



**Oregon Master Gardener
Association 1st Quarter
2021 Chapter Reports**

County

Submitted By

Benton County

Richard Taylor

Central Oregon

Janet Dart

Douglas County

Barbara Hamby

Josephine County

Phylis McIntosh

Lane County

Vicki Harrison

Lincoln County

Michael Christy

Linn County

Ann Kinkley

Multnomah County

Marilyn Frankel

Polk County

Bill Leedy

Tillamook County

Betty Lyons

Benton County Master Gardener Association

1st Quarter 2021 Report

Our Gardens –

We are now able to meet in small groups to begin getting our Demo and Entrance Gardens at the Benton County Fairgrounds back into shape. There's a lot to do! The Demo Garden will focus on growing vegetables for our local food banks this season. A new Children's Garden was created last fall. It will be fun to see it grow this spring. New opportunities to develop a school garden in Monroe and be involved with the garden at the Children's Farm Home are in the works.

Greenhouse –

Past President Nancy Tovar is in encouraging discussions with the Philomath Scout Lodge to obtain the necessary space for our greenhouse operations. The Scout Lodge is interested in projects that support the community.

Seed to Supper –

Three additional classes will be completed by the end of May. In one of those classes cancer survivors in Benton County will be able to learn how to grow their own healthy foods through a program called Hope Grows Here, sponsored by the Moore Family Center at Oregon State University and the Samaritan Cancer Resource Centers, along with several other partners

Monthly Member Meetings –

Three amazing speakers gave presentations to our members recently:

January – Darren Morgan of Shonnards Nursery talked about what you can do the early part of the vegetable growing season, from January through April.

February – Neil Bell from OSU Extension in Polk County spoke on Gardening in a Drought.

March – Bernadine Strik is scheduled to speak on Tips for Growing Blueberries and Raspberries At Home. Dr. Strik is a world-renowned berry crop expert as well as OSU's Extension Berry Crops Specialist.

All presentations at our member meetings are available on our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7q65LKHkjd7HG3b425kGAKEtWHWzCvB>

Non-Profit Board Member Training –

New board members will be attending the Non-Profit Association of Oregon 2021 "Guiding More Good" Virtual Conference, scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2021

Submitted by

Richard Taylor, Representative



First Quarter Report to OMGA Board of Directors - March 2021: While our gardens in Central Oregon are closed for the winter, we Master Gardeners have been busy planning our 2021 year.

Membership: We continue to hold monthly Board meetings via Zoom, to which all members are invited (and many attend). So far, we have 42 paid members (two of whom are associates), and 29 trainees. Eighty-four people have returned their recertification forms, so we expect our membership to grow as we send out reminders.

Community Education: Our vegetable gardening class remains the most popular class. Our education committee is exploring making the videos available on-line, and following up with live Zoom sessions for questions and answers. We will also work on getting the YouTube and OSU gardening links on our gocomga.com website.

KPOV: Our bi-weekly radio spots, "Gardening: Get Good at It", on our community radio station remain popular. Our volunteers stepped up and we now have them scheduled through the end of the year. We were able to get our podcasts back online and even though there were no new ones in 2020, 256 people listened to past recordings. This year, 23 people have listened to our podcasts just in January, long before our growing season starts. The most popular one is Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon.

Spring Gardening Seminar: We were disappointed to have canceled our popular Spring Gardening Seminar last year. This year it will be virtual, with Zoom Webinar classes to be held every Saturday in April, at \$5.00 per class. This allowed us to use Zoom for all registration, including payments via PayPal. The following classes are scheduled:

- Avoiding the Green Meatball: How and When to Prune Flowering Shrubs (presenter: Neil Bell, Community Horticulturist, Marion & Polk Counties)
- Producing Blueberries and Raspberries in your Home Garden or Patio – Methods for Success in Raised Beds or Pots (presenter: Dr. Bernadine Strik, Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, OSU)
- Native Plant Landscaping: Creating a Sanctuary for Birds, Pollinators, and Humans (presenter: Rick Martinson, Wintercreek Restoration and Nursery)

- Practical Irrigation: Using Water Wisely in the High Desert (presenter: Doug Voderberg, Water Conservation Tech for City of Bend Utility)
- Lawn & Care Maintenance in Central Oregon (presenter: Amy Jo Detweiler, Professor of Horticulture, OSU Extension)

Plant Sale: Our annual plant sale will be completely online, including ordering, payment, and inventory monitoring. The sale will be a “drive-up/pick-up” process, allowing for staggered traffic. Hands-on planning tasks will start in the greenhouse at the end of March. Unfortunately, we will not be able to include our garden fair which is popular with both the vendors and the community.

Plant Clinic: We are planning for a virtual plant clinic again this year.

Community Gardens: The Hollinshead Community Garden plans to open on April 24th, pending approval. As usual, there will be a lottery for open beds. The Discovery Park Community Garden will open (the gates will be unlocked) on April 17th. We are working with Bend Park & Rec to install a bulletin board. This garden, also, will have a lottery for open beds.

Waterwise Garden: Our 2021 kick-off is March 25th with pruning, followed by twice-monthly workdays. We hope to have small, in-person classes at the garden, as well as videos and webinars. Work has continued on the plant database which now contains profiles for about 100 plants. Eventually, the database could be a template for other demo gardens, with the long-term goal of having it available for all MGs and the gardening public, as an information resource. Volunteers are also using a companion app so when they are in the garden to record current details on the work done, if there were any issues, and what needs to be done going forward.

OSU Extension Service Demonstration Garden in Redmond: April 6th will be our first workday, and we will proceed as we did last year, with people signing up in advance and checking in upon arrival. Workdays will continue twice a month through the year. A three-hour volunteer requirement will continue.

Report submitted by,

Janet Dart, COMGA State Representative

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

1st Quarter News March 2021

Plant Clinic

Unfortunately, Douglas County's Plant Clinic remains closed due to COVID restrictions imposed by OSU. However, the plant clinic continues to receive emails. Interesting questions have come in regarding insects, orchards, pruning and gardening.

Membership and Awards

DCMG has 228 members this year. Several members were recognized for their many years of service, including four for 20 years and two for 25 years.

Plant Sale

Although many hours have been spent planning, organizing, and mapping out our annual Plant Sale while adhering to COVID policy, OSU will not approve it while Douglas County remains in Extreme Risk category.

Victory Garden and Discovery Gardens

Following OSU and COVID protocol, limited work has been done in our gardens and greenhouses. We are hopeful that we will have a bountiful crop of fruits, vegetables, and other plants despite the setbacks we have had to endure.

Training

We are pleased that we have 14 potential Master Gardener students for the next training class. We are just waiting for OSU to allow us to gather for activities.

Fundraising

We have enrolled in the Bottle Drop program. MGs may drop off their recyclable cans and bottles at the Bottle Drop facility and designate that their refunds are directed to the DCMG.

DCMG is also enrolled in the Amazon Purchase Reward Program. We have earned \$109.94 to date.

Submitted by:

Barbara Hamby, OMGA Representative

Josephine County Master Gardener Association

1st Quarter Report 2021

All meetings this quarter have been conducted via Zoom. Josephine County is still classed in the extreme virus spread category and no activities have been allowed.

Normal classes, planting and planning for our spring activities have been curtailed. An online seed sale took place to offer our membership the seeds purchased for our Spring Garden Fair plantings. Crucial plant maintenance has been allowed for our existing plants and we have hopes of a late summer sale.

OSU Extension is still in the search phase to replace our Master Gardener Coordinator.

OSU Extension has negotiated a move of offices to the Rogue Community College Campus. The move will probably occur after a new Coordinator is in place and we are no longer in a high-risk category. The move to smaller office space and no space for greenhouses or gardens will present the chapter with challenges going forward. The greenhouses provided us with our fund-raising opportunities. We created the demonstration garden we are leaving from a 17ft. by 57ft. strip of parking lot. We are resourceful and have a real need to get our fingers into the soil. We'll try continue to make gardening part of what our chapter teaches.

Submitted by:

Phylis McIntosh, OMGA Representative

Lane County Master Gardener Association

OMGA 1st Quarterly Report 2021

Lane County Master Gardeners finished out the difficult year of 2020 by finalizing these orders of business:

- Restructuring the board by combining duties to streamline the number of board members by two positions.
- Reviewing and updating the bylaws of our organization to better align with OMGA.
- Updating our Policies and Procedures to support the bylaws.

Thanks to a small, dedicated team we have a full slate of monthly seminars planned by Zoom for 2021, with contingency plans in the event we can go back to person-to-person meetings.

Most of the Specialist Committees continue to refine using online technologies to reach out to our community by using social media and videos.

- A monthly Show and Tell available to local Master Gardeners headed up by the Plant Diagnostic Committee is filling the void of not being able to go on physical Plant Prowls and offered its first monthly presentation of 2021 on February 17th.
- Specialist Committees continue to meet on Zoom and share content-specific videos for each group. The Compost Committee, sticking to Covid safety guidelines produced an 18-minute video on Composting with a Three Bin System, and is available on the Lane County Master Gardener YouTube Channel.

The five-year local option levy for OSU Extension that stabilized and expanded programs in Lane County expires June 2021. Our local county commissioners unanimously approved adding a new tax levy to the May 2021 ballot for an increase in the tax levy rate from 1.5 cents to 2.8 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. This would cost the average homeowner approximately \$9 a year. Revenue from the increased rate would help expand Extension programming across the county, more adequately fulfilling our mission to serve all Lane residents, and setting us up to go out for a permanent tax service district in 2026. Funds from a 2021 levy could provide educational staff and support for existing programs, including 4-H, forestry, family & community health, and horticulture/small farms. In addition, funds could help establish a new JUNTOS program to assist underserved youth gain access to college.

Working to assimilate and complete the excellent instructions put together for Master Gardeners in the Elevate Skills Training and the Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level up Series is invigorating and for myself, a reminder of taking the intensive initial Master Gardener training. We have started an informal discussion group via Zoom a week and a half after each Level Up series to talk about how to apply each topic locally and share thoughts about each seminar. These social discussions make us all realize

how much we are looking forward to be able to see each other again on a more personalized way!

Lastly, I offer a brief personal tale from one of our seasoned MG's. "Here, for a good laugh and MG ingenuity, is a photo of my cobbled together zoom equipment and my adjusting to Covid-19 story: In March of 2020 I found out my old flat screen did not have either camera or microphone. I consulted with my computer guru, who suggested I find a camera/microphone combo. I went to my local Bi-Mart, where they did have such an item. Having purchased it, I took it home with some trepidation. Easy to set up instructions, hard to find the right place: the flat screen was too thick.

Looking around, I grabbed a plant stake for tall stems - perfect for a flat bottom, but would it hold the weight of the camera? I saw my mother's homemade spindle and took it apart for the smooth base. On it went over the ground end of the plant stake. I anchored the base with two flat-ish rocks and attached the camera/microphone to the top. I was able to find the right settings for audio - still working on the right distance for the camera, but at least you can see and hear me. I have entered the 21st century.

~Story and photo submitted by Gwendolyn Scott



Submitted by:

Vicki Harrison, OMGA Representative

Lincoln County Master Gardener Association (LCMGA)

1st Quarter 2021 Report to OMGA Board of Directors

Board members are: Co-Presidents, Sharon Busby, Cathi Block; Co-Past Presidents, Pam McElroy, Kristi Kind; Co-Vice Presidents Greg Kurtz, Lynne Holland; Secretary, Rebecca Hooper; Treasurer, Alanna Miklic; State Representative, Michael Christy; Historian, Kharizma McAnulty. **CHANGE**

We have continued to host our monthly board meetings via Zoom. Additionally, Pami Monnette 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. **NO CHANGE**

Membership:	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Certified/Active	37	56
Lifetime	8	9
Associate	35	35
Student Trainees	10**	22
Total	90	122

% recertifying = $(37/56) \times 100 = 66\%$

**Student trainees continuing from 2020

CHANGE

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. **NO CHANGE**

- **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. This will be our community footprint until the end of year and into the 2021 year. **NO CHANGE**

Community Education:

- **Round Table Winter/Spring Virtual Round Tables: UPDATED**

- 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>
3/03/21	Growing Tomatoes
3/17/21	Growing Rhodies
4/07/21	Adaptive Gardening
4/21/21	Straw Bale Gardening
5/05/21	Growing Garlic

Spring Plant Sale: Now looking at our Spring Plant Sale for 2021. We have tentatively found a new location as our old standby is being used for the county's COVID-19 vaccination site. We are hopeful for a May 2021 Spring Plant Sale, in-person, observing all COVID guidelines. More information to follow. **UPDATED**

Demonstration Gardens: UPDATED

- **Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) - Lincoln City - NO CHANGE**
 - **NOT OPEN** to the public. Not accessible to MGs on weekends. Maintenance only.
- **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 – UPDATED**
 - **NOT OPEN** to the public.
- **Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) - South Beach – NO CHANGE**
 - **NOT OPEN** to the public, Not accessible to MGs on weekends. Maintenance only.
 - Assigned apprentices from other gardens that are not open.
- **Yachats Demonstration and Community Gardens- OPEN -NO CHANGE**
 - 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 Greenbeds. Maintenance only.
 - Community beds are open to the public.

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. A Zoom meeting of interested parties was conducted identifying both scope and additional meeting times. **UPDATED**

Lincoln County School District (LCSD) -School Gardens Project:

LCSD's school garden program is a partnership with OSU Extension Master Gardener

and Small Farms programs. Hopefully someday we will have more MG involvement when volunteering in person is allowed. This year the LCSD School Coordinator only works with the Yaquina View Elementary School. Plans are to expand the program to an additional school pending COVID restrictions. Currently our LCMGA MGs are not able to work directly with this project because of COVID restrictions. As the grant time frame is ending, and most of the time was within the COVID experience, our Program Assistant, Renée Johnson, has submitted the USDA grant to pick up where the current one ends. **UPDATED**

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

Linn Co., Oregon Master Gardeners Association

1st Quarter Report 2021

Brooke has put in proposals for the Demo Garden and Community Garden to be allowed to open with all the sanitation/mask wearing/tracing and sign-up restrictions. Once approved, maintenance at the Demo Garden can proceed, but there cannot be any classes. New irrigation was installed this month to replace the old system that failed last summer.

Last month Board members were given a “Volunteering Guide” created by Brooke Edmonds and Elizabeth Records. This guide will help Board members answer questions about master gardening.

Mason bees: We had the last two cocoon cleaning sessions at Rich Little’s home in Sweet Home which we divided into morning and afternoon sessions. There was very good social distancing, mask wearing, and three open-air area workspaces. Rich’s site had significant issues with mites this year, but the woodpecker damage also caused issues. As a result of that and restrictions on going to super sites during COVID, we have a much lower cocoon harvest of about 5-6,000 cocoons. (Less than half the usual harvest). There are several people who are donating extra cocoons, so we expect about 3,000 additional cocoons. Two master gardeners developed a podcast on cleaning cocoons. Several indicated that they will be changing their practices as a result of learning more from the podcast.

Rich Little continues to do a lot of research on leaf cutter and cane berry bees. We will likely move forward with these bees in a different way. We plan to find appropriate sites for renting these cocoons. We would place the cocoons and harvest the cocoons at these sites to build up our supply. The benefit for those renting the bees would be increased pollination.

Pollinator Conference – The seventh annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference will be held on March 6, 2021. (Last year’s event was held live just before COVID shutdowns.) It will be an on-line conference this year with a registration cost of \$20.00, giving those who register the opportunity to participate in live Q & A sessions with our speakers. They will also receive a link to watch the entire conference at their convenience.

Jim Cane, a retired bee researcher from the USDA Logan Bee Lab in Utah will be the keynote speaker. Kathryn LeCroy from the University of Virginia will talk about research being done on native bee declines. August Jackson from OSU will talk about Bees of the Willamette Valley. Susan Morton and Rane Webb will do a presentation on Mason Bees. In the past about 60% of our attendees were first time attendees and 80% were either first- or second-year attendees, so we will continue to do talks on mason bees each year.

Selling bee houses, tubes and cocoons: Our cocoons are sold for about \$.50 each as compared to local nurseries that charge about \$2. Pre-paid orders will be assembled at the Demo Garden and then delivered to Extension offices in Albany, Corvallis, Salem and Eugene for no-contact pick-ups.

Submitted by:

Ann Kinkley, Linn County OMGA Representative

MULTNOMAH COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

QUARTERLY REPORT - MARCH 2021

We continue to operate in compliance with COVID restrictions. We look forward to the day we can come back together in plant clinics, farmers markets, the Demonstration Garden, and community events throughout Multnomah County. In the meantime, we're putting time and effort into staying in touch with our members, providing gardening assistance to our neighbors and strengthening our organization.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

We are not allowed to work in the garden, but a few of our diehard members were given temporary access to erect a large, metal storage container at the garden site. Mission accomplished! The Demo Garden planning committee is exploring new ideas for working with nearby community organizations and residents post-COVID.

STAYING CONNECTED

- In February the Chapter heard a great presentation "Caring for Mason Bees" by MG Ron Spental.
- In March Dr. Gail Langellotto is presenting a webinar entitled "What Is the Environmental Impact of Your Garden? A Life Cycle Analysis Approach".
- In April we'll hear from Craig LeHoullier via webinar. His topic is "Epic Tomatoes From Your Garden".
- Many of us are taking advantage of the "Level Up" and "Elevated Skills" trainings offered through the Extension Service and supporting customers through online connections.
- Finally, we're very much looking forward to Virtual Mini-College 2021 in July.

GOVERNANCE

The new Chapter Board kicked off 2021 with some organizational changes. The newly-elected Executive Committee is now comprised of seven members, down from fifteen. Several committees have been brought under the umbrella of newly appointed Directors who will report to the Board. The idea is to allow members to focus more on their primary areas of interest and to facilitate coordination and communication across the organization.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The DEI group continues to explore opportunities to make the Chapter a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. We are getting ready to launch a toolkit that members can use when planning events and meetings, or considering new policies and

procedures. We're learning as we go and would welcome conversations with other interested MG chapters.

FUNDRAISING

Sadly, our popular Incredible Edible sale is cancelled for the second year due to COVID. Fingers crossed we'll be able to host a blow-out sale in 2022!

Submitted By:

Elaine O'Keefe, Multnomah County OMGA representative

Polk County Master Gardener Association

Quarterly Report to OMGA, Spring 2021

Covid restraints this past year have brought about less socialization which we greatly miss. This has resulted in no in-person board meetings, chapter meetings, cancellation of the plant sale, and no clinics other than online inquiries. This has also resulted in our paid membership down to 96 from previous years of approximately 130 to 140 plus or minus.

Never-the-less, as stewards of the Inspiration Garden some work must be completed. Small weekly work groups, working with social distancing protocols, have managed to do winter and spring clean-up, pruning, and mulching. We have conducted two pruning demos, fruit trees in mid-January and berries in mid-February. Both were recorded and presented on Facebook. A final pruning and harvesting demo for bamboo will be held March 19th.

A strong winter ice storm on February 12th has caused severe damage to more than 40 trees in the Inspiration Garden. Especially hard hit were the zelkovas aligned along the alee with some stripped down to bare trunks. Numerous willows, especially the larger and older trees in the riparian area along Ash Creek, also suffered severe damage. This has required several weeks of cleanup which has delayed other work. When answering queries from other gardeners and the public, I often respond with "what would Mother Nature do?". Well, Mother Nature has had her say and we proceed accordingly.

Good, and safe, gardening to all.
Bill Leedy, OMGA Rep

Tillamook County Master Gardener Association

1st Quarter Report 2021

The winter, rainy months in Tillamook have not been conducive to getting much done in our gardens. The weeds seem to be winning, but we will overcome.

Many are planning getting veggies started in their green houses for their own use and our planned plant sale. One member has over 100 tomatoes started already. Also, many are starting cuttings for the sale. At this time the format of the sale is still in the planning stages.

We are planning a garden tour this year but again it will be virtual probably with the cooperation of the Tillamook Pioneer. It was a great success last year and can still be viewed.

We are beginning to use the virtual classes and discussing how to get our complete group on line with this style of expanding our knowledge and re-certifying.

We are making calls to all members to just say "Hi" and see how everyone is doing, also to make sure everyone is getting all the information on line that is available.

Our new officers have jumped in running. Our new president Kristy Lund is very knowledgeable with the IT side of things and a great help to us all.

Respectfully submitted:

Betty Lyons, Tillamook County OMGA Representative