

The Gardener's Pen

Oregon Master Gardener Association Winter 2023

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News for all Master Gardeners in the state of Oregon

JOY OF GARDENING JULY 7-8

Our premier educational conference will be held in Corvallis again this summer, featuring Andony Melathopoulos from the OSU Oregon Bee Project. There are scholarships available to help you attend.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We know that in order to successfully volunteer in the Master Gardener programs, top-notch faculty and staff are needed. Add your valuable insights to a survey arriving in your email soon. *See page 4.*

SPRING COMETH AGAIN!

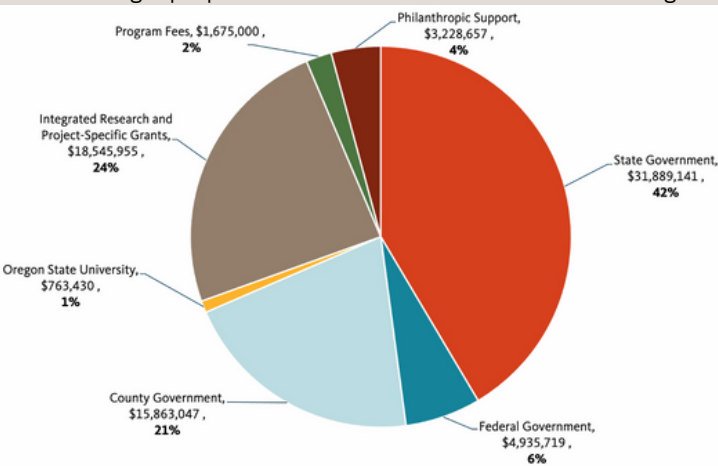
Check out the inspiring classes and events offered in the next few months by your fellow master gardeners around the state. Something for everyone! *See page 3.*

The 2023 Josephine County MG's Spring Garden Fair will be May 6th and 7th. Last year we moved our greenhouse plant sale into our auditorium and it was a hit; and we plan to do the same this year. If you are in the Grants Pass area, please visit us for this popular community plant sale.



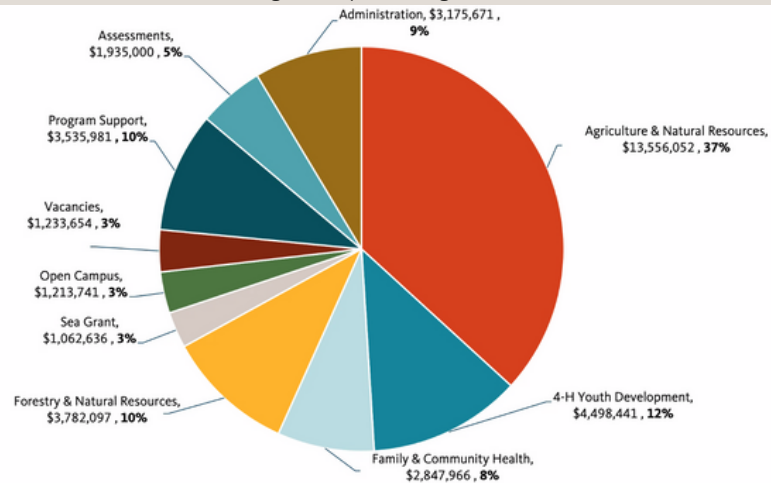
WHERE EXTENSION FUNDS COME FROM

2023 budget proposal for OSU Statewide Public Service Programs



WHERE EXTENSION FUNDS GO

Master Gardener Program is part of Agriculture & Natural Resources



THIS SPRING, The Extension budget will be part of a \$206 million OSU Statewide Public Service Programs funding package to the Oregon Legislature; the request includes three positions for Master Gardener Program staffing. In 2017-2019 & 2021-2023 state funding had a shortfall which caused prolonged, unfilled vacancies of MG Program positions.

Who to talk to:

- Share Extension stories on social media platforms, newsletters, stakeholders, local media.
- Contact your Oregon senator and representative by email and phone call.
- Enlist help from peers in contacting legislators.
- Remind them about the importance of communicating with their elected officials.

Report your engagements with elected officials: beav.es/log-engagement

What to say:

- You are advocating for the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs.
- Speak about its impact to your communities.
- Statewide Public Service Programs include OSU Extension and you as a Master Gardener have been an active Extension volunteer for ___ years.
- You care about the program because your volunteer experience shows you how OSU Extension serves Oregon children and families (or other examples).
- Name a couple of examples of your first-hand observations or client comments.

Tell your story!



Good Things Happening

CENTRAL OREGON: Every year we teach "Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon" in towns throughout the three-county area: Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties, plus an online offering. A seed sowing and transplanting class is also scheduled and a four-Saturday webinar begins in April. See the link below for registration information. <https://bit.ly/COMGAevents>

YAMHILL COUNTY: present their Spring Into Gardening workshops focusing on "Our Changing Landscape," in McMinnville on March 18. <https://ycmga.org/events/sig-2023/>

DOUGLAS COUNTY: Spring Into Gardening event is happening on March 11 in Roseburg. <https://douglascountymg.org/events.html>

LINN COUNTY: The 9th annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference is scheduled for March 4. We'll be conducting a hybrid event, with both in-person (Albany) and online options. This year, speakers will focus on: "Adapting your garden to the coming changes." Hope to see you there!



<https://linnmastergardeners.com/events>

Our Josephine County Martin Luther King Jr. service project, above, was delayed a week due to heavy rain. But we persisted, and eight of us spent the warm sunny afternoon of Jan. 20th clearing the weeds (including blackberry vines and horsetail fern) out of the Parkside School Garden in Grants Pass. Our local Food Bank had recieved a grant to help bring several neglected school gardens back to life, so they invited us to come and help with this much needed prep work.

Are you a new (or current) **OMGA representative**? Congratulations, and thanks for your service! The first board of directors meeting for 2023 is via Zoom on Friday, March 3. Learn about your responsibilities in the 2023 OMGA Handbook: <https://bit.ly/OMGAhandbook>

OMGA Goal #6 for 2023: "The Oregon Master Gardener Association commits to advocating for the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Program. Through its Advocacy Task Force, the OMGA will seek to garner support from decision-makers (OSU leadership, County and City Commissioners, and the Oregon Legislature) in funding for the OSU Master Gardener Program." <https://omga.org>



Young trillium in young hands

Meet your OMGA Ambassadors

Advocating for OSU Statewide Public Service Programs funding in the 2023 Legislative Session

Barbara Epidendio	Marlena Bertram
Becky Jay	Marilyn Richardson
Beth Flake	Neal Lemery
Brenda Bye	Pat Kolling
Cary Wasem-Varela	Rich Becker
Laura Eyer	Sharon Roberts
Dale Marande	Sherrill Morgan
Georgia Moulton	Sherry Sheng
Jack Lazareck	Shirley Jaynes
Judith Kenner	Tina Powers
Karen Graham	Toni Rudolph
Karin Magnuson	Laura Strom
Leigh Rieder	Stormi Dykes
Leslie Ray	Chris Miao
Len Sherp	Pat Kolbet
Linne O'Flanagan-Gorre	Sarah Malaby

What do you need?

OSU Extension Provost Dr. Lyles wants to know. And we need to hear from you. Support services and continuing education for master gardeners are essential to **help volunteers stay current on:** sustainable horticultural practices, management recommendations for vertebrate and invertebrate pests, insects and disease, equity and inclusion, training in public speaking, teaching methods and customer service. **Look for the survey in your email** to give your thoughts regarding the support services you use and those you think may need improvement.

Let your opinions be known!



Icy Oregon Grape

Ready for a new job?

All master gardeners can be part of 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. We are currently meeting four times a year via Zoom. For more information, 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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