

### News for all Master Gardeners in the state of Oregon

# MINI-COLLEGE WAS A BLAST!

The Joy of Gardening Conference this past July once again fulfilled expectations for a fun, efficient and educational event. It was so nice to meet new (and old!) MG's in person. See page 4.

#### WHAT WE NEED

We need funding, from the state and local governments, to properly execute our mission of bringing THE BEST information to our constituents. Thousands of Oregonians depend on us to learn how to grow good food!

See page 2.

# MG'S ARE BACK IN ACTION

Events are resuming with a force to bring research-based information, gorgeous plants and gardens to a county near you. Check out the offerings on page 4.

Join the Jackson County Master Gardeners for four separate days of conferences on Zoom. Fridays: October 28 and November 4 and Saturdays: October 29 and November 5. There are 16 classes offered including fruit tree pruning, challenges from a changing climate, grapes and berries, native plants and pollinators, adapted landscaping and preparing for fire. Most sessions will be recorded and available for a limited time for paid participants. Landscaper Board CEH re-certification available. For more information: <a href="https://bit.ly/winter-summer-22">https://bit.ly/winter-summer-22</a>





SUMMER GRADENS

Sponsored by Jackson County Master Gardener Association



Meeting Recap

When: September 12, 2022

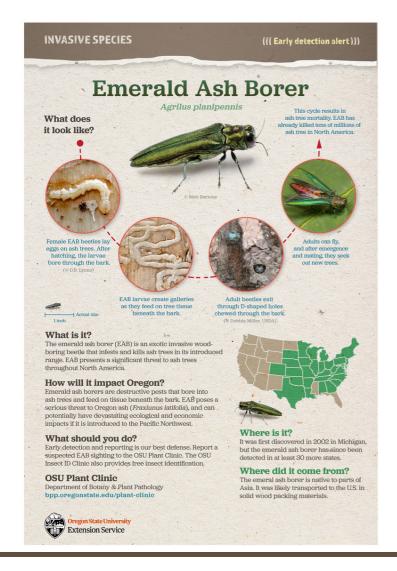
What: Fill vacant MG program positions in Benton/Linn, Clatsop/Tillamook and Douglas counties – and elevate MG programs statewide.

Who: Dr. Ivory Lyles, OSU Extension, Chris Rusch, OMGA president, Sherry Sheng, OMGA Advocacy Task Force

Extension will submit a \$21 million funding package to the Oregon Legislature; the request includes three positions for Master Gardener Program staffing.

Dr. Lyles wants the decision on staffing the MG Program to be deliberate and thorough. Therefore, he has charged a committee (three MGs: Chris Rusch, Sue Nesbitt, Judith Kenner and three extension regional administrators: Gail, Sam Angima and Weston Miller) to address the following by 6/30/2023:

- 2. What structure should OSU Extension provide to ensure MG has the support as near as possible to the areas identified in the needs assessment? The committee is to discuss the needs assessment to identify the appropriate staffing pattern to align with need, curriculum, etc., with justifications.
- 1. Conduct a statewide needs assessment of master gardener needs as it relates to level of support. This needs assessment should not seek to identify qualifications or degree of people providing support to MG.
- 3. How best to meet OSU Extension deliverables on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) commitment but with appropriate verification standards. *Report continues on pg 4*.



**Ligurian leafhopper** . . . a new invasive pest to Oregon was first reported through the Lane County MG Plant Clinic. Please make sure your plant clinicians are aware of this tiny pest. Not much is reported for management strategies, other than Neem Seed meal looks promising for control (out of University of Florida). Responds to normal leafhopper management strategies. This pest seems particularly prevalent on plants in the mint family. https://bit.ly/reportinvader



#### **GOOD THINGS HAPPENING**

Every quarter, your OMGA chapter representative reports the marvelous educational events you sponsor in your area. There are an astounding number of programs created and completed by the volunteer master gardeners in our state. Read the most recent report to get helpful hints from your fellow MGs.

#### Some of the things you can read about:

Field trips, water-wise garden, Garden Fair, enormous plant sales, Seed-to-Supper classes in demo garden, potlucks (+menus!), school vegetable and pollinator gardens (with a coordinator funded by local school district), Victory garden, donate produce to food banks, Grow-a-Row, mobile plant clinic, children's garden with heart-shaped beds based on storybooks! Plant Prowl: get-together to investigate several problems in a garden, private garden tours for our members, pizza luncheon for plant clinic volunteers, plant clinics at farmers markets, (Tillamook – with no county agent or program assistant went to five different markets once a month!), give classes at a museum, seed library, SNAP ED at demo garden, community garden for Latinx community, participate in Kids Faire, partner with Rotary and other groups, propagation team, Backyard Habitat Certification, two-family "Open Garden" event. See "chapter reports" at: https://omga.org/minutes-and-reports/

Infected rosemary plant



Continued from page 2:

Dr. Lyles has asked the respective extension regional administrators to produce interim solutions for supporting master gardeners before there are funds for a permanent fix. There has been some action in Douglas, Linn, and Benton counties, he is waiting for recommendation from the regional administrator who oversees Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

Dr. Lyles reiterated that he wants to know what master gardeners need. This means: what kind of support? For example; plan and deliver training for new MGs, support current MG work in plant clinic and other types of gardening education, etc. With that information, he will do his best to fill those needs.



## **Joy of Gardening Conference**

Although the temperatures were high during the two-day conference, most attendees rated it a success and are likely to return again. The silent auction, which included more than 170 items or baskets donated by chapters around the state, garnered \$5,136.99 to help replenish the OMGA operating budget. MG's attended a baseball game Thursday night, educational talks on Friday and Saturday, and enjoyed marimba music (and some line dancing!) at the awards banquet. Thank you to all who attended.







## 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. Have fun, meet great MG's and make a big difference all across the state. Talk to your chapter rep or email Chris at crusch3837@gmail.com. omga.org/executive-committee/

The Oregon Master Gardener™ Association is a statewide, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose purpose is to enhance and support the OSU Master Gardener™ program.

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