

# The Gardener's Pen

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

## SUMMER SUCSESSES

A hot, dry summer didn't stop the 2,800 master gardener volunteers in our state who showed up at fairs, nurseries and clinics to answer many questions, teach classes and fulfill our mission. Congratulations everyone!

## FABULOUS FALL EVENTS

Chapters are rolling right into autumn with plant sales, winter gardening tips and many educational talks. See what is happening on page 4.

## NEW EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS

Dr. Brooke Edmunds is our interim Statewide Program Manager with new hires for her position and many others in the works. See details on page 2.

## Easy to earn continuing education hours - and so much fun!

The annual Joy of Gardening conference this summer was enthusiastically received by MG's and guests.

A long line queued up to ask questions after Andony Melathopoulos, OSU Extension Service pollinator specialist, talked about searching for the more than 700 wild bees species of Oregon and he shared stories of volunteers hunting for these often-rare bees, some unseen for decades.

The OSU Extension Master Melittologist program trains community scientists to populate the **Oregon Bee Atlas** - the largest database on native bees and the plants they're associated with - in the world.

James Cassidy, a senior instructor and soil scientist in the College of Agricultural Sciences, spoke enthusiastically about soil, which he told people, is the basis of life.

"Soil is the most diverse habitat on the planet. A single pinch of soil contains over a billion living organisms. Those organisms are cycling carbon, energy, water and nutrients and making them available to your garden plants; the veggies just come along for the ride. Bottom line: Soil is a complex habitat, a living thing. To maintain and improve soil, minimize disturbance and **add organic matter!**"

Some of the other 25 topics covered: raised bed gardening, growing shiitake mushrooms, pesticides and pest management, fire-resistant landscaping, the successful **Food Hero** program, and the contributions of community scientists to the **Oregon Season Tracker** program.

**All applicants** for a scholarship to attend this year received the funds - so start planning for next year!

## The 2024 conference will be July 12-13.

### Save the date and bring a friend!





## Gifts enrich our programs

Thank you to the 154 individuals and OMGA chapters that donated over \$24,000 to OSU's fundraiser, Dam Proud Day! Half of the funds raised will be used to update our **Sustainable Gardening** textbook. The other half will be used to support the **Seed to Supper** program. Look for updates once the new Master Gardener Program Manager is on board and settled into their role.

## Update on OSU Coordinator Positions:

The Metro area and Linn/Benton positions have completed interviews. Clatsop & Tillamook applications will open soon. The Statewide Program Manager search is ongoing.



## Award-winning volunteers

Lynn Kunstman of Jackson County and Marilyn Berti of Washington County shared the **2023 Statewide Master Gardener of the Year** award. Dennis Brown of Multnomah County was honored with the inaugural **Growing and Belonging** award. The statewide **Behind the Scenes** awards went to both Deb Schmidt of Lane County and Linda Coakley of Yamhill County.

Read more about their tireless contributions to our programs at <https://bit.ly/3LxQSjS>.

## 2023 Grants presented

at the Joy of Gardening conference:

### **Oregon Master Gardener Extension Educator Grants:**

Klamath Chapter; \$400 for a drip irrigation teaching kit.

Clatsop County; \$150 to support their Saturday Market outreach booth.

Douglas County; \$400 for the Spring into Gardening event.

Central Oregon; \$500. Signage for the demonstration garden on composting.

**Karl Carlson Grant:** Columbia Gorge; \$250 Signage for a new composting site at their demonstration garden.

### **Search for Excellence Award:**

Clackamas County; \$1000 for the "Let's Grow Together! 10-Minute University" webinar series. <https://bit.ly/TenU>



# Youth in Agriculture

OSU Extension will use a five-year, \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to serve as coordinator of USDA-funded projects that aim to cultivate the next generation of research, education and Extension professionals in food and agricultural sciences.

**Together for Innovating Youth in Agriculture**, housed at OSU and designating OSU Extension as a National Center of Excellence for Youth Development, will emphasize support, collaboration and technology to ensure the success of projects that promote positive youth development in agriculture, both regionally and nationally. **OSU is the sole institution** that will maintain the Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America Coordination Network (YEA-CN). <https://bit.ly/YouthAgri>



**OMGA Executive Board elections** will be held at the November 3rd Zoom board meeting. Please consider your talents and apply for these positions or look to your membership for MGs willing to fill our leadership positions for 2024. We need to fill the **President-elect, Secretary** and **Data Base Manager** positions. If you are interested, please email Chris Rusch: [crusch3837@gmail.com](mailto:crusch3837@gmail.com). <https://omga.org/executive-committee/>

## ADVOCACY TASK FORCE A SUCCESS

*RECAP - August 2022:* Concern for unfilled vacancies in Benton/Linn, Clatsop, Tillamook, and Douglas counties prompted the formation of the OMGA Advocacy Task Force.

*Feb-May 2020:* Task Force members engaged chapter leadership and membership in advocacy. Our advocacy led to all counties receiving temporary measures ranging from limited time positions to augmented Extension staff positions to support MG training and other activities. Filling MG positions became among Extension Director Dr. Lyles' top priorities.

*Outcome:* OSU Statewide Public Service Programs were funded by the Oregon Legislature **above** the Continuing Service Level for 2023-2025. Four MG Program positions will be filled with hiring processes underway, with Master Gardeners involved in the hiring process.

**MGs proved we can be a strong, formidable force in advocacy. Well Done!**



## POLLINATOR LICENSE PLATE

The art for a new Oregon license plate was created by 16-year-old Marek Stanton, the youngest member of the OSU Master Melittologist program. Data collected by the volunteers fill the Oregon Bee Atlas, an ongoing list of Oregon's 700+ native bees, with the goal of improving pollinator health. For each sale, \$35 goes to support bee research conducted by the OSU Extension Pollinator Health Lab and Honey Bee Lab programs. For more information on how to order read: <https://bit.ly/beeplate>

# Good Things Happening

Sept 30: Clatsop; *Harvest and Feast*,  
<https://bit.ly/HFeast>  
Sept. 30: Yamhill; *Garden to Table* series,  
<https://ycmga.org/events/g2t/>  
Sept 30: Yamhill; *Jardin al a Mesa* semanas,  
<https://ycmga.org/events/g2t-spanish/>  
Oct. 7: Lane; *Herb and Weed Walk at GrassRoots Garden*, <https://bit.ly/HWWalk>  
Oct. 7: Clackamas; *Fall into Gardening*,  
<https://bit.ly/ClackFall>  
Oct. 7: Washington; *Divide and Conquer*,  
[https://bit.ly/Wash\\_Divide](https://bit.ly/Wash_Divide)  
Oct. 10: Level Up- *Blueberries*,  
<https://bit.ly/LUBlue>  
Oct.14: Jackson; *Fall Festival*,  
<https://jacksoncountymga.org/>  
Oct. 14: Washington; *Dig and Store Dahlias*;  
[https://bit.ly/Dig\\_Store](https://bit.ly/Dig_Store)  
Oct. 27-28, Nov 3-4: Jackson; *Winter Dreams-Summer Gardens*, [jacksoncountymga.org/](https://jacksoncountymga.org/)

1ST ANNUAL

# FALL FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**  
**9AM-2PM**  
**SOREC**  
**569 HANLEY RD, CENTRAL POINT**

THE JACKSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS WILL BE SELLING HOLIDAY WREATHS, CHRISTMAS CACTI, GARDEN ART AND NATIVE PLANTS. ENJOY HALF A DOZEN OUTDOOR VENDORS AND VISIT WITH A FEW OF SANCTUARY ONE'S GOATS.

 

OSU EXTENSION PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN ALL ITS PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND MATERIALS. ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS RELATED TO DISABILITY SHOULD BE MADE 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT BY CALLING THE EXTENSION OFFICE 541-776-7371.

New publication: ***Gardens Are For Everyone - Ideas for Accessible Gardening.*** <https://bit.ly/GardenFE>



**Mentors:** Please keep encouraging your trainees to complete their volunteer hours. We're in the home stretch to the end of the program year (October 31).

Thank you so much for spending extra time to help our new volunteers succeed and remember to

## REPORT YOUR HOURS!

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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