

The Gardener's Pen

Oregon Master Gardener Association Winter 2022

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2022 MINI-COLLEGE

Our yearly gathering, the OMGA Mini-College will be held at OSU on July 29-30 (Fri-Sat). Plan on coming and invite your friends and family to join you. You won't be sorry! *See page 3.*

OMGA GOAL #1

OMGA renews our commitment to being an organization that is culturally sensitive and supports diversity, inclusivity and accessibility towards all our membership and the community at large. *Continue reading to see more goals.*

TRAINING MASTER GARDENERS

In less than three months, Extension faculty and staff created a suite of 14 online classes designed to grow the non-horticulture skills of MG volunteers. There were 4,357 enrollments in 30 Oregon counties. bit.ly/33C004e

MASTER GARDENERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Donor honors MG program

Douglas County Master Gardeners Association received a generous bequest of approximately \$80,000 from the estate of Master Gardener Ann Waddington. The chapter plans to place a bench in their Discovery Garden in her memory. bit.ly/33xQGhB



GOOD THINGS

HAPPENING

Beefuddled, Beewildered, Beeknighted about bees? Linn County's **BEEevent** returns MARCH 5, online only.

Registering allows you to watch or re-watch the recorded conference later. This is the largest pollinator conference in the Pacific Northwest. Mason bee supplies and cocoons will be delivered to Linn, Lane, Marion, and Benton counties.

www.LinnMasterGardeners.com

Benton County's chapter has had to learn a lot about **organizational bylaws**, due to serious issues. If your bylaws need an update, MG Paula Lupcho has graciously offered to give hints. You can contact her at Plantdoc2746@gmail.com.

CENTRAL GORGE Several of our project committees are pursuing the use of **QR codes**, and would love input from others who have used or researched them. Contact Christie Bradley at hrcbradley@gmail.com.



Extension demonstration train at Central Point, 1918

In 1911, Oregon Agricultural College's Board of Regents organized the Oregon Extension Service in response to requests from citizens of Oregon for assistance from the college. In 1976, Oregon Extension Agents recognized the importance of dispersing horticultural education when combined with the efforts of trained perennial master gardener volunteers. omga.org/history/

OMGA Goal #3

OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension in providing on-line continuing education for our Master Gardener membership with advanced horticulture skills training in 2022, including the *Growing Gardeners: Level-up series* and the *Elevated Skills* training for current Master Gardener volunteers. bit.ly/3JEP9pv.

OMGA Goal #2

OMGA commits to providing the leadership and support for a successful 2022 Mini-College event.

Master Gardeners plant sale, April 1998



Statewide Awards

Please start discussing potential nominees WELL IN ADVANCE of the May 15th deadline. Suggestion: Put it on your board agenda in January or February of each year, make final decisions in March, and use April to write up nominations. Nominate a MG that impresses you. (Hint: They are everywhere!)

OMGA Goal #4

OMGA commits to supporting chapters during these changing times in areas of recruitment and retention and supports the idea that all Master Gardener volunteers need to understand the state-wide “big-picture” for our program. OMGA can provide the opportunity for chapters to share ideas, projects, and successful programs through quarterly “Sharing Forums” where all are invited to participate and contribute.

GOOD THINGS continued:

CENTRAL OREGON Master Gardeners have developed a **Plant Care Record** for every plant in the Waterwise Garden. This is currently being rolled out to our demo garden in Redmond and will be an integral part of the new Alpenglow Demo Garden that is opening this spring. We also developed a **quick care record form** that is completed for each plant on each workday. This can be completed on a smartphone or at home on a computer. If you are interested in developing a Plant Care Record in your county, contact Janet Dart janetdart@gmail.com.

SPRING INTO GARDENING, MARCH 12, ROSEBURG. Presented by Douglas County MG's, topics include pests, xeriscaping, soil, succulents and olive trees! douglascountymg.org/

Meet OSU's newest Extension Master Gardener **faculty and staff** from around the state: bit.ly/3JETQQ1

One of our neighborhood deer who keep my plants pruned all winter long.



GOAL # 5 OMGA commits to improving recruitment by filling vacancies on our executive board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable, **our president-elect and vice president positions remain vacant**. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization.

July 29-30 Mini-College

Designed in 1983 to help Master Gardeners connect and learn new skills, this summer's Mini-College at OSU should be a high priority for all of us. **Topics** include Native American traditional ecological knowledge, helping native bee populations and amazing things about soil. **Fun events** include a Corvallis Knights Baseball game at Goss Stadium where we have reserved the Omaha Room overlooking the field; tours of a research farm and nursery; a marimba band that will entertain us at the Friday night banquet, and a fabulous array of items available for bidding at the **Silent Auction**. Donated by each of our chapters, the Silent Auction is the only event at the Mini-College that garners a profit for the OMGA – the rest of the event is priced to just cover costs. Mini-College is **open to all** interested gardeners, not just MG's. So put it on your calendar, come meet new friends or renew acquaintances with other MG's from around the state, and fulfill your continuing education hours with a lot of fun! omga.org/mini-college-2022/

Ready to start traveling this spring? Check out the **50 MG demonstration gardens** across Oregon: bit.ly/33znA1m



Central Gorge's online-only plant sale, 2021

OMGA Historian Linda Coakley is requesting that chapter historians look for items that should be included in the OMGA archives. Your chapter rep can give you her contact info. Especially needed are the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014.

OMGA Goal #6

OMGA commits to reviewing, updating and revising our OMGA Executive Board job descriptions, the OMGA Policies and Procedures, and keep updating our website.

Plant clinics, gardens and sales, Oh my!

Around the state, offices are starting to open, educational events are being held and fundraisers - some postponed for years - WILL happen. MG's are MASTERS at creating new opportunities for knowledge to grow - thinking on their feet and adjusting where necessary. GOOD JOB - ALL OF YOU! Thousands of Oregonians have discovered the OSU Extension expertise during the pandemic. You are rock stars!

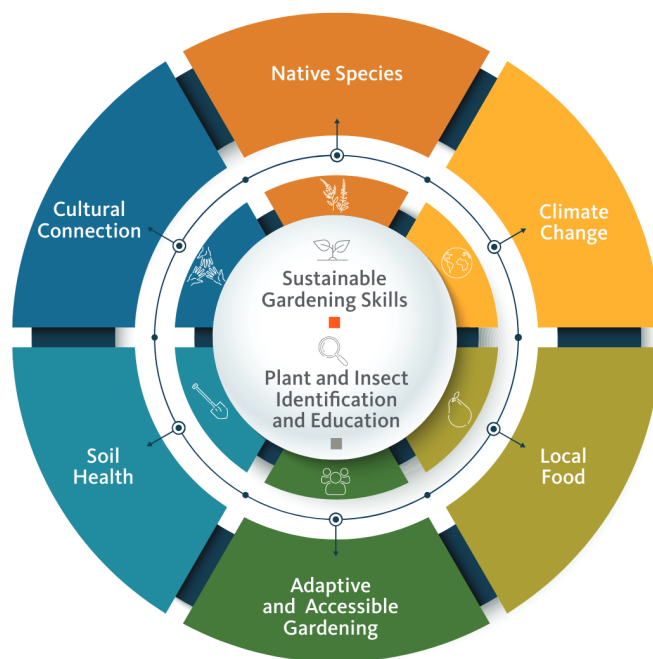
Get involved!

We need you to help lead the OMGA

All Master Gardeners can join the Executive Committee (not just chapter representatives). Please consider putting your experience and talents to work. We work hard, have fun, and make a big difference all across the state. Learn more at omga.org/executive-committee/

Apply for the MG Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Taskforce, now in its second year.

Participants report a great learning experience. Commitment: 4-6 hours a month. Help grow your own skills and help grow the master gardener program as a welcoming community. bit.ly/3LRRhfk



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