



**Oregon Master Gardener Association
Fourth Quarter 2023
Chapter Reports**

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Benton County Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report to OMGA

- **Outreach Program Coordinator for Linn/Benton Counties**
 - **Otillia Schreuder** (she/her) will join and lead the Benton/Linn Counties Master Gardener program as the Outreach Program Coordinator starting Monday October 30, 2023. Otillia is excited, a graduate from the OSU agriculture program (BSc in Agronomy), with experience in volunteer management, pest control, greenhouse systems, and plant and flower propagation, pruning, budgeting and grant writing, DEI work, extensive field work, soil amendments and management, entomology, irrigation management, and orchard management.
- **BCMGA Association Meetings –**
 - On August 1, members joined a walk/talk with Dr. Sean Fleming. He discussed water quality, climate and hydrology. The walk was held at the Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture (843 SW 35th St. on OSU campus).
 - The BCMGA Potluck Picnic was held in September at the beautiful Philomath City Park. Everyone brought a dish to share. It was a great way to interact with new trainees and get to know them a little better.
 - At our October meeting, Lisa Borgerson gave a presentation on “Propagating Natives”. Her presentation is available [here](#) on the BCMGA YouTube channel.
- **Public Seed Library –**
 - In September, a lecture was presented at the Corvallis Public Library by Darren Morgan of Shonnard's Nursery. His talk included information on soil tending, from soil testing and amending to cover crops and coverings. His handouts are available [here](#).
- **Plant Sale –**
 - October was a busy month in the BCMGA calendar. Plant Sale is in full forward motion with the last year of Dig & Divides, held on Tuesday, Oct. 17. There is also activity going on at the Philomath High School greenhouse where all of the “best practices” propagation takes place.
- **Educational Events for 2024 –**
 - Planning meetings are actively underway for our two annual educational events in early 2024. Gearing Up for Gardening, a free lecture series held at the Corvallis Public Library at noon every Tuesday in January and February. Insights Into Gardening, an all-day conference held at La Sells Stewart Center on the Oregon State University campus, is scheduled for February 10, 2024. Watch for program and registration information for these events at www.bentonmg.org
- **Benton and Linn Counties Awards and Graduation –**
 - Our Awards and Graduation celebration will be on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9:30 a.m.to 11:00 a.m. at the Central Electrician Training Center in Tangent. All continuing Master Gardeners and trainees are invited to come for a pot-luck brunch before the awards and graduation. The training center is at 33309 OR-99E (just south of Hwy. 20-34). We decided on a morning event to avoid any conflicts with the OSU home football game.

Submitted by:

Richard Taylor, OMGA State Representative
Benton County Master Gardener Association



Fourth Quarter Report 2023

Our final big event was the High Desert Garden Tour. We drove to 7 gardens located in Bend and Tumalo. Each garden was unique in both size and theme. These homeowners showed how gardening in Central Oregon is creative and rewarding. Pictures from this event are posted on our website: <http://gocomga.com>. Next year the gardens will be in Redmond (Deschutes County) and Prineville (Crook County).

Our Community Education closed the season with the following classes in September:

“Seed Saving” Experienced Master Gardeners demonstrated how to save and store seeds from your vegetable garden and landscape.

“Putting Your Garden to Bed” This class covered how to harvest vegetables at the end of the season, including how to ripen tomatoes indoors; winterize your vegetable garden to save time next spring; divide and cut back perennials; and how to prepare your landscape for winter.

Our own Pat Kolling, gave an informative webinar on “The Healthy Gardener: Preventing Injuries and Staying Fit.” Pat is a retired Physical Therapist. She presented ways to avoid injury, apply proper body mechanics, use of ergonomic tools and stressed the importance of stretching.

The 2024 schedule, including in-person and webinar classes will be posted in January at <http://gocomga.com>.

Our VP of Education, Tim Schindele held our quarterly training class that included a contest in best vegetable, herb, and fruit categories. Congratulations to Rocky Bessette for 1st place fruit, Jeff Johnson for 1st place in both herb and vegetable. Check out our newsletter “The HoeDown” on our website.

Our Policy and Procedure guru, Nancy Glick, (past President) has provided revisions and updates that have been approved by the board.

Elections were held and all positions were filled. COMGA will have an Alternate State Representative. Toni Stephan has joined our team!

The Redmond Demonstration Garden, where we have apple, peach, pear, and plum trees produced so much fruit the major branches had to be supported! We also harvest cucumbers, tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, corn, and potatoes. A total of 601 pounds was donated to Neighbor Impact Food Bank.

Lastly, our “Recognition Night” was hosted by AmyJo Detweiller, OSU Extension Horticulture Program Manager. Congratulations to our top award winners! Master Gardener of the Year: Liz Anderson, In the Shade: Kirsten Hinton and Gary Weber, Busy as a Bee: Cher Hinerman, Perennial Star Award: Vicky Kemp, and Lifetime Achievement Award: Rock Bessette. Thank you AmyJo for a wonderful evening!

Submitted by:

Karen Simonet, OMGA State Representative
Central Oregon Master Gardener Association

Clackamas Chapter Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report for OMGA

As the growing season winds down, we've found reasons to celebrate. For our October Chapter meeting we had a party with cake celebrating another great season of our Grow an Extra Row (GAER) program. We honored the 20 total years of dedication of Nancy Muir and Eve Freeman managing the project. They are retiring and passing on the leadership to others. A video that traced back several years of volunteers' work was shown. Our lecture series that evening was given on growing and propagating begonias & gesneriads by Ann Amato, President of the Mount Hood Gesneriads Society

The Grow an Extra Row (GAER) project prepared the beds for winter having sent 3747 lbs. of produce to local food banks this year. Another 1983 lbs. of produce from people's home gardens were also donated. A very successful year and again, we thank Nancy and Eve for their hard work and leadership. For 2024, Clackamas County Master Gardeners have stepped up to continue this amazing mission to provide fresh vegetables for those with food insecurity.

Our annual chapter picnic with a Hawaiian theme this time took place on Sept. 11. It was well attended with people enjoying the delicious food and wonderful live ukulele music. We look forward to our November meeting which will have a presentation on 'Resilient Gardening in Uncertain Times' to be given by Kay Everts, founder, and manager of the Seeds for Sharing seed libraries.

Our "Fall into Gardening" public education event took place the morning of Oct. 7. This is the first time the event has been held since 2019 due to COVID. MG Clinic tables were set up to answer questions and soil samples were analyzed. There were displays demonstrating Mason Bees, Gardening with less water using mulching techniques, Understanding pH, Seed Saving, Raised Beds, Season extenders, Pruning basics, Drip systems, and Fall cleanup techniques. Educational and entertaining presentations were given on succulents, slugs and snails, and pollinators and native plants.

A group of our MGs continue to work at the Heritage Garden at the End of the Oregon Trail Museum. The site includes an heirloom rose garden and a demonstration kitchen garden featuring vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits grown by the Oregon pioneers in the 1860s. This small garden sees a lot of foot traffic due to its location. During the Festival of the Arts held on the grounds in August MGs hosted a booth answering gardening questions and giving away seeds

The 10 Minute University held an in-person workshop on how to best grow houseplants. They also offered info on fall gardening. They will resume their online webinars called "Let's Grow Together" starting in January. Some of the topics will as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Making Your Garden Climate-Resilient | Growing Fruit Trees |
| Integrated Pest Management | Debunking Gardening Myths |
| Plant Trial Winners | Climate-Friendly Lawn |
| Native Plants | Soil amendments |

The link is: <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/10-minute-university/>

We're looking forward to having a Resource Fair at our January monthly meeting. Representatives from the various events will be on hand to answer questions. This is will help bring our members up to speed with our activities and allow volunteers to sign up in preparation of spring and summer. We welcome members from other chapters to come as well and sign up to volunteer at events planned.

The Spring Garden Fair (SGF) Team is gearing up for the 2024 event which will be the 40th Anniversary.

Submitted by:
Barb Seekins, OMGA State Representative
Clackamas County Master Gardener Association



Columbia County Master Gardener's Report 3rd and 4th Quarter Chapter Reports

Gail Martyn designed a new logo for Columbia County Master Gardeners.™

Getting the demo garden ready for the annual County fair. The garden had 806 visitors over the weekend.



On August 27th we had our annual Master Gardeners picnic. Lots of tomatoes were shared.



BugNutz had a few Edu -formances this past quarter one on October 21st at Lewis and Clark Elementary and at the Children's Fair at McBride Elementary on October 28th.



Pictures below are from Mc Bride Elementary School this past weekend. Such a great crew!

On October 26, we held our Executive Board elections. Current positions held are:

President – Katherine Johnson
Vice President – Dennis Snyder
Treasurer – Gail Martyn
Secretary – Gail Martyn
Historian – LaVina Patterson
OMGA Rep – Karen Harte
OMGA Alt. Rep – Peggy Crisp

Submitted by:

Karen Harte, OMGA State Representative
Columbia County Master Gardener Association

Coos County Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter 2023 Report to OMGA

Coos County has had a wonderful year for gardening and in the county, there have been an overwhelming number of apples and pears, many of these made it to the food pantries.



The plant clinic received “gifts” of spiders and a huge live bug came in. People answered questions, greeted people and gave away seed packets at the fair. We had a great time and more visitors than in past years.

We had a year where we grew good tomatoes!! That’s unusual for the Southern Coast. If the folklore about telling how hard the winter will be from the stripes on the Fuzzy Woolly Worms is true, we are in for a doozy of a winter. Every caterpillar I have seen has much more brown than black on it.

We staffed clinics weekly at the Coos Bay Farmers Market and monthly at the Bandon Farmers Market.

The Demonstration Gardens did very well:

Ladybug Landing Garden in Coos Bay -

The demo gardens have provided quite a bit of food to the Food bank this month, **287 lbs.** pounds; tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, zucchini and cauliflower have been donated. They dealt with powdery mildew in September and are still battling bindweed in the raspberry beds. Check out the SCCGA Facebook page and see what is going on in some of the gardens.

Coquille Harvest Moon Garden -

<http://www.coquillecommunitygarden.org>

We have been sequential planting in our gardens. As the peas finished, we planted pole beans to use the same trellises. Our gardener, who was doing a square foot garden plan, replaced several squares of spring plants with bush beans. We planted lettuce, endive and radishes where the beets were growing. Cabbages were planted where broccoli was before.

Although the days are a bit shorter and cooler, we are still getting tomatoes, squash and broccolini. The Tomatillos are ripening. Our potato crop was very poor so we will be researching possible reasons. **153 lbs.** of produce donated to the food bank with more to come.

Good Earth Community Garden in Bandon -

We donated for the first time this year to Bandon Good Neighbors on September 4th. YTD, we have donated **397 lbs.**, with special thanks to a local farmer that is helping us to meet last year’s numbers with her beautiful, heavy tomatoes, cucumbers, and apples.

On September 29th, we will welcome 15 HS students to the garden to complete their community service hours.

Lakeside Garden - This is the first year of this garden

The garden is doing well. The city came and cleaned up the picket fence in the front of the garden and now we can see the garden from the street. Giving away sun golds to the senior citizens for their lunches, and giving cucumbers to the library give away. The Apples will be going to the food bank tomorrow.

Submitted by:

Lorna Schilling, OMGA State Representative
Coos County Master Gardener Association

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDNER ASSOCIATION 2023 4TH QUARTER CHAPTER REPORT TO OMGA

- July was another busy month for Douglas County now that summer has finally arrived to Douglas County! The Plant Clinic was busy with over 100 visitors the month and lots of telephone questions. It is good to note 25% of the questions are insect related. Helping folks plan their gardens and landscapes by answering a wide range of questions is always challenging and lots of fun. Our Victory is in full swing to outdo last year's figures of just under 8,000 pounds of vegetables donated to the local food pantries and community kitchens. We currently have 2,255 people following our Facebook page. So, check us out and don't forget to click the "like" button.
- August was again full of activity in the Plant Clinic many visitors and calls, with a wide variety of questions and samples. Logan Bennett gave the first of his three parts talk this month with a title of Sustainable Garden Basics: Low maintenance, low water gardening. We always welcome his knowledge and presentations laced with humor and extra insight. Thanks to Lenore Drake, Sharon Bordeaux, Logan Bennett and Cheryl Caplan for their efforts to bring this summer class to us and to the public. Community Outreach has been active this past month with 3 more Wednesday afternoon classes at the Boys & Girls Club of Umpqua Valley. 8/2 – Succulents with Ann Severson 8/9 – Wonderful World of Summer Squashes – Cheryl Caplan 8/16 – Pollinator Gardens – Julie Burchstead and an August presentation to the Secret Wine Club.
- September is one of the most exciting months of the year in Douglas County. It is the kick off month of our Fall Training. Our President said it best when telling the new students what it is really all about "Being a Douglas County Master Gardener is so much more than clubbing. Our mission is education for ourselves to better share current, researched-based information with our community. Assisting home gardeners in all aspects of sustainable gardening enriches us all in so many ways. Becoming good stewards of the land, water and air can only improve the quality of our lives." Our Fall Plant sale was held on the 28th after our general meeting in the Discovery Garden. It gives us a great opportunity to pick up some last plant that we missed when we had the "Big Sale" back in May as it is only for Master Gardeners. Fred Alley "The Tool Man" was getting those garden tools ready for their over winter hiatus, while reminding us all of his mantra "Happy gardening and continue to keep those garden and yard tools clean, sharp, oiled, and properly stored."

Submitted by:

Patrice Sipos, OMGA State Representative
Douglas County Master Gardener Association

OMGA 2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report

Jackson County Master Gardener's Association - *Garden for Life*

OSU Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center (SOREC):

Our Extension Center has decided to charge county, state, and federal agencies, commercial and private organizations, and nonprofit organizations a Facility Use Fee which includes use of the Auditorium, Classroom, or Exterior Grounds. JCMGA falls within the nonprofit section whose fees would include \$250 for a full day use of the Auditorium, \$50 for a full day use of the classroom, and \$800 for a full day use of Exterior Grounds. This is in response to the Jackson County Commissioners directing SOREC to demonstrate revenue generation from use of the property.

Association Activities & Governance:

- Our Nominations Committee has presented a slate of candidates for the 2024 Board of Directors. Elections will be held in November.
- The JCMGA annual membership picnic was held August 19th with 50 members attending.
- The graduation ceremony for graduates of the 2023 Master Gardener program will be held November 4th. We are looking forward to their continued involvement in the association.
- Per policy, we have a committee reviewing all of our governance documents (Articles of Association, Bylaws, Policies & Procedures) which is required every three years.
- Our MG Coordinator, Grace Florjancic, is now working four hours a week for the Josephine County MG program due to the Josephine County's loss of funding for their Extension Service.
- Our Board approved the proposed "Friends of the Garden" as a new volunteer program. The participants would nonmembers who would donate time working in our demonstration gardens.

Education & Community Outreach

- Our "Plant a Row" campaign this year was quite successful. The campaign asked Master Gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables for Access, our local food bank, coupled with our own Vegetable Demonstration Garden, donated over 727 pounds of produce.
- The annual education symposium, Winter Dreams Summer Gardens is scheduled for October 25 & 26 and November 3 & 4 from 9:00-4:30pm. The 14 presentations presented online include a wide variety of horticulture topics and a special presentation by Dr. Andony Melathopoulos. The outcome of this event will be reported in the next quarterly report.
- Our first ever Fall Festival was held October 14th on the Extension Center grounds. The festival was an opportunity to sell plants from our Native Plant Nursery, hand crafted fall & holiday décor, dried flower bouquets, hanging glass garden mosaics, and lavender from our own Lavender Demonstration Garden. The donated glass garden mosaic art work came from our education class held in September. The festival also included several horticulture related vendors and the "Three Amigos", goats from Sanctuary One. Located in the Applegate Valley, Sanctuary One is a nonprofit whose mission is to be a safe place for animals and a healing place for people while promoting environmental stewardship.



Submitted by:

Kathy Apple, OMGA State Representative
Jackson County Master Gardener Association

Lincoln County Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter Report to OMGA

Lincoln County Chapter continues on a positive trajectory with a new class of certified members about to graduate and graduates of the previous apprentice training group pitching in with lots of new energy. A monthly newsletter edited by our coordinator, Evie Smith, contains notes of all Chapter activities and can be found on our website: www.orcoastmga.org

Our Demonstration Garden located at the OCCC campus in Waldport will hopefully be ready to begin operation in time for the spring planting season. Many hours of time have been put in by a number of folks painting the shed, setting up the water catchment system and getting raised beds laid out, put together and ready for soil. A garden construction budget has been created and discussed by the board for fencing and other cost expenditures.

The two operational Demonstration Gardens (located on Oregon Coast Community College Main and North campuses) have hosted apprentice project showcases and three more apprentices hosted a gathering at their Tiny Tranquility Garden and Greenhouse located just south of Waldport.

A mini meadow has been put in place at the Lincoln City demo garden in a project partnering with Lincoln County Soil & Water Conservation District and the community college. 1500 plants were put in by Master Gardener and community education volunteers specifically to expand the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly corridor with other pollinators expected to be attracted in, as well.

Our annual potluck picnic was a success, despite rainy conditions.

The publicity committee is continuing to work on the logo project and expects to (finally!) have a design done soon.

We are enjoying the benefit of having Stormi Dykes on board in the newly hired Community Food Systems EPA 2 position. 50% of her work time supports the Master Gardener program.

Lincoln County chapter enjoyed a busy and productive 2023 and we are looking ahead to an even better 2024!

Submitted by:
Kristi Kind, OMGA State Representative
Lincoln County Master Gardener Association

(Photo Credit: Evie Smith)



Sandy Mathis sharing about her apprentice demonstration project at the Tiny Tranquility Greenhouse as part of her 2023 volunteer hours.



MG Volunteer Donna Davis working on the OSB Mini Meadow in Lincoln City

Marion County Master Gardener Association

2023 4th Quarter Report

With the year rapidly coming to a close, the leadership of Marion County Master Gardeners Association is wrapping things up for 2024 and getting ready 2025

Our Plant Sale committee has started preparations for our 2024 Plant Sale.

Our Fall Membership BBQ/Picnic was attended by approx. 70 Master Gardeners and family. We all had fun with the Wheelbarrow Scavenger hunt race, Tomato tasting, Apple tasting, Garden tool care and sharpening station, and, of course, all the good food. Fun was had by all who attended.

We still have several Board positions which are vacant or will become vacant at the end of the year. These positions are: Secretary, Communications, Education, Member at Large, and OMGA Rep.

The MCMGA Pollinator and Native Bulb Sale Symposium was a huge success with almost 300 attendees.

Submitted by:

Terry Sawyer, OMGA State Representative
Marion County Master Gardener Association

Multnomah County Master Gardener™ Association

4th Quarter Report to OMGA Board - November 2023

Demo Garden (DG) Activities

Earlier this year, we discovered invasive Garlic Mustard in a wood pile just south of our leased area. The wood pile was removed and the Garlic Mustard pulled. This time of year, is when we expected it to attempt to return, and some has. In addition, a large pile of arborist wood chips that had been abandoned by our Grenn Thumb Orchard neighbors was discovered to be a haven for bindweed. We sprayed both patches with 20% vinegar and then followed up with a flame weeder once the rains started about 2 weeks later, and will continue to monitor throughout the winter and spring. This will be important if we decide to update our Backyard Habitat Certification from Silver to Gold.

Bed assignments were reviewed and new leads recruited for any orphaned beds. This year's bed reports are under development for year-end review. Planning for a winter seed class(es) is in the works to help us expand the varieties of plants in our perennial beds and learn and experiment with the tricks for more successful seed germination (scarification, stratification).

Events

Several outreach events have taken place including the Irvington Garden Club, the Eastside Village Group, and numerous walk-in visitors, this with our annual Open Garden Event, and Harvest Fest were very successful with no smoke and only a light rain for the latter. The dry garden area was of special interest to these groups.

Education

We have restarted our Zoom series, "Come Learn at the Demo Garden (DG)" meetings again. These meetings are held during the evening to help accommodate those of us that work during the days to keep up with what's happening at the DG. The first session covered the history of our Xeriscape bed including which plants did the best, which plants worked well together (bulbs and Manzanitas), and which did not (Agaves). Also reviewed what changes we will be making for next year. We now know which plants can survive (or require) no supplemental water all summer. We are currently identifying those that would do better with some hand watering every 2 weeks during the hottest spells.

Fund Raising

We provided a significant number of the volunteers for the Sparrowhawk Native Plant Sale this last week. The initial planning for next year's Incredible Edibles Plant Sale was held and research projects distributed to various lead volunteers to get the planning started earlier and to spread out the tasks across more people. The most significant step is assigning a Project Manager to help coordinate and communicate the status of various jobs needed to make the sale successful.

Training

Srijana Shrestha has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Practice for the Metro Master Gardner Program and will start the beginning 2024. Getting this position filled is seen as absolutely critical in get MG Training fixed and up and running again.

Submitted by:

Rich Becker, OMGA State Representative
Multnomah County Master Gardener Association

Polk County Master Gardener Association

4th Quarter 2023 Chapter Report

We continue to fine tune the new watering system we put into place this year at our demonstration garden, Inspiration Garden. We are now winterizing the garden. There is lots of new informational signage that we have put out over the summer.

We have supported Brooke Edmund's presentations at the Monmouth Library on a variety of garden related topics over the summer. The last one for this season is on Saturday November 4th. The topic is Indoor Plant Care along with an optional plant exchange.

We have already had our first planning meeting for the 2024 Annual Plant Sale. We are planning to expand the sale to include a larger number of plants in almost all areas. This year's plant sale was a stellar success and we hope to have even a more successful plant sale for 2024. We continue to partner with Chemeketa College's Horticulture program as a source of some of the plants and flowers that we will sell.

Our Extension Offices are currently under construction, adding kitchen facilities for expanded uses. As a result of this remodel, the Master Gardener's Office is temporarily closed. Master Gardeners continue to field questions from local citizens via email and phone contact during this construction project.

Submitted by:

Helen McCann, OMGA State Representative
Polk County Master Gardener Association

TILLAMOOK COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION 2023 4TH QUARTER CHAPTER REPORT TO OMGA



Autumn has arrived in Tillamook County, with the deciduous trees in the Coast Range starting their gorgeous display of colors.

We had a wonderful year in Tillamook, with Master Gardener volunteers participating in a variety of events, including in-person classes, our annual plant sale, hosting at our Learning Garden during the County Fair, teaching and acting as facilitators in the Seed to Supper program, staffing clinics in the OSU Extension Office and at Farmers Markets around the county, and consulting on community projects. Please read on!

2023 SUSTAINABLE GARDENING CLASS

This year all classes were held at the OSU Extension Office in Tillamook. Although the class was small, the knowledgeable TCMGA members teaching the classes

gave it their all. The mentors who assisted with reviewing weekly quizzes and answering questions one-on-one were, as always, crucial to the success of the class. Six students completed training.

Annual PLANT SALE — 6 MAY 2023

Held at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds, this year we welcomed over 850 customers. We offered annuals, perennials, fruits, vegetables, herbs, and ferns along with 16 varieties of tomatoes. Special thanks go out to Plant Sale Chairperson Sarah Ostermiller, John Laurin for his help with set-up/take-down and computer issues, Arla Ayers for recruiting and taking care of our outside vendors, Bob Allen for obtaining hundreds of boxes for carrying plants, Pat Collins for leading the holding area team, and JoAnn Baker and Cammy Hickman for overseeing check-out and cashiers. Many MGs contributed plants to the sale, and we are grateful that this year our main growers — including Arla Ayers and Edna Holt — once again provided over 1,100 plants. Our gratitude also goes out to Apprentices Erin Durkin, Christine Inglis, and Darcy Thornes for the outstanding breakfasts and lunches they provided for us over 3 days of set-up and sale. Erin, Christine, and Darcy created a beautiful setting that allowed us to enjoy the company of our fellow Master Gardeners.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

TCMGA is committed to offering educational opportunities on sustainable gardening principles and research-based horticultural practices to our community. We share our knowledge in various ways.



LEARNING GARDEN / TILLAMOOK COUNTY FAIR

Established in 1989, the Learning Garden serves as the laboratory for Master Gardeners to practice and share the skills they've learned in their Sustainable Gardening classes. A recent plant propagation workshop, open to the public, attracted 20 participants.

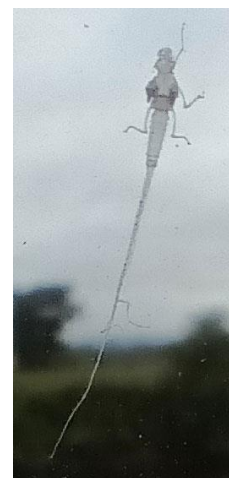
During the 4 days of Fair this year, over 1600 people visited the Learning Garden. Master Gardeners hosted tours of the Garden, answered gardening questions, and directed visitors to educational displays on pests, common summer vegetable problems, and how to become a Master Gardener.



PLANT CLINICS / FARMERS MARKETS

MG volunteers answered questions in person, on-line, and via telephone at the OSU Extension Office. We also held clinics at Farmers Markets in 4 cities around the county, helping nearly 400 community members with their gardening concerns. Our Interim Program Coordinator, Dakota Lager, was instrumental in getting updated literature for us to use at the clinics.

Pictured right is one of our more interesting queries. What do you see?



SEED TO SUPPER

This comprehensive 3-day gardening course is designed to give beginning adult gardeners the tools they need to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget. The 6 modules are taught by Tillamook County Master Gardeners, with each module having a 1-hr lecture and 1-hr activity time. We're very grateful for the support of the Tillamook County Library System. Special thanks to the Tillamook County Library Foundation, which provided the funding to print and bind the course handbooks. The course is offered free to area residents.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS — TILLAMOOK COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM

TCMGA is working with the Museum to create a landscape development plan that supports the Museum's mission of preserving and interpreting the local environment by selecting native plants. The working group will also create a basic maintenance calendar so Museum staff members with little to no gardening experience will be able to confidently maintain the grounds.

Submitted by:

Nika van Tilburg, OMGA State Representative Elect
Diane Devens, OMGA State Representative
Tillamook County Master Gardener Association

Wasco County Master Gardener Association

2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report to OMGA

ADMINISTRATIVE & MEMBERSHIP



Class of 2023 Graduation & 2024 Board

Our annual New Member Graduation and Appreciation celebration is Monday eve, November 6, 2023, with 15 new graduates, a number of whom are joining veteran MGs for 2024 board positions.

Get Togethers

Three well-attended MG social events were hosted by members in their homes: two general get-togethers (June and September), as well as a pre-MG-exam “study party” over pizza. Additional events held at The DIG and at Sorosis Rose Gardens were a mix of work and play.

2024 Enrollment

2024’s MG enrollment applications are due December 15, 2023. 2024 classes repeat 2023’s work-friendly days, Tuesday eves and Saturdays.

The scarecrow workshop brought brought lots of smiling new faces to join in the fun.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & OUTREACH

Plant Sale

Our annual day-before-Mother’s-day plant sale continues provide excellent double-duty: raising public awareness as well as our primary fundraiser. The plants were grown in the Norcor greenhouse, providing an opportunity for youth there to participate in greenhouse activities and the plant sale. Vegetables—tomatoes especially—are our most popular sellers; we continue to learn and respond to what the public wants. Next year’s seeds have already been ordered.

The DIG (Dalles Imagination Garden)

The DIG experienced water access challenges which at one point required volunteers bringing in buckets of water. Despite it, the DIG thrives. The family-friendly garden invites riverwalk trail amblers to visit and learn, including at Saturday morning workshops on a variety of topics over the summer. “Share the bounty”—locally grown food—drew the most public interest: fourteen master gardeners contributed produce that was shared with twenty-five attendees. A scarecrow-building workshop was the most whimsical and attracted 10 enrollees, most of whom had never heard of master gardeners or The DIG. Local sculptor and master gardener Alan Root gave our gate welcome gate a much-needed repairs. Saturday November 4th is The DIG cleanup, then the garden hibernates until mid-spring.

Sorosis Rose Gardens “Adoption”

This year MG took on the care of Sorosis Park’s heritage memorial rose gardens— long overdue for TLC—with enthusiastic support from TD’s City Parks. Like the DIG, plants experienced stress due to automated irrigation that didn’t perform properly, as well as a sawfly and aphid invasion and powdery mildew. Nonetheless, garden visitors noticed the improvements and shared their appreciation. We’re considering how to capitalize on that for publicity and donations.

Plant Advice Clinics & Other Events

Plant clinics venues included TD’s Farmer’s Market, Home Depot, the Wasco County Fair, library seed exchanges in The Dalles and Maupin, as well as weekly follow-up to garden advice queries. The Maupin seed exchange attracted over 100 visitors. Barlow Trail Garden Club in Pine Hollow, South Wasco County welcomed WAMG as returning guest presenters at their meeting.

Overbooked

Heritage Heights Community Gardens requested MG's help with garden set-up this spring and fall garden advice, both the same time as The DIG work parties. We're working through how to support a healthy blend of balancing MG project maintenance with how to meet public requests for support.

Food Bank Donations

We donated produce from The DIG and master gardeners' gardens to the recently relocated Columbia Gorge Food Bank (CGFB) nearby. Prominent signs throughout The DIG explain its produce gets donated to CGFB; however much of it is still gleaned before it can be donated.

Future Public Engagement Strategies

The DIG and even the Farmer's Market/Plant Sale location are in moderate to low-visibility locations. Ideally, we'd like to engage with the public in areas with higher traffic and with events that require shorter time commitments, as little as 15-minutes at a time. We're working on what that might look like while continuing to fine-tune what works already, like the greenhouse plantings and plant sale. Additionally, we're trying some different approaches to get the word out: dropping our movie theater ads, and testing some newer, community-focused newspapers. Word-of-mouth is still our #1 recruitment tool.

MORE INFO

Check our website for issues of [our newsletter, The Dirt](#) or follow our [Facebook page](#).

Submitted by:

Dana Greyson, OMGA State Representative
Wasco County Master Gardener Association



Enjoying a bounty of produce at The DIG (Dalles Imagination Garden) event, Wasco County, Oregon.

Washington County Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report to OMGA

We had a very successful year, with approximately 5,000 contacts at our monthly webinars, activities in our two demonstration gardens, and participation in various community events like Science Geek Out. The second year of our Grow-1, Give-1 project, growing and distributing plants at food banks, reached 550 families and the Learning Garden donated 750 pounds of food to local good banks as well. We have decided to continue having monthly meetings as zoom webinars because attendance is 2-3 times greater than our in-person meetings were. We have added several social get-togethers in order to maintain social contacts with members.

We are excited about the results of our pilot program, “Home Plate”, led by Robin Burnham. Youth served by Home Plate are between the ages of 12-24 who are experiencing any type of instability. Six Washington County Master Gardeners provided workshops twice a month through the summer. The primary goal was to provide education so the participants could grow food and have hands-on experiences they could reference when applying for jobs. Short presentations and hands-on demonstrations were provided to youth who came to the Drop-In Center and those in the Home Plate gardening and landscaping internship program. Eight workshops were held and topics included: planting tomatoes, peppers, and other transplants; planting vegetable seeds; slug control; installing drip irrigation; container gardening; companion planting; succession planting; pruning tomatoes and thinning vegetables; weed identification; insect identification, fertilizing; building hoops and installing row cover; transplanting hydrangeas; harvesting techniques; pruning basics and pruning grapes; cat grass; treating tomato blossom-end rot; growing, harvesting and drying herbs; planting fall crops; testing soil pH; harvesting corn; seed saving; topping tomatoes; and cover crops. Produce grown was harvested by the youth and shared with other youth who were experiencing food insecurity.

Fourteen youth participated in the education sessions and one of them entered the Home Plate landscaping internship program. Each session had 1-4 youth attending and 1-2 staff members. In addition to the youth who participated in the classes, the Home Plate staff estimated 16-18 youth benefited from the sessions. 6-8 received produce and approximately 10 youth curious about the gardening accessed stability services at the center such as housing, education, and employment support. A highlight of the workshops was demonstrating gardening techniques to youth who had never had contact with a garden. One youth commented, “I’ve never dug a hole in dirt before. This is sort of therapeutic.” Another attendee asked a very good question, “How do you know what is a weed?” A rewarding comment was, “This is fun.”

Beans and squash in the garden at the Drop-in Center



Submitted by:

Karen Graham, OMGA State Representative
Washington County Master Gardener Association

Yamhill County Master Gardener Association 2023 4th Quarter Chapter Report

It is definitely fall, and Master Gardeners in my county are actively cleaning up their own home gardens as well as our Education Garden at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. With this cooler weather, many plants are blooming which makes it very difficult to remove them! We all procrastinate now, just to enjoy the flowers for one more day!

The McMinnville Farmer's Market ended on Oct. 12. It was a beautiful day, with many of the public participating, buying fall vegetables and planning on learning about these vegetables for next fall in their own gardens. With the advice they receive from our members, they will be successful in bringing these tiny seeds to life!

Our Garden to Table classes have started in October. The classes are filled to capacity, as the local newspaper and press releases have explained the program and captured the public's interest. We are incredibly proud of the team that runs this program and the national award they received this summer from the International Master Gardener's Conference.

Our workshop/tour committee has been active this fall. We've had a workshop on grafting maples, tissue cultures and container design and garden management from experts in their fields. Makes me want to be much younger, so I can become an expert with a long life ahead!

Anna Ashby, a veteran of many years, is also the head gardener at the Allison Inn in Newberg. Her recent article written for our newsletter, The Grapevine, covered the brassica family that she growing for the chef's in the Allison's restaurant. It's always so interesting to see how she outwits insects and weather being either too cold or hot. Her scale is, of course, much larger than a home gardener, but her insights and disappointments apply to all of us gardeners.

Finally, we are all very excited to learn that the new vehicle license plate, celebrating bees will be available for purchase this coming November. Besides the bright colors and artistic design, it highlights a misunderstood creature who is vital to our food production.

Submitted By:

Nancy Woodworth, OMGA State Representative
Yamhill County Master Gardener Association