



Oregon Master Gardener Association  
First Quarter 2023  
Chapter Reports

<u>County</u>	<u>Submitted By</u>	<u>Website</u>
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Curry County	Jeff Richter	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/curry">extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/curry</a>
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Jackson County	Kathy Apple	<a href="http://jacksoncomga.org">jacksoncomga.org</a>
Josephine County		<a href="http://jocomastergardeners.com/index.html">jocomastergardeners.com/index.html</a>
Lane County	Carol Salami-Goswick	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/lane">extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/lane</a>
Lincoln County	Kristi Kind	<a href="http://orcoastmga.org">orcoastmga.org</a>
Linn County	Ann Kinkley	<a href="http://linnmastergardeners.com">linnmastergardeners.com</a>
Marion County	Terry Sawyer	<a href="http://marioncoga.org">marioncoga.org</a>
Polk County	Helen McCann	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/polk">extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/polk</a>
Tillamook County		<a href="http://tillamookmastergardeners.com">tillamookmastergardeners.com</a>
Wasco County	Ronnie Smith	<a href="http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/wasco">extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/wasco</a>
Washington County	Leslie Ray	<a href="http://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org">washingtoncountymastergardeners.org</a>
Yamhill County		<a href="http://ycmga.org">ycmga.org</a>

# Central Gorge Master Gardener Association

## 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA

### **CGMGA 2022 statistics are in:**

Newly certified Master Gardeners: 14 Recertified MGs: 36 Associates: 21 4,481 (a record) Contacts: 1,619 CE Credits: 1,805 (a record) Community Questions Answered: 256 Pounds of Produce Donated: 1,937 Social Media Followers: 794 Facebook, 247 Instagram. This is just the data from the VRS!

There are so many achievements to highlight: An amazing lineup of classes, **livestreamed** and recorded for easier access; the most successful CGMGA Plant Sale on record; an inspiring, well attended and bikeable Garden Tour; the return of Saturday plant clinics and community events; so many changes and additions to our project gardens; **a new Spanish program on Radio Tierra**; a rapid expansion of our MG presence on social media; and the list goes on.

### **FISH (foodbank)/Spirit of Grace Garden.**

This Fall, volunteers worked to reduce the garden size by half in order to better manage the planting, tending, and harvesting of vegetables for the Food Bank next year. The east side of the garden was covered with black plastic, helping to solarize the area and reduce the amount of weeding in the future. The west side has been divided into vegetable rows for returning MGs to "claim" for planting and tending next year. Volunteers can choose early or later season crops based on their availability, and we are encouraging recertified Master Gardeners to partner with a new trainee in February/March. Working with a partner (or trio!) will help to spread out the workload and let everyone focus on crops that they enjoy or have experience growing.

### **Plant Sale – New Feature**

We are planning a new addition to our annual plant sale .... a Growing Gardeners Kids' Corner. The purpose is to encourage parents to bring their kids to the sale to get introduced to gardening. Fun activities are planned including rock decorating, a scavenger hunt, and a free plant for the kids. We're looking for rocks to star in a kids' activity at the spring plant sale this May.

### **Pollinator Garden Update**

We have the wonderful opportunity to design and build a pollinator garden in the Learning Garden at the Extension. We started last fall by removing a section of the eco lawn and enlarging the flower beds. We pruned back shrubbery and removed rose bushes as well as weeding everything. In an attempt to solarize the area, the new beds were covered with plastic. We ran out of time to compost due to weather and have scheduled a composting party on Saturday, March 25 from 1-3. We will probably need at least 10 people. The Garden is host to two honey bee hives cared for by the Master Bee Keepers. Once we have added compost, we will meet to finalize our design, choose plants, buy and plant plants and install irrigation.

### **The Tool Lending Library**

The days are getting longer, and garden season will be here before we know it. "Hoe-fully" by the time spring arrives, the tool lending library will be ready for its debut. In addition to purchasing tools, we hope to extend our budget by soliciting gently-used tools from fellow Master Gardeners. Maybe you've been tasked with cleaning out great Uncle Henry's Garden shed, or perhaps you have a seldom-used tool that's been gathering dust in your garage. Or maybe you're downsizing and moving into a condo with a shared garden space and its own landscaper.

This report was compiled from the CGMGA monthly newsletter which is posted on our website at <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/>

Submitted by:

Eric Bosler, OMGA State Representative  
Central Gorge Master Gardener Association



## 2023 1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA

**Community Education** is in high demand with classes on “Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon” and “Seed Sowing and Transplanting”. Each **in-person** class filled quickly, and some have a waitlist of over 90 requests. These classes are scheduled to take place in the surrounding tri-county area and more are being added. The locations and schedule can be found on our website [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com).

**Spring Seminar** classes will be held each Saturday in April via Zoom. There are 2 sessions, 10am and 1pm. Each class lasts 90 minutes and the fee is \$5. Registration is required and can be found on our website [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com).

**June Garden Fair and Plant Sale** will be held on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the OSU Extension Office/Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Parking Lot J. There will be a plant raffle, education booths, crafts, vendors, etc.

**Membership** is currently at 67 members paid, as of March 1. A skills questionnaire was sent with the registration form to assess the talents of our group.

**Advocacy Taskforce** Letter writing continues as Pat Kolling has reported at our Board Meeting. Representative Levy’s office has responded to those with an email. Our Board has assembled a collaborative letter that was approved and will send to those constituents when all signatures have been obtained.

**Advance Training** A general membership will be scheduled in March or April. The purpose of the meeting is to watch together the Level Up recording *Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change* (2021 series). Following the recording there will be discussion. We’ll also have time for project updates and other items of interest to Master Gardeners.

**Project Fair** The Fair was held February 28<sup>th</sup>, in-person at the OSU Extension Office in Redmond. The Fair provided an opportunity for trainees and MG to visit an area of interest, ask questions, meet the coordinator for that project and become more involved. The success of this event has provided additional support for the upcoming year.

“To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow.” Quote from Audrey Hepburn

Submitted by:

Karen Simonet, OMGA State Representative  
Central Oregon Master Gardener Association

# CLATSOP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2023 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER REPORT TO OMGA

Clatsop County Master Gardeners are happy to be back to doing things in person!  
We have 30 trainees excited to begin working on community projects!

**Super Saturday**, February 4th, CCMGA members taught the 4-H Club Clatsop Sundrops all about mushrooms. The kids were able to start their own mushroom kits and make stamps from the spores.

**Alderbrook Learning Garden** is continuing work to produce all organic produce for donation to our local Food Bank. It also shows people how to grow organic fruits and vegetables in this coastal climate. Sat March 4<sup>th</sup> the CCMGA Board and members, held our Membership Meeting at the county food bank. Along with attending trainees, toured the Clatsop County CCA Regional Food Bank and saw firsthand how much the community benefits from the food bank.

### Activities and Opportunities going forward into the year:

- **Yeon House Project** the Yeon House and 106 acres of mature native plants and Japanese style landscaping along the North Oregon Coast is owned by the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park System. CCMGA has been invited to work in restoring the property.
- **Astoria Sunday Market & Seaside Wednesday Markets** (and plant clinics) are set to open soon, Astoria in May, and Seaside in June.
- **Spring Plant Sale & Garden Fair** will be held May 13 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Featuring educational speakers, vegetable plants for sale, including herbs, native plants, annuals and perennials, plant clinic, soil testing, children's activities, local community vendors and more.
- **Flavel House Gardens** CCMGA members and trainees are assisting the Clatsop County Historical Society's updating and maintenance of the historic gardens at the Flavel House in Astoria.
- **CCMGA Demonstration Garden** at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds celebrates 25 this year! It offers water wise and native plants, a shade garden utility trees and deer resistant evergreens.
- **Clatsop County Fair** will be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>. CCMGA will have a plant clinic in the Demonstration Garden to answer plant/soil questions.
- **Seed to Supper Program** is still in the planning stages for this year. A 5-week basic vegetable gardening course taught to low-income families, providing information, hands on training, and guidance that will allow community members to grow their own fresh produce.
- **Fall Harvest & Feast Event** will be held Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Fall themed educational event, similar to the Spring Event.

More to come on these and other community opportunities, as we get back to normal!

Submitted by:  
Elizabeth Schimpf, OMGA State Representative  
Clatsop County Master Gardener Association

## Columbia County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA



**January 2023:** we kicked off our first in person meeting at the St. Helens Extension office with a Consideration of Native Bees presented by Linda Zahl. To spice up the evening we had a presentation by the BugNutz.

(In photo Deb Brimacombe and La Vina Patterson)

## Seed to Supper 2023 – by Debi Brimacombe

We had a great turnout at our initial Seed to Supper training and planning meeting. We have identified teaching groups in Scappoose, Vernonia, St. Helens, Rainer and Clatskanie as well as a special shorter, container gardening class to be held at the St. Helens Food Bank.



**Pruning Demonstration and Training at the Demo Garden** – was held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We had a successful turnout and Dennis Snyder provided instruction on the apple trees and grapes. LeRoy Schmidt had his tool sharpening set up for those who brought their clippers.

**Monthly Chat with Chip** resumes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evening of the month at 6:30pm. This is an online presentation with pertinent topics and a Q & A session following.


- [Columbia County Gardening Resources](#) (and recorded “Chat with Chip” presentations)

**CCMGA and Columbia County Soil & Water** will collaborate on the next Chapter meeting presentation by Alex Gorman our new Extension Forester for Washington, Columbia and Yamhill counties.

**MARCH 23**  
**6:30PM**

**EMERALD ASH BORER - A pretty bug with bad habits  
How bad is the threat to our Ash trees and how  
can we help?**



**Please join us for a special presentation by guest  
speaker Alexander Gorman - Assistant Professor of  
Practice- OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension**

According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a highly destructive invasive pest that has killed over 100 million ash trees since its first detection near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. It has been killing it's way westward and on June 30, 2012 the beetle was discovered in Forest Grove.

From research trials, we know that the Oregon ash tree is a key part of our riparian forests and wetlands and is highly susceptible to EAB.

Learn how to recognize ash trees, emerald ash borers, and when a tree is attacked so you can take action with others. We will learn how to report a sighting and what to do if your tree is threatened.

**CMGGA Chapter Meeting – Thursday, March 23, 2012, 6:30 pm**  
at OSU Extension Service, 915 N. Columbia River Hwy., St. Helens

or join via Zoom: Meeting ID: 510 2654 7570 Password: CMGGA  
[https://zoom.us/join?pwd=ZmRlZWVkdWpScEYyZWdFQkZlcjBldz09&from=join\\_via\\_invite\\_button](https://zoom.us/join?pwd=ZmRlZWVkdWpScEYyZWdFQkZlcjBldz09&from=join_via_invite_button)  
<http://www.zoompros.com/zoom/51026547570/>

Note Dial-In: 971-247-1195

Submitted by:  
Karen Hart, OMGA State Representative  
Columbia County Master Gardener Association

## Coos County Master Gardeners Association 2023 1st Quarter Report to OMGA

Training took place weekly from January 12th through February 16th with a seed starting session on March 4th. There was a fruit tree pruning session on February 4th. There were 19 trainees that completed the training. It was nice that we had trainees from all the cities in the county and more diversity than in the past.



Spring is coming!

- ❖ The gardens are getting ready to open in March.
- ❖ Ladybug Landing in Coos Bay has all the plots full and have had a work party.
- ❖ Coquille Harvest Moon Garden has new board members for a total of 6 and are working on revamping beds.
- ❖ Good Earth Community Garden in Bandon is opening up and accepting applications on March 15th. The sign blew down and they will be getting a new one.

Donna Leveridge-Campbell has been taking part in the statewide Growing and Belonging Committee and reporting back to the Chapter.

We are preparing for the big event that is: Fertilize Your Mind on the 1st of April. James Cassidy will be the keynote speaker on soils.

We are also preparing for our annual plant sale Tomato-Rama on May 6th. The Chapter has made the decision to scale back some because people got burned out by growing tons of plants for a two-day sale in the past. There will be a one-day sale this year.

We gave a \$1,000 grant to Lighthouse School for their garden. They are very enthusiastic about gardening and have



created beautiful raised beds.

Submitted by:

Lorna Schilling, OMGA State Representative  
Coos County Master Gardener Association



# Curry County Master Gardener Association

## 2023 1st Quarter Report to OMGA

**Membership.** For CY2023, we have 36 paid members (26 certified, 10 associate) and 22 trainees attending class at this time.

**School Garden Support.** Our volunteers continue to support school garden and "Farm to School" programs at Riley Creek School (Gold Beach) and Kalmiopsis School (The Little Bear Patch, Brookings), and Brookings High School (The Bridge). Our volunteers collaborate with the schools' parttime staff garden coordinators, the new Curry Watershed Partnerships' Youth Education Program Specialist, and teachers to maintain the facilities and work with students. Recently, volunteers replaced the damaged cover of the hoop greenhouse at Riley Creek and conducted general cleanup from the recent storms. Students are helping to prep beds and with spring planting, and various horticulture classes are ongoing.



**CC Seed Library.** Volunteers are distributing free seeds and holding plant clinics at the local libraries in the communities of Brookings, Gold Beach, and Port Orford in February and March. Community members are encouraged to bring seeds to exchange. The Brookings' Fred Meyer manager secured and donated hundreds of packets of seeds from his and other Southern Oregon stores. Territorial Seeds and Baker Seeds also donated.

**CCMGA Demonstration Greenhouse and Garden Project.** The excitement is growing and planning meetings are ongoing earnestly for building, outfitting and organizing our new greenhouse and garden at the County Fairgrounds and Events Center in Gold Beach, adjacent to the OSU Extension Office. A new 24' x 48' greenhouse will be the future focal point for the association's training and education endeavors, annual plant sales, and community outreach replacing the old facility at Gold Beach High School. It will include outdoor raised beds and a sizable garden area. Initial construction is scheduled for Fall of 2023. We have grown a \$45,000 building fund from our annual plant sales and grants, and are striving to achieve our \$120,000 goal this year.

**Annual Plant Sale.** Preparations are ongoing for May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Gold Beach High School Greenhouse, with many volunteers stepping up to grow seedlings, organize publicity, build plant arrangements, and tend to plant starts. Last year's annual plant sale resulted in over \$9000 in profits.



**2023 Master Gardener Class.** Thanks to the efforts of Laurie Lee Bartlett, Curry County's new MG Program Assistant, 22 students are attending this most recent class. This is a nice improvement from past years when only 7 attended in 2022, 0 in 2021, and 13-16 in the four previous years. Many of this enthusiastic bunch attended our Christmas potluck on December 18<sup>th</sup> before class even began, and some have already volunteered in the school gardens and for the annual plant sale. MG volunteers greeted the students with a potluck lunch at their first class meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by:

Jeff Richter, OMGA State Representative  
Curry County Master Gardener Association

# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

## 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA

**Membership News:** There are 215 members registered thus far for 2023. This includes the 18 new trainees from our 2022 class. Sadly, there were 12 members who decided to not return.

**Fall Training Session:** The eight-week fall training session in 2022 was a success, with 18 students “graduating.” The trainees are now working in the Discovery Gardens and Plant Clinic to gain hands-on experience in working with plants, soils, and helping the public with their gardening concerns. Planning is already underway for 2023’s Autumn class.

**Plant Clinic:** The plant clinic has had more than 50 inquiries this winter through emails, phone calls and walk-in visitors. As spring approaches, we expect to field many more gardening issues.

**Soil Testing Lab:** DCMG’s revamped Soil Lab is up and running at the Discovery Center. A new soil dehydrator was added to the facilities. This new equipment dries soil samples overnight, making it possible to test soils more efficiently.

**Spring Into Gardening conference:** DCMG’s annual day-long workshop is scheduled for March 11. Attendees will have many classes to choose from, including practical approaches to vegetable gardening, home orchards, improving garden soil, permaculture, honeybees, lilies, succulents, irises, fruits and berries, and more.

**Annual Plant Sale:** A visit to the Discovery Garden will find many of us busy as bees as we are making cuttings, transplanting, seeding, dividing, and propagating plants in preparation for our annual plant sale May 6 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

**Discovery Garden:** Despite the cold, rainy, snowy weather, work in the garden continues. Hands-on training in pruning fruit trees and roses and hydrangeas, as well as tending to the Japanese Garden has given our gardeners opportunities to practice what they’ve learned.

Submitted by:

Barb Hamby, OMGA State Representative  
Douglas County Master Gardener Association



# Jackson County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chapter Report to OMTA

## *Garden for Life*

### Education & Community Outreach

- Our annual education day “*Winter Dreams Summer Gardens*” was scheduled over two weekends last November. Before the pandemic, this was a one day, in-person event with 35-40 different education sessions. In 2022, this event was all online with 16 sessions. The online schedule allowed for participants to attend all 16 sessions if they chose whereas the in-person program only allowed participation in four sessions. Participant feedback was very positive to this new online method. It also decreased expenses and increased revenue for JCMGA. There were 140 participants in 2022.
- The Master Gardener Program this year has 53 students! We are very excited to see this turn out with our return to in-person learning. Several Board Members and veteran Master Gardeners have volunteered to be “Garden Buds” to students. Garden Buds connect with 3-4 students to provide support and mentoring throughout the program. JCMGA members also provide volunteer mentoring for a practicum in addition to the didactic learning. The practicum is a separate, hands-on learning experience once a week throughout the program.
- Our focus on native plants continues as we have increased our capacity to propagate plants native to the Rogue Valley. These plants will be made available for purchase at various times in the year beginning April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Bee City Plant Sale at the Blue Heron Park in Phoenix.
- Lynn Kunstman, past President of JCMGA continues her once a week radio broadcast on Jefferson Public Radio titled “Gardening for Life”. Lynn answers gardening questions and in the process shares current science, protection and restoration of native plants and pollinators. It is estimated that her broadcast reaches between 5,000 to 8,000 listeners each week.
- JCMGA offered two 8-week gardening courses last year and will offer two more this year through OLLI, the Osher Life Long Learning Institute.
- By the end of 2022, JCMGA had awarded a total of \$2,000 in grants to 9 schools in the Rogue Valley. These are garden project grants that are available to Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools.

### Board Governance

- The 2023 Board was sworn in on January 13<sup>th</sup>. A new Board Member orientation was held in December 2022. Our new President is Marcie Katz, a graduate of the 2019 MG Class.
- Jackson County Extension Center has a new Master Gardener Coordinator. Grace Florjancic was selected as the new Jackson County Agricultural Master Gardener & Home Horticulture Outreach Program Coordinator. She began her position on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Grace (she/they) graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in microbiology and horticulture. During undergraduate studies, Grace was a member of the Virginia Tech soil judging team, competing against schools along the East Coast. Also, she researched both beneficial and harmful microbial interactions with plants. These interactions have become a point of interest for her. Post-graduation, she was employed by George Washington University as the greenhouse manager. Grace worked with professors and students to support research experiments, learning in and out of the classroom, and to foster an interest in plants. Later, they worked at Meadowlark Botanic Garden, maintaining and designing garden beds. Caring for the pollinator garden sparked their interest in the roles native plants have in the environment and the importance of native biodiversity. Now, she is excited to learn about Southern Oregon's ecosystems and how homeowners can positively impact them. She is also delighted for the opportunity to work with the community to build strong connections with nature, food, and each other.
- One of the first actions of the new Board was to send a letter to our state representatives in support of funding OSU Statewide Public Service Programs request of \$206 M.
- The Board has an ad hoc committee drafting a new set of strategic goals.
- JCMGA has an endowment fund through the OSU Foundation. An annual scholarship is awarded to an OSU student in Horticulture, Botany & Plant Pathology, or Crop & Soil Science. The scholarship amount is \$2500 from the interest earned from the endowment fund investment and JCMGA funds. Due to the financial concerns based on the impact of the pandemic, JCMGA will not be awarding a scholarship this year.
- JCMGA will host it's first in-person Spring Garden Fair since the pandemic. The extensive plant and garden related sale will occur for the first time on Extension Center property in Central Point on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- JCMGA has decreased its number of demonstration gardens from 20 to 16 primarily due to lack of volunteers for maintenance of the gardens.
- We are in the process of updating our website and creating a new association brochure.

- Revenue generation continues to be steady through sale of our two Rogue Valley Garden guides and recycled bottles and cans collection.

Submitted by:

Kathy Apple, OMGA State Representative

Jackson County Master Gardener Association

## **Lane County Master Gardner Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> QTR Report to OMGA**

The new year is well underway in Lane County, and we are happily back to doing nearly everything in person.

The LCMGA Board sent a letter in support of the OSU Statewide Programs budget priorities to all the legislators whose districts include part of Lane County. We also had good support from individual MGs reaching out to their legislators.

Master Gardener training is underway, and we have approximately 35 trainees. The training this year is a combination of online and hands-on work. Most of our specialist committees provide the hands-on trainings.

Our Plant Clinic was inactive in January and early February because the OSU Extension Office was closed for remodeling and is now back in operation. Soil pH testing will resume collecting samples from the public on the first Saturday of March, April, and May. Test results and recommendations are sent to the clients. Our Mobile Plant Clinic is also planning several opportunities to provide in-person help in communities outside of Eugene-Springfield.

Our public seminar series began on February 21 with a Zoom seminar on the Oregon Flora program based at Oregon State University. Director Linda Hardison described how the knowledge gathered to develop the Flora of Oregon project is relevant to gardeners and scientists alike offering a wealth of information about the 4,700+ distinct vascular plants that grow in our state. Ms. Hardison provided a primer of the oregonflora.org website tools and how to use them to refine our gardens and landscapes by selecting native species appropriate for our sites. The rest of the spring seminar season includes a field trip to a local commercial nursery, Log House Plants in March and Insect IPM in Vegetable Gardens in April.

The LCMGA annual Plant Sale is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

All our specialty committees are up and running for 2023. The Pruning Specialists are especially busy at this time of year providing pruning clinics in multiple locations on several types of trees and shrubs. The Plant Diagnostic Specialists are planning an in-person Plant Prowl for the public in July for the first time in three years. The Compost Specialists have free public workshops scheduled for February 25 and March 18 and Compost Specialist Volunteer Training scheduled for April 1 and 8. The Sustainable Landscape group is assessing new ways to promote healthy gardening practices in the community.

Our popular Weed Walks are back starting Saturday, March 4 and every first Saturday of every month from 11 AM to 1 PM. The 'Weeder of the Pack' Master Gardener will take visitors for an adventurous stroll through the paths of Eugene's Grassroots Garden where they learn to identify weeds by specific characteristics and family; receive information on edible and toxic weeds; weed lifecycles; and what weeds can tell you about the ground in which they grow.

The Demo Garden volunteers have started winter clean-up and pruning in preparation for Spring flowers and summer fruit and vegetables and providing hands on garden teaching opportunities for Master Gardeners and the public.

We are looking forward to a 2023 filled with activity.

Submitted by:

Carol Salami-Goswick, OMGA State Alternate Representative

Lane County Master Gardener Association

## **Lincoln County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>ST</sup> QTR Report to OMGA**

Lincoln County is coming out of lockdown and resuming some in-person activities.

Our focus for 2023 will be on building up our education and outreach situation. Lists of activities and supports were sent out to members in the January newsletter and creating an educational and outreach committee is in the works. The new committee will be coordinating the round table community education series, among other things.

We currently have three Demonstration Gardens in operation. The southernmost garden (in Yachats) will have to be relocated in the coming months. New locations are being considered. The other two gardens are getting ready for the growing season and will be hosting hands-on workshops for our 17 apprentices. Additionally, we are working with an Association Garden located at the fairgrounds that provides bed spaces for our Mesoamerican community members via trainings with Spanish translation.

Training for apprentices consists of weekly Zoom discussions to go over the new materials presented each week, plus six hands-on workshops. After training is completed, spots at demo gardens will be assigned and they can begin their projects. Meanwhile, a series of refresher trainings for veterans are being held in-person each week through March.

Our annual plant sale will be held in May and preparations are underway with section leads meeting to coordinate seed planting and organizing.

All new apprentices are being trained on ECCO for Plant Clinic. A number of veterans have completed the training and it is still being offered to stragglers. In April we will be transitioning to a new schedule of answering questions in-person on Tuesdays with Thursdays having the option of staying virtual.

Our co-Secretaries are working with the OMGA Advocacy committee. They have gathered signed letters from members to send in to our legislative representatives and are continuing to involve Lincoln County in that effort.

The President of our board this year has a strong vision and is very effectively leading us back from the darkness of covid lockdown and into many new and renewed activities. Meanwhile, our Coordinator is really working hard and doing a great job of keeping our program together and moving forward, despite having a very small portion of her time allotted to the Master Gardener Program.

Lincoln County has a working website: [www.orcoastmga.org](http://www.orcoastmga.org)

Submitted by:

Kristi Kind, OMGA State Representative

Lincoln County Master Gardener Association

## **Linn County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA**

A Brown Bag series of gardening talks is being held at the Extension office from 12-1:00 for six weeks. Classes are also being held in the demo garden.

BEEvent returns for the ninth year on March 4. Held at the Linn Co. Fair and Expo Center next to I-5 in Albany, it is a day-long conference with speakers and displays about pollinator health. A video may be purchased afterwards for those who cannot attend in person. It is the major fundraiser for the Linn Co. MG program.

The 2023 Garden Tour is scheduled for June 17. This is our second fundraiser and has hundreds of participants each year, visiting about seven area gardens.

Power of Produce (POP) is a program that allows kids to get free plant from different vendors at the weekly Farmers Market. Master Gardeners will be hosting plant clinics from April through November on the third Saturday of the month. We will also be helping with the Kids Planting Day and the Succulent event.

Willamette Community Gardens is a program that we assist at every year, included some classes and distribution of produce.

Through the Laja Twinning Partnership we will be supplying mason bee houses for the Southshore and Tangent Elementary Schools in Albany.



Linn Co. Demo Garden class learning how to prune espalier apples, grapes, figs, and blueberries.

Submitted by:  
Ann Kinkley, OMGA State Representative  
Linn County Master Gardener Association

## **Marion County Master Gardener Association 2023 1st Quarter Report to OMGA**

Our 2023 Master Gardeners class has begun and we have 47 students enrolled. We are conducting a modified course again this year with the trainees attending three in-person sessions, garden labs, and garden orientation tours, as well as online modules.

The MCMGA President emailed example OSU advocacy letters to the Board Members and a method of quickly and easily determining who your State Representative and Senators are and how to contact them. All members of the Board were asked to write and send a letter. This information was sent out to all MGs and asked to write to their representative and senator. We also have one Master Gardener who testified before the legislature in support of procuring the funds needed to support the OSU Extension and Master Gardener program.

MCMGA rolled out a vastly improved "Members Only" portion on our website. There are categories, i.e., Calendar and Demonstration Garden, that have detailed drop-down menus and hyper-links throughout the website that are easy to use. Here, our MGs will be able to sign up for activities, access gardening data, purchase apparel, renew membership, view the calendar, access the Membership Directory, record their hours and more. The new website will also provide the public with information on many gardening related topics.

Our Maintenance Team has completed the Lath House extension (an area where the Propagation team harden off and mature some of our plants for our annual plant sale). The Maintenance Team has plans to move and reconfigure our compost site, paint the Irrigation Shed, finish painting some of the projects left from last year, and extend the Marion Demonstration Garden parking area.

Submitted by:

Terry Sawyer, OMGA State Representative  
Marion County Master Gardener Association



# **Multnomah County Master Gardener™ Association**

## **2023 1st Quarter Report to OMGA**

### **Demo Garden (DG) Activities**

We have dug the foundation pits, constructed the foundation forms and rebar for the piers for the “Heart of the Garden Pergola”, got the concrete poured and passed the City of Portland foundation inspection. The kit was delivered and we currently have it in wraps protecting it from the weather. Once we get a little break in the weather, a work party will be organized to raise the barn. Perennial and vegetable beds plans have been reviewed, and initial work on removing cover crops, and prepping the beds for receiving their initial cool weather transplants. In March, we started with our first 3+-days a week schedules (MTuTh, plus some Saturdays). Flame weeded the paths to get ahead of weeds, we hope. We removed the trash and blackberry pile, covered the area with carboard and arborist wood chips for weed suppression, and then purchased and transplanted a 2” dia., 10’ tall Oregon White Oak.

### **Education**

We have transitioned one of our DG planning meetings over to Monday evenings to a new ‘Come Learn at the DG Meeting’ format where we can present short overviews on gardening topics at a time where hopefully more folks can attend. These meetings are on Zoom for now, but as the weather improves, we plan to hold several at the DG (possibly under the new pergola), with a more hands-on, less PowerPoint approach. Topics covered for Jan., and Feb. included:

- Permaculture Design Principles,
- Growing Native Plants from Seed,
- Favorite Varieties Part 1 & 2
- Chinese Dragon Bed Design
- Cover Crops in an Urban Environment
- Why Plant an Oregon White Oak
- Seed Tape and Bottomless Newspaper Slots
- Dry Farming & Lessons Learned

### **Training**

This has been a roller coast ride and it continues. From all training being cancelled, to a now confirmed commitment from Dr Lyles, that training will take place. While we wait for an official announcement, the rumor has training starting in April, all online, Chip Bubl and Sam Angima are said to be coordinating the effort with an announcement coming next week (but that was said weeks ago.) Another rumor is that unlike in the past, where the interns could not sign up for a workshop until they had completed training, that now they can, so we are deep into planning 2 Propagation, 2 Soil, and 1 Irrigation workshops at eh DG, starting in April. These workshops are being planned for a much larger group of interns as (another rumor has it), the restrictions on the number of interns allowed to take training will be lifted in part.

### **Fund Raising**

Planning and develop for the Incredible Edibles Plant Sale for May 13<sup>th</sup> is well under with the plant order just placed with the nursery. Final changes to the catalog are being made. The web site should be open for registering for the pre-sale announcement soon. About 60 days before the sale, the site will be opened for customers to pre-order their plant starts and reserve a time slot for pick up on the day of the sale.

Submitted by:

Rich Becker, State Representative

Multnomah County Master Gardener Association

## **Polk County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chapter Report to OMGA**

Our major news is that we are just now completing an irrigation project at the Inspiration Garden. This has been a long-sought improvement to this property and we are looking forward to using it this year.

We recently had a fruit tree pruning class at the garden that was open to the public and was very well attended.

We are using the Gathering Place at the Inspiration Garden to host our in-person sessions for the OSU Master Gardener program and for our monthly chapter meetings.

We are well on our way in planning our annual plant sale for Mother's Day weekend. We ran short of plants in almost all categories last year, so will be growing and ordering more quantities for this year. We also started a new partnership with the Chemeketa College Horticultural program. The students are growing peppers and tomatoes for our sale as a project for their class work. We are also obtaining flower baskets from them that the students will grow for our sale. We are really excited about this new partnership and look forward to working with them again in the future.

We have reinstituted a mentoring program for our Master Gardener students this year after a hiatus in this program. More on this as we get it off the ground. We are just starting it now.

Our OSU Extension agent Brooke Edmunds is teaching a class on Microgreens at the Monmouth Library this Saturday that is open to the public.

Submitted by:

Helen McCann, OMGA State Representative  
Polk County Master Gardener Association

## **Wasco County Master Gardener Association 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report to OMGA**

Classes for 2023 are underway in Wasco County. We have our classes on a new schedule and they seem to be going well.

Project wise, we have started working in the greenhouse with the youth at NORCOR youth facility.

We have an upcoming combination class and community education opportunity with a rose pruning at Sorosis City Park.

Seed exchanges are being planned at a couple of library locations.

Plant Clinics at several locations will be resuming.

Planning has started for the Dalles Imagination Garden (The DIG) on the river.

Submitted by:

Ronnie Smith, President  
Wasco County Master Gardener Association

# Washington County Master Gardener™ Association

## 2023 1st Quarter Report to OMGA

### Welcome Back Social

We had a fun time with our in-person socializing and catching up with friends we hadn't seen for two years! We were able to showcase all of the various WCMGA activities and have MGs sign up to help with Gardenfest, Grow1/Give1, and the legislative letter writing campaign. Program staff also attended and told MGs about the new electronic reporting system and sign up for a session. Dr Lyles (VP in charge of Extension) made an appearance and was very interested in what we were doing and encouraging about his interest in supporting the MG program.

### New Webpage

Thanks to Jackson County for sharing their website structure and web designer!! Taking the same structure, the designer was able to set up a website that reflected Washington County and its activities. As we work to include diverse populations, some of our pages now include an option for Spanish and we are working to increase them. We went live last week - check us out at: <https://washingtoncountymastergardeners.org/>

Banner on the landing page:



Activities for our two major events, the Gardenfest Plant Sale 2023, scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, and Grow1/Give1 distribution of tomato, pepper, and other vegetables to limited income residents in Washington County continue at a rapid pace. Distribution will occur at several locations during the second and third week of May.

Submitted by:

Leslie Ray for Karen Graham

Washington County Master Gardener Association