinic questions are still only answered online or by phone. From Scott Thiemann: “We have also had questions that needed research that have been sent out for this year’s students and several perennials to research and to answer.”



The Greenhouse at Gold beach High School still has lots of perennials that are being cared for by a dedicated few. A fall sale was contemplated but that will not happen. But it is possible to purchase plants by appointment only. We will attempt to create an online “catalog” of the plants for sale, another leap into learning new digital tools.

The Seed to Supper program was pretty much a success for the first time doing it “virtually”. There were a few “technical difficulties” but it worked well enough. And since a number of people are getting more comfortable with this technology there will be a local fall gardening online class and discussion on August 26<sup>th</sup> open to all.

*Julia Bott, happy bees*





*"New residents were welcomed at the Richter's "Chick Inn by the Sea" in May. Gold Laced Polish chicks Zofia and Olga. Not pictured: Prairie Blue Egger, Greta, and Sapphire Gem, Ava. Longtime residents and evil aunts, Aretha, Eleanor and Tallulah protested until we explained the alternative."*



*Safe gardening, Riley Creek*



*Some of Ali's harvest*



*Ali's dried peppers*



*Potato harvest, Riley Creek*



*Nice place to be in quarantine*



*A few of the many perennials at the greenhouse*



Submitted by:  
Jeffrie Hall, OMGA State Representative

## **Douglas County Master Gardener Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

Gardeners are the supreme optimists. We are the ones who "dare, double dare" Mother Nature and plant, nurture, weed, water and weed some more, feeling (almost) certain that our gardens will be the best ever! With that in mind, here is the news from Douglas County Master Gardeners and its 250 members:

### **Plant Clinic News**

Our plant clinic opened July 15 Monday through Friday from 1 pm to 3 pm. Clients from the public are not allowed to come into the clinic but may leave plant samples and their questions at the front office. Emails and voice mails are also welcomed.

Our new trainees have had limited opportunities to volunteer in the clinic, but are being encouraged to volunteer in other areas, such as DCMG's Discovery Garden, Victory Garden, and greenhouses.



### **Discovery Garden**

Our Discovery Garden is being well tended to by our veteran and new Master Gardeners. Butterflies, bees, and an osprey nest are among the many beautiful sights we have seen. The garden is alive with color, watering, weeding, deadheading, and blooming friendships. Volunteering in the garden is a time that we get to come together for the good of our chapter and our community. It's been a long three months since we were allowed to work in the gardens. We are so grateful to use our green thumbs and get dirty again.

### **Victory Garden**

Our Victory Garden has had a bumper crop this year. In one week, it produced 1,106 pounds of vegetables that was picked and delivered to UCAN.

### **ZOOM Meetings**

Our chapter is continuing to hold its monthly meetings on ZOOM. Our members are becoming more proficient using the frequently-used method to gather for meetings and classes.

### **Celebrate**

DCMG will honor its many volunteers at an Awards Recognition Gathering September 24 under the fir trees near the Victory Garden in the Discovery Gardens.

Submitted by:

Barbara Hamby, OMGA State Representative

## **Josephine County Master Gardener Association 3rd Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

The Josephine County Master Gardener Association members have continued to have monthly meetings via Zoom. Most MGA projects have been put on hold or are still being significantly impacted due to COVID-19.

The Plant Clinic has been staffed by OSU Extension Master Gardener Coordinator, who was responsible for all customer interfaces. All customer interaction has been virtual since the OSU Extension shutdown in March. Volunteers have been supporting MG Coordinator and Plant Clinic research from home. Since July 30<sup>th</sup> volunteers have staffed the OSU Extension Plant Clinic (PC) office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1-4 pm. Only one person in PC office, and one person at home (connection via phone and computer). Plant Clinic customers can drop off samples at office, but all customer interface is via computer or phone (i.e. no personal contact).





The Demonstration Gardens in the OSU-Extension parking lot became open to volunteers on June 17<sup>th</sup> with restricted access (reduced participation, training, separation and masks, adherence to COVID-19 Safety rules, and sign-in/out). There was extreme over-growth in the garden, and the team worked for



multiple weeks to get the path cleared, and the gardens looking GREAT. It was a very hot summer, so all the effort from our leaders and volunteers is greatly appreciated.



The Nursery Area behind the OSU-Extension fence also became open to volunteers on June 17<sup>th</sup> with restricted access (reduced participation, training, separation and masks, adherence to COVID-19 Safety rules, and sign-in/out). We had lost significant MG Association revenue and most of our inventory of Annual plants were either donated or composted due to the Spring Garden Fair cancellation. We were able to squeak



out a quick Winter Sale to our MGA Membership in March prior to the shutdown, and we had a larger successful late summer sale of perennials to our MGA Membership on August 7<sup>th</sup>. These sales were done virtually, and members purchased plants virtually during the week. The orders were pre-packaged the day before the actual sale day, and were picked up in the parking lot at scheduled times in accordance with COVID-19 Safety procedures. The process ran smoothly, and we were able to recover about \$1000 of our expenses. We plan to do another sale for our members in September. We are very appreciative of our MG Coordinator for watering and providing care (while we were locked-out) and Perennial and Greenhouse leaders and volunteers for cleaning up the plants for the sale, after they had survived the hot spring and summer in pots, and struggling for 4 months.



Other projects include: A number of Master Gardeners volunteered to help Oregon Department of Agriculture by setting up Gypsy moth traps and participating in the state-wide research effort for the Josephine County areas of interest. A community garden is being developed at the new senior resource center. An advisory committee has been assembled for the effort.

Youth Programs: The Junior Master Gardeners program is in hiatus during 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 school years due to COVID-19, since the schools are going on-line. A few school gardens may be supported in 2020/2021. The Young Master Gardener Program will continue to be in hiatus until the Library opens up.

We are still hoping to have an Awards Ceremony either at an outdoor venue or virtually.

Submitted by:  
Breezy Schallheim, Josephine County OMGA Representative

## **Lane County Master Gardener Association Third Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

Lane County Extension thanks the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA) for announcing its awardees for 2020. Jeff Muir was awarded the Lane County Master Gardener of the Year, and Vicki Harrison was bestowed the Lane County Behind the Scenes award. The Extension was also gratified to win the OMGA Search for Excellence awarded to the Mobile Plant Clinic (MPC) team. Since its inception, the MPC has reached more than 4,000 contacts, giving Extension much greater exposure, and doing so in a way that meets specific communities' needs.

The past few months have seen a multitude of different ways our Extension is reaching out despite Covid-19 restrictions. Here are some of them:

Any MG (including trainees) is invited to contribute to our Lane MG YouTube channel. They are asked to consider making a short tutorial/demo on a gardening-related topic. The MG can decide if they prefer the video to be public or private to MGs only.

To stay in touch with the community and let them know that Master Gardeners are still around, we are posting a gardening tip of the week on Lane County Extension and LCMGA Facebook pages. A tip can be written and may include pictures, be a short video, or other fun informative format. The tip could be a how-to, troubleshooting, a new interesting garden fact, or just general information.

During the modified resumption phase, our office will be open to the public on certain days and times, and BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. We will have limited staff coverage at the office during this time, and staff is being asked to only go to the office if it is absolutely necessary, and to minimize our time in the office.

We continue to offer most of our services remotely during the modified operations phase. We encourage our volunteers and specialist groups to continue to offer workshops or seminars as online webinars, and consider making educational materials. Some ways we have done this is:

Webinars: The Sustainable Landscape webinar was held July 14, 15, 16, 2-4pm. This three-days-in-a-row, two-hours-a-day webinar is a shortened version of our usual two day seminar. We shortened it to reduce zoom fatigue. Each day, after a short introduction, saw two presenters give important and timely material on making and keeping sustainable gardens. Although there were some challenges presented for this first multi-day webinar, we learned a lot about using remote resources to teach and reach the public. The three-day seminars saw over 50 local, regional, national, and international gardeners who were interested in creating sustainable landscaping in attendance.

Our monthly public seminars have also been presented as webinars since May on a variety of subjects.

Additionally, the Plant Diagnostics Volunteer Training was held on August 8th and 15th from 10 am to 1:00 pm each day. This Specialty Committee training really helps MGs to become more proficient in diagnosing plant problems to provide research-based diagnosis for our Plant Clinic clients. The PDMGs make the training a lot of fun by having hands-on diagnosis of plant problems we have personally seen over the years. This year we welcomed 11 new members to the committee, and appreciated the help of 7 mentors to help with the tutorial cases.

Many of the trainees from this year's Master Gardener class have begun Plant Clinic instruction. The MG classes ended just as the Covid-19 shut down began, thus making it a challenge to keep the trainees engaged and aware of the volunteer activities available to them. How is the training happening now? Seven mentors stepped forward to help remotely work with a group of 16 new MG graduates, and a group of four Plant Diagnostic Specialists put together 3 tutorial cases a week for 8 weeks of remote collaboration and homework. This initial training has just ended, and plans are progressing on how to continue to integrate new trainees into the Remote Plant Clinic, which has handled over 500 requests since early May.

The board has looked at viable alternative options for the Fall Festival. A new committee was formed to look at the logistics of putting together some online training that could be offered under the Fall Festival name. Registration is now opened to MGs and the public for three different educational webinars, 11:00-11:45 am—Cover Crops, 12:00-12:45 pm—Some Like it Hot: Composting Questions Answered and 1:00-1:45 pm—Saving Seeds, and an additional webinar presented by the Master Food Preservers.

The Demo Garden has begun work parties again on a limited basis. Right now, only the “regulars” have been called back to work on the garden with new safety protocols in place.

The propagation team is demonstrating the optimism of gardeners everywhere by saving seeds and starting tip cuttings and looking forward to a to-be-announced form of spring plant sale.

Lastly, during a LCMGA member general meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>, new bylaws were reviewed and approved of by the membership. These new bylaws will be sent in soon to OMGA. The Board is also beginning recruitment for the 2021 Board.

Submitted by:

Vicki Harrison, OMGA State Representative in Lane County

## **Lincoln County Master Gardener Association (LCMGA) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report to OMGA Board of Directors**

Board members are: Co- Presidents, Pam McElroy, Kristi Kind; Co-Past Presidents, Diane Primont, Marlene Shapiro; Co-Vice Presidents Pamela Yu, Bill Shapiro; Secretary, Carita Edson; Treasurer, Alanna Miklic; State Representative, Michael Christy; Historian, Kharizma McAnulty.

We have continued to host our monthly board meetings via Zoom. Additionally, Pami Monette has conducted monthly MG Happy Hour/Check-In events via zoom where the entire LCMGA community is encouraged to attend to stay up to date with the COVID-19 status vs. Master Gardeners and checking in on the general well-being of our membership: Sharing of ideas, sharing garden photos, etc.

**Membership:** In 2020 we have 101 members and 22 trainees (plus 1 online student who lives in Lincoln County). **NEW**

**Master Gardener Classes:**



The statewide recommendation for training is to roll 2020 and 2021 into one year. We will continue to support our new apprentices, but there will not be training for new volunteers next year. We will just have to wait and see how it all rolls out. **NEW**

- **Apprentices:** Many of our apprentices have worked through the Summer with individual demonstration garden mentors applying projects in their own gardens; often monitored safely by the mentors both in safe distancing/masks and social media/email. **NO CHANGE**
- **Plant Clinics:** Our local plant clinic continues taking on a virtual 'adopt a week' plan. Each week a tenured/veteran Master Gardener is paired with an apprentice and they are provided access to the plant clinic email to continue providing community outreach to our county. It is anticipated that this will be our community footprint until the end of year. **NEW**
- **Plant Donations:** Since we cancelled our Spring Plant Sale, we have worked with our local Food Bank to develop a donation strategy to provide these seedlings and garden produce to the Food Bank in a safe manner. Additionally, all the plant sale growers and Master Gardeners of Lincoln County were encouraged to grow additional vegetables and flowers to donate to the local community through the **Food Bank only**. Donating directly to the community was not authorized as a Master Gardener activity at this point. We have tracked our donations to date and our LCMGA Master Gardeners have donated more than **900+** plants to both local families and food share. Our donations in produce are starting to gain traction with **40+** pounds donated to food share. **NEW**

#### **Community Education:**

##### **-Round Table Winter/Spring Virtual Round Tables: NEW**

We will be running our virtual round tables via Zoom for the Winter/Spring season. They will be 1-hour sessions running on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00am. Advertising via social media at this time. All registrations to be online.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
9/09/20	Growing Dahlias
9/23/20	Slugs/Snails
10/07/20	Voles/Moles
10/21/20	Living Fences
12/02/20	Making Wreaths
1/06/21	Pruning Roses
1/20/21	Soil Amendments
2/03/21	Greenhouses
2/17/21	Growing Natives
3/03/21	Growing Tomatoes
3/17/21	Growing Rhododendrons
4/07/21	Adaptive Gardening
4/21/21	Straw Bale Gardening
5/05/21	Growing Garlic

**Spring Plant Sale:** Our Annual Spring Plant Sale was cancelled due to State of Oregon Covid-19 instructions. We looked hard at defining a potential Fall program but now due to the uncertainty of Covid-19 and State/OSU regulations, that is no longer on the potting table. Now looking at our Spring Plant Sale 2021. **NO CHANGE**

#### **Demonstration Gardens: NEW**

- **Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) - Lincoln City**

- **NOT OPEN** to the public. Not accessible to MGs on weekends. Maintenance only. **NO CHANGE**
- **Oceanview Assisted Living Adaptive Garden- Newport - NO CHANGE**
  - **NOT OPEN** to the public. Maintenance only.
  - However, one of the residents of the community is a Master Gardener and is taking care of the garden maintenance.
- **Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and School Garden-Newport - NOT OPEN – NO CHANGE**
- **Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) - South Beach - NEW**
  - **NOT OPEN** to the public, Not accessible to MGs on weekends. Maintenance only.
  - Clean-up mode- focused on assessing winter crops potential.
  - Assigned apprentices from other gardens that are not open
- **Yachats Demonstration and Community Gardens- OPEN -NEW**
  - Yachats Garden was awarded the grant from the Siletz Tribe in the amount of \$4525. This will be going to replacing the remaining old wooden beds with the Durable Green beds. Maintenance only.
  - Community beds are open to the public.

#### **Garden Tours:**

The tours would be self-guided following all COVID-19 protocols. COVID signage and hand sanitizer will be provided at each location. This year, three of our Master Gardeners have offered up their COVID Gardens for safe viewing. Sign-up online with specific time slots to manage the number of visitors on-site at any one time.

#### **NEW**

**Community Garden Initiative:** There has been a revival in the county community garden movement. Meetings with the county are held every other month. The discussion includes how to make community gardens better, community garden access, and the addition of new community gardens. We want to be involved in this discussion with the county and find ways as Master Gardeners to support this. **NEW**

Check out our website at <https://www.orcoastmga.org/> to see more.

Report submitted by,  
Michael Christy, Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association State Representative  
[lcmgaorrep@gmail.com](mailto:lcmgaorrep@gmail.com)

## **Linn County Oregon Master Gardener Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report**

Like many counties COVID 19 has affected the local master gardener program. Much is now done through social media and Zoom. Our Board has been meeting monthly on Zoom.

Through the weekly e-mail a "Show and Tell" helps us continue to see what types of questions are coming in about insects, plant issues and more. Each week a photo is shown (usually by a master gardener who has a question) and posted. The following week the answer and resource to find the answer is posted.

Trainees are working on Plant Problem Scenarios to practice how to answer questions that come into the Extension office. Some of the trainees are now also answering real questions. Some of our certified master gardeners are doing some public sessions via Zoom to answer questions that local gardeners have.

Our Linn County Demonstration Garden now has master gardeners at work. With approval from OSU and lots of restrictions and rules we now have five-eight people working at the demo garden three days a week. Sign-up is required for tracing purposes, along with mask, gloves, disinfectants, social distancing and more. We have had a break in to our shed, homeless people camping in the demo garden, graffiti and damage this year. We are working on getting security cameras installed to see if that will help. Our watering system's pressure is not getting to many areas, so we are also working on getting more zones installed.

LCMGA recently received approval for a small group to produce an on-line mason bee cocoon harvesting presentation that will have a Q & A session after each presentation. We also got approval to have up to eight people work in an outdoor/open air/open shelter area to clean the mason bee cocoons that we produce each year as part of our fundraising. These will all have sign-ups and restrictions due to COVID 19 as well.

The Willamette Community Garden works in conjunction with the City of Albany and has several master gardeners working there. They too have a sign-up plan in place and also restrictions for non-master gardeners to help with tracing.

Our June fundraising Garden Tour was cancelled and a Fall or Spring front yard walk-by garden tour has been discussed but no plans made yet.

This has certainly been a challenging year.

Submitted by:

Ann Kinkley/Ranee Webb, Linn County Master Gardener Association

## **Marion County Master Gardener Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report to OMGA**

The Marion Garden is beginning to look like its old self again. The Marion Garden Coordinator, Stacy Moranville, working with the Marion County Master Gardener Association President, Dale Marande, and OSU Extension Agent, Neil Bell, worked tirelessly using OSUs guidelines to establish a detailed plan to get the garden open safely. After more than 3 months (11 Mar – 18 June) of forced neglect, we finally returned to Marion Garden only to find all of our plots overrun with weeds, some that were over 6 feet tall.

We jumped back into our garden duties with both feet. MCMGA expanded our typically three-hour Monday workday to 4 hours per day, 4 days per week. This went on for over 3 weeks before the Garden began to resemble its former self. As an indication of what we were up against, we hauled off 2380 lbs of green waste to a local recycler after just 3 days work. But that did not even make a dent in the amount of weeds we had to pull, and we realized hauling off the weeds was unsustainable.

We worked with our Compost Team and came up with a plan to compost all of this green waste without overwhelming the normal Garden composting bins. All of this work was accomplished with a cadre of about 25 MGs who work tirelessly during the expanded work schedule and continued their hard work when we moved back to our normal schedule.

We are still conducting our business thru social distancing. Our board meetings are being held via Zoom. This has been successful, even with a few glitches every now and then. Prior to the pandemic, the board decided to establish a Social Committee to arrange events for our members to socialize—what bad timing!

We are still fine tuning our Plant Sale for 2021. The Propagation team has been hard at work making sure the plants that will carry over to next year are all healthy and beautiful. More to come on this.

In the early stages of the pandemic, Elaine Smith, one of communications team, established a blog on our web page ([www.marioncomga.org](http://www.marioncomga.org)) for Marion County Master Gardeners to post gardening articles and ideas. Articles covering things from brainteasers to available Continuing Education webinars to growing tomatoes and berries are posted. There is always good information and it's fun to read.

As with all the chapters, there will not be a Master Gardener class for 2021. As of now, our next class for new Master Gardeners will be in the spring of 2022.

Submitted by:

Terry Sawyer, Marion County State Representative

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER CHAPTER REPORT TO OMGA

In the beginning of this quarter Multnomah County Master Gardeners watched with increasing concern as racism and hostility ramped up around us. In response to this, a statement was written and adopted by our chapter to address these issues:

*The Multnomah County Master Gardeners™ recognizes that silence at this time perpetuates violence and oppression.*

*We condemn racism and the systemic oppression of Black people created and perpetuated by white individuals and institutions in this country. We recognize that all white people and institutions are complicit in this oppression of Black people.*

*We stand in solidarity with our Black neighbors and all People of Color in demanding justice: for those who have been killed and harmed by police violence, and for their families and communities.*

*We affirm that Black Lives Matter.*

*Our mission calls for "Growing, Educating and Connecting Communities."*

*We acknowledge that we have not been living up to our mission, especially with our Black neighbors and communities of color. We recognize that we are coming late to this critical issue and we know that we will make mistakes as we do the work we must do to catch up.*

*We nonetheless commit to doing the work: to engage in critical self-reflection, to make our community antiracist, and to use the resources available to us to transform our organization into one where our Black neighbors, and all People of Color feel welcome, supported, and seen.*

Our Chapter meetings were put on hold over the summer. Many members participated in the online webinars provided by Marcia McIntyre of our Metro Program Master Gardeners. Every Friday at 1:00 we could go online and enjoy a speaker on a variety of topics of new information and review.

The big news for this quarter was the reopening of our beloved Demonstration Garden. The DG reopened based on "intent to support community garden activities that directly support food production in our community/demonstration gardens."

A maximum of 10 volunteers may participate at once.

Volunteers must sign up in advance, no drop ins are allowed.

Volunteers must complete an online Covid-19 awareness module, practice physical distancing, sanitation, and wear masks.

COVID Awareness Signage is displayed.

A handwashing station has been established.

Online record keeping to aid possible contact tracing is underway.

Hundreds and hundreds of gallons of weeds have been removed.

The entire space was covered with weeds 6-8 feet tall with pathways and beds mostly unrecognizable. A call went out and after an amazing effort by dedicated gardeners the garden was reclaimed.

Crops planted include tomatoes, peppers, squash and beans.

The 20-year-old lawnmower passed on and has been replaced with a powerful new Honda 217 which can help control the weeds. Perennials were trimmed, weeded and watered and now we are almost back to normal for this time of year.



Multnomah County also started a Facebook page that can be accessed by all Facebook users.  
: <https://www.facebook.com/MultnomahMasterGardeners/>

The board has been using this time to organize archives, clean up procedures and look at reimagining the make-up of the board.

All and all, everyone is trying to stay busy during these COVID times.



Remain healthy and active,  
Marilyn Frankel, Multnomah County OMGA State Representative

## POLK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2020 CHAPTER REPORT

Hi folks I hope everyone is healthy. Busy time in the garden it keeps the mind off the craziness right now. We are doing a plant sale on line for anyone interested. I have included a couple of excerpts from our newsletter. Personally, I am swamped at work and with bees I have increased my numbers to 75 plus and may have found the tipping point on how many hives I can comfortably manage. So goes life. I look forward to a time when things are not on zoom. Everyone be well and stay safe.



**HEADS UP!** Plant sale online beginning August 28th until September 10th. Check out the website for plants, trees and shrubs. [www.polkmg.org](http://www.polkmg.org)

**HEADS UP!** It is Time to start thinking about volunteering for the Polk County Master Gardener Board. If you have never considered joining this very important part of our organization, now is the time to jump in. We need your ideas and leadership.

**Questions? Please email [polkmg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:polkmg@oregonstate.edu) or phone: 503-623-8395**

### DALLAS YOUTH GARDEN NEWS! WOW!

**Thank you for reporting and helping the youth *Amelia Gardner*.**

As you can see it's going to be a great year. The Dallas Youth Garden (DYG) is flourishing in produce for the community. Per our DYG website, the youth have raised over 2700 pounds of food for hungry families in our local area. The gift from Polk County Master Gardeners is so greatly appreciated and is put to good use.

With Covid19 there has been some challenges but were met head on and here we are today. The kids are very good at maintaining the 6' distancing and mask wearing. The hard part is when we do our mid-way meetings.

It's hard to hear someone so far away and with a mask on but we do our best to make sure everyone is healthy and stays that way. As a master gardener and having a name A Gardner, wearing a mask can make a double funny to wear DYG's team shirt this year with the motto "The Masked Gardeners".



**MORE PHOTOS OF THE AMAZING DALLAS YOUTH GARDEN**

**Submitted by:**  
**George Woodward, OMGA State Representative**

### **Tillamook County Master Gardener Association 3<sup>RD</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report to OMGA**

Even after shutting down due to the Coronavirus we have had some fun things going on this quarter. It's hard to keep a gardener down!

We cancelled the 2020 garden tour, and after much brainstorming came up with an alternate plan. In partnership with the Tillamook County Pioneer we filmed two of the gardens and put them online. Access them



by going to the Tillamook County Pioneer on You Tube and you will see the link to the TCMGA Garden Tours. Thanks to Sarah Ostermiller for spearheading this innovative method of showing off two gardens in our area.

Linda Stephenson has been heading up the book promotion through Timber Press, Storey Publishing and Workman. They offer a 55% discount on many books, gardening, crafts, cooking, nature and science. They even have puzzles. Many of our members have taken advantage of this group saving program.

Kristi Lund is encouraging the "Plant of the week" program. After the id's are completed, we will build a research binder including all the plants identified in our local environs. The information on the work sheets include: plant name, size, culture, setting, use, etc. Hours for continuing education and service should be reported in the VRS system.

Our extension office is open by appointment only and we have Gail as our interim agent. Chances of 2021 classes are small at this time if we do not have an agent by the end of the year. Last year's classes and being shut down in March was extremely taxing on everyone. We have lowered our requirement of service hours to 40 which is the state minimum. We are looking for opportunities for our volunteers to meet this requirement and also fulfill the requirements of our 2020 apprentices.

We have been working in our Learning Garden the past few weeks. We are limited to 6 volunteers due to the small size of our garden. All volunteers must complete the COVID Training. Jake Lyons has replaced most of the drip system watering in all beds and also replaced a very old timer for the system. We have a large job weeding and pruning the entire garden since it has been neglected all year. Some of our 2020 apprentices and hardy perennials have been at the garden working under the supervision of Linda Stephenson and Jaime Sinnot.

We have been holding monthly board meeting via Zoom and in August amended our bylaws to allow for voting by email.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Lyons, Tillamook OMGA Representative

## **Washington County Master Gardener™ Association**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Chapter Report to OMGA**

The challenges of providing Master Gardener services to the public continue in the midst of the pandemic. Washington County is still in Phase 1 with a very shallow decreasing curve.

- After our normal July/August hiatus, Chapter meetings will resume in September via Zoom and record Chapter meeting speakers. Links to the speaker presentations are posted to our Facebook and web pages. These recordings may be accessed, along with OSU Extension MG weekly webinars at: <https://media.oregonstate.edu/channel/channelid/161357322>
- The Tri-County Study Group continues to meet via Zoom (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington) with around 15 participants, depending on the topic.
- Our project to identify and translate 10 gardening-related information sheets has developed a list of potential topics that we are vetting with the Latina/o/x community. At the same time, we are increasing our connections with the community as we anticipate distribution early next year.
- The WCGMA Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate is open with limited number of volunteers at any one time. We sign up for shifts and follow masking and distance guidelines while pruning/thinning/weeding and other garden tasks. Thanks to a Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation TWIG grant, we have: a new entry Kiosk with a monthly garden calendar, MG and WCMGA brochures, self-directed garden guides, and a list of educational opportunities for the public once they can resume and a new bee demonstration Kiosk set up by our "Bee Guru" Ron Spenal.

- The WCMGA Education Garden at PCC-Rock Creek is not yet open for volunteers. However, with the campus opening for summer term and the grounds maintenance crew back full time, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume working there in the next few weeks.
- We are beginning the Pacific Northwest Natives Pollinator Hedgerow Project, a joint HPSO –PCC endeavor for a new pollinator hedgerow that demonstrates to home gardeners the use of drought-tolerant, native plants that support pollinator habitat. It will be located between the PCC Learning Garden and our Education Garden.
- Among our MGs of Note were WC MG of the year Susan Albert-Becker who is currently leading the Hedgerow project and Behind the Scenes MG of the Year Jacque Myers who leads our propagation efforts and developed the propagation workshop for new Master Gardeners.
- The plant sale team worked very hard to find an alternative strategy for the sale, but was ultimately unsuccessful. We gave away much of the inventory and found a small local vendor who was very happy for our donation.
- The Learning Group continues to provide educational opportunities to our interns and veterans via Zoom sessions. Participants are enthusiastic and indicate they are learning a lot. Sessions will continue via Zoom through the end of the year on the second Thursday of each month. Upcoming topics include: rhododendrons/azaleas, lawns, raised bed/container gardening, soil and soil testing and bees and wasps.

Submitted by:  
Leslie Ray, OMGA State Representative

## **YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OMGA THIRD QUARTER 2020 CHAPTER REPORT TO OMGA**

The Pandemic has caused a major shift in our Master Gardeners lives. We have not been able to meet and hold meetings or social events as well as hold our usual activities. It has been quite a burden which all of us have had to learn how to cope with the changes.

YCMGA is continuing to conduct chapter business following the OSU COVID-19 guidelines for the limited in-person activities and utilizing ZOOM for our Educational Outreach and BOD meetings.

The EOC Committee offered a presentation called “The COVID Garden” with members presenting gardening projects they have worked on since the pandemic restrictions began. This was a success and was followed up by a presentation entitled, “Before and After” with members submitting photographs of various gardening projects. In addition to the webinars available through OSU, Heather Stoven, the Yamhill County Extension Program Coordinator, presented a tutorial on hydrangeas via Zoom.

While the Yamhill County Fairgrounds is open; but, without many visitors we decided to renovate a couple of our Demonstration Garden beds so they will look better next year. We are also working on improving the soil storage area by moving it outside the greenhouse.

Propagation was farmed out to individuals and put in Grow Alley for sorting and maintaining (watering, fertilizing, pruning, etc.) In mid-June we were advised we could have up to 6 people working on assigned days, if all COVID-19 measures were taken and we worked outside. People could only come by invitation and only after certified training and approval by Heather. We ultimately gathered a group of 12-14 people we could pull from and decided to have sessions twice a week. Sources were found to supply material for cuttings and we rotated participants so everyone would have a chance to come. We have completed the tasks and have



over 7,800 cuttings many of which we are now transplanting into 4" pots. We have maintained the cohesiveness and enthusiasm of our groups in addition to training several new members.

The Garden to Table classes have been temporarily suspended due to the coronavirus epidemic. New classes will resume in the early fall, 2020 or spring 2021 depending on when the risk of the virus infection subsides.

McMinnville Community Garden: As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, volunteers have harvested 7,708 lbs. Of vegetables for the Food Bank.

It is our wish that other chapters may have come up with ideas that we can all share to help make this time more enjoyable.

Submitted By:

Polly Blum, Yamhill County OMGA Representative