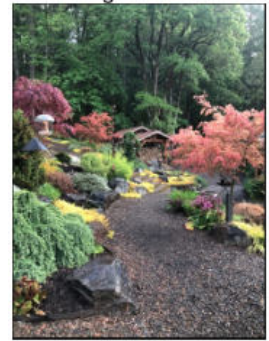


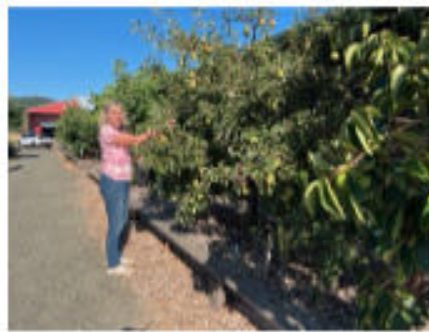
## Benton County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

### BCMGA Association Meetings –

Our summer meetings consist of garden tours June through August. Who wants to sit inside in a meeting during the summer?



- Our June tour was in the home garden of Karen Hopson, formerly of Garland Nursery. She has a hilly, drought tolerant garden, mostly full sun with a shade garden on one side and a raised vegetable garden. One of the main attractions of her garden is the metalwork by her husband Randy.
- While we all rush to the OSU campus in the spring to see the magnolias and rhododendrons in bloom, we often forget the many plants across the OSU Campus Arboretum that radiate their beauty in the summer. In July, Dan Blanchard, Curator of Living Plant Collections guided us on a tour of woody plants with summer interest, highlighted the history of the campus landscape, and discussed the current and future programs of the Campus Arboretum.
- The August tour was at the Benton County Master Gardener Association Demonstration Garden located at the Benton County Fairgrounds. This tour was an opportunity to learn all about the “Demo Garden” from the Master Gardeners who regularly work there. Master Gardeners were on hand to talk about ongoing projects and answer questions. The “Demo Garden” features the following.
  - A shade bed with shade tolerant fruits and vegetables
  - Eight raised beds with a variety of annual vegetables
  - A group of raised beds and structures designed to be accessible to all gardeners
  - A raised bed designed for growing warm climate crops like sweet potatoes and melons
  - A “dry” bed for growing vegetables without the benefit of irrigation
  - A first year experiment in hydroponic gardening
  - A grape arbor
  - A variety of fruit trees, herbs, and berry bushes including a well established apple espalier



## School Garden Fun!

Benton County Master Gardeners are working with three school gardens this year, Adams, Mountain View, and Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary Schools. Each school garden has a different schedule, leader and plan. The Spirit Pole created by Benton County Master Gardeners for The Joy of Gardening conference has been donated to the Mt. View School Garden to be displayed in their garden.



## Central Oregon Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024



The Central Oregon summer story..... near freezing temperatures in June, frost as late as June 20<sup>th</sup>, heat wave in July, and an abundance of smoke in August. It's now leaning towards September and the skies are clear! The weather is beautiful! All these changes make me appreciate the warm days we do have left. So far, my tomatoes have survived it all!

We were involved with two community events, the COBA Home and Garden Show at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and the Annual Garden Tour viewing 5 homes in Crook County. At the COBA show our 3 tables displayed handouts, bookmarks and QR codes to OSU Extension publications that were available to the 842 contacts that were made. We decided to limit the handouts this year and instead, use QR codes for almost everything we use as resources. This turned out to be a great change, and we gave out hundreds of postcards with various QR codes for our most used publications. Classes were held for 76 attendees. Once again, we offered four classes: Vegetable Gardening in Central Oregon, Pruning and Gardening in Our High Desert Climate. Our heroes included 21 MGs (trainees and certified) and 4 instructors helped over the three days of the show.

The Annual Garden Tour held throughout Powell Butte in Crook County allowed 305 ticket holders to view the 5-site tour. These beautiful home gardens, each different in size, purpose and theme opened our eyes to each's creativity. Participants completed a survey at the end, and results gave high marks for the tour with 92% rating it good or excellent.

The Board Policy and Procedure Committee completed our project to create the new sales policy and update all the board job descriptions, policies, and recommended By Laws changes. Our past president, Nancy Glick has tirelessly headed this committee. After many hours of editing, the updates were voted on and passed unanimously at the August General Membership Meeting.

*Karen Simonet, Central Oregon State Representative*

*"The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden."*

*~Ray Everson*

## Clackamas County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

Clackamas County Master Gardener Chapter has had interesting and fun activities this summer. We are happy to welcome and include our enthusiastic crop of interns and get to know them. We're also pleased to be getting acquainted with Srijana Shresha, Assistant Professor of Practice of the Metro Master Gardener Program and Dr. Leslie Madsen, our new Statewide Master Gardener Program Manager both who visited our chapter gardens in August. We loved sharing news of our projects and enjoyed seeing them sharing moments in the gardens with us!

In June a tour and dinner at the N & M Herb Nursery in Hubbard was thoroughly enjoyed and well attended.

Nancy Cutler is the new coordinator for our Open Gardens. In July, Mary Nietupski, a new intern, welcomed us to see how well even a small space can be developed into a beautiful garden. In August, Harry Landers, the retired curator of Portland's famous Rose Garden, hosted an open garden at the beautiful private garden oasis at this home. What a treat!

The Grow An Extra Row (GAER) effort continues to produce such a great variety of vegetables and herbs that are donated to 2 local food banks in Oregon City. For the first time, hungry rabbits have posed a problem but with replanting and low coverings of vulnerable plants, the damage was minimized. Huge amounts of tomatoes, beans, and cucumbers have been harvested as well as other crops.

Good work with another group of volunteers continues at the End of the Trail Pioneer Garden with heirloom roses, vegetables, and herbs that were grown in the 1860's. This demo garden sees many visitors since it's on the grounds of the museum and the summer music events are hosted there. Seeds are being harvested and will be put on sale. In August the MGs had a booth in the garden at the Festival of the Arts.

New this summer to 10 Minute University is the "Summer in the Garden" series which are research-based articles authored by Master Gardener experts with a focus on creating your best garden. Also provided are 2024 "Let's Grow Together!" Video Links. Check them out at:

[Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association \(clackamascountrymastergardeners.org\)](https://clackamascountrymastergardeners.org)

The annual chapter picnic is being held in September on the 7<sup>th</sup> to hopefully avoid summer heat. It has a German theme this year with delectable food and live music.

## Clatsop County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

Hello from the \*currently\* very hot Oregon coast! We are experiencing a heat wave with many of our areas reaching up into the 90s. After a rather rainy and cool last few weeks of August, folks are a little split on rejoicing for the extended summer or pining for autumn and some reprieve.

Highlights of recent and ongoing projects:

Our Clatsop board has been working hard on a big update to our bylaws. Revisions to meet state requirements, modernize, simplify, and ensure our organization has strong roots to weather the future. We have mailed physical copies out to all our members and will be voting to adopt the new bylaws at our next membership meeting on the 18th.

Seaside Wednesday Markets, last market was the 4th. One of our veteran members worked on sharpening and oiling pruners while the rest of our volunteers answered questions and provided additional information about preparing their gardens and tools for winter.

The transition from July to August meant time for the Clatsop County Fair. Our volunteers worked incredibly hard on prepping our Demo Garden for its biggest showing of the year. With some adjustments of signage and one of our members getting on the microphone to encourage event goers to stop by, we had great attendance and interactions with the public.

The Astoria Sunday Markets are still going strong, every other Sunday, three shifts, until October 6th. We've found the shorter shifts are more manageable for those with busy schedules who cannot commit to a full 10:00-4:00 day at the market.

Seaside Railroad garden has been well-received and the whole site looks much better after the renovations. We are using a few beds in this garden to help reach our south county community, providing extra produce to the Seaside food bank and learning opportunities for all.

Just last night our volunteers harvested hops at our Alderbrook Learning Garden. These hops were sent to Fort George, a local brewery, to become a part of their annual "Co-hop-erative" brew that sources hops from several different community groups.

They are also nearly ready at Alderbrook to begin harvesting seeds from the *viola adunca* plants, the native species that the threatened Oregon Silverspot Butterfly relies on. We hope this program will produce even more plants that can be distributed to key regions of the butterfly's natural habitat here on the coast.

Other regular volunteering opportunities and work parties continue at: the Yeon House, Flavel house, and Plant clinic. We have so appreciated the work of our new program coordinator, Shannon Rauter, in her timely and helpful emails regarding educational and volunteer opportunities.

## **Coos County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024**

Our biggest news was being at the Coos County Fair the last week in July. Coos County Master Food Preservers, as well as CCMGA were housed in a Fair building with all the Land Products, both food and floral. It was a great success, lots of fairgoers coming through, looking and asking lots of questions and even signing up for information on the 2025 MG classes.

We have been very busy with our Coos Bay and Bandon Farmers Markets as well as the Plant clinic at CC Extension. So, we are out, in contact 3 or 4 days a week with the people of Coos County. We are also starting to get involved in pop-up plant clinics around the county.

We had 3 members attend the OMGA Joy of Gardening. We all really enjoyed it, and came away with good, new gardening information as well as ideas to put this information to use.

*Respectfully, Mary Dixon 2024-25 CCMGA to OMGA representative.*



## Curry County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

It was a fun and productive summer in Curry County. Fall promises to be exciting!

### School Gardens

Two of the school gardens received awards. The produce and flowers from the Riley Creek School Garden, in Gold Beach, received numerous ribbons at the County Fair. In June, the Little Bear Patch school garden at Kalmiopsis Elementary, in Brookings, was recognized by the City of Brookings as the Commercial Garden of the Month. The garden was noted for “a thriving, blooming, pollinator-focused oasis.” Kalmiopsis is one of only two schools in Oregon designated as a “Monarch School USA”!

Volunteers at Riley Creek School Garden opened the garden every Monday to the public, offering fresh produce and flowers. In the north county, volunteers and the horticulture teacher at Pacific High School, who also took the 2024 class, focused on repairing the greenhouse and building hügelkultur beds.



### Community Outreach

Master Gardener volunteers hosted weekly plant clinics as well as pop-up plant clinics at events, such as the Memorial Day Azalea Festival in Brookings, Beach Clean-ups that included a local parking lot bioswale, and County Fair. We also staffed a booth at a Rotary sponsored Kids Carnival, offering a variety of games that focused on seed dispersal strategies. Parents went home with ‘Plant This, Not That’ information.

### An Exciting Future Starts This Fall

The Curry County Master Gardener Association is elated that their vision of a demonstration greenhouse and learning garden is becoming a reality and they are moving forward with their project! Groundbreaking is scheduled for September 6, 2024, 2-4pm at 29841 Airport Way, Gold Beach. Please also mark your calendar for the grand opening celebration, scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2025. We are honored that both Leslie Madsen, State Director, and Chris Rusch, OMGA President, will be attending the groundbreaking.



While the Curry County Master Gardener volunteers work in local school gardens, due to concern for student's safety, these gardens are generally not accessible to the public. The future greenhouse and garden, to be located at the Gold Beach Community Center, means the Master Gardeners can offer additional adult educational opportunities.



# COMING SOON!

## MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION GREENHOUSE & LEARNING GARDEN

We are moving forward with our vision at the Gold Beach Community Center  
Watch for our opening this Fall. Education workshops to start in 2025.

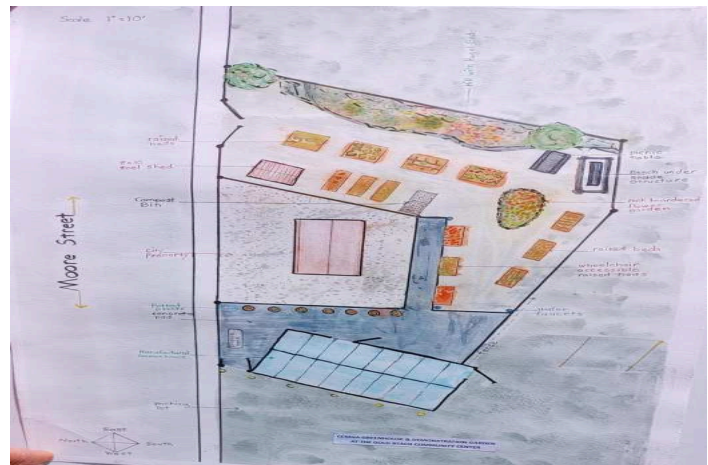


OSU Master Gardener volunteers are excited about expanding their sustainable gardening education activities and the additional opportunities for community engagement. Watch for educational workshops to begin in spring of 2025.

The 24x48 foot greenhouse, which includes an indoor teaching area, is being built in the fall of 2024. The garden will be developed over the next two years, incorporating educational workshops or community workdays into the garden development. The garden will include a variety of garden bed types. Information and in-garden examples of how to grow vegetables, flowers, pollinators and native plants will provide both inspiration and practical information to local gardeners, no matter their experience.

The project is funded by grants from numerous foundations (including a Karl Carlson grant), proceeds from the annual Master Gardener Plant Sale (the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend), and generous contributions from individual Master Gardeners and our community. Contributions can be sent to CCMGA, PO Box 107, Gold Beach, OR 97444.

*Submitted 9/2/24, Julia Bott, OMGA Representative, Curry County MGA*



## Jackson County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

- **2024 Master Gardener Class:**

The 2024 JCMGA Master Gardener class once again has been a real boost to our JCMGA Family. We started out with 55 new members. Most of those are on track to graduate on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Just like the 2023 class we have many people who bring new skills to our organization. Many have joined programs, committees and are already making a difference. They have integrated into our organization, adding their needed skills to the mix.

One of the areas that showcased the 2023 and 2024 skills was an activity that Grace Florjancic (our OSU Coordinator), instituted during her first year as JCMGA's. She divided the class into groups of 4 to 5 people and assigned each of the ten groups a plant family to do a presentation on. Some of the skills that came to light and can be incorporated in our Chapter are artist and creative professionals, organizational skills, IT and marketing backgrounds, public speakers, educators, and presenters. All of these skill sets not only enhance the Chapters ability to carry out our mission of education and outreach to our community. But each group was educational, entertaining, very creative and great fun.

- **Submitted by Barbar Low Practicum Mentors:** Barbara Low and Nicole Smith have been meeting with Jane Moyer and Virginia Brown to make sure there is a smooth transition. Barbara Low and Nicole Smith are the new Practicum Leaders. Using the notes from the Practicum Mentors meetings from last year, we are revising the Practicum lessons to present at the Practicum Mentor September meeting.
- **Produce Collected for the Food Bank:** Even with a smaller veggie garden (as of this writing) JCMGA has collected and provided over 100 pounds of fresh vegetables for Access. It was a simple process so that members could bring their own overage to add to JCMGA's for easy pickup. A table was set up with a log in sheet for each veggie and amount, a scale to weigh and then Access would come and pick up what was collected for that week. Just one of the ways JCMGA is being a good community partner.
- **Garden Tours:** Again, beginning this past May we invited the Jackson and Josephine County Garden clubs to visit SOREC and JCMGA's Demonstration Gardens. We also started looking at some non-gardening organizations that we felt might enjoy and appreciate our gardens. One of these groups was the Medford Soroptimist. They were a delightful Group. Their enthusiasm, interest and engaging manner inspired Janine Salvatti and Colet Allen to consider other non-gardening groups to reach out to for next year's Demonstration Gardens Tours.
- **Demo Gardens:** class of 2024 really helped with getting our gardens in order this year. As was the case in 2023 our gardens have again been beautiful and showcase worthy. A big thanks to all of the Volunteers and Friends who have spent many Wednesdays' working, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Gardner's and the wonderful treats provided by Pam Hiller and others that brought a fabulous array of treats for our hard-working Volunteers, Friends and Guests at our Gathering Place.
- **Food Bank Donations:** Due to the future construction plans at SORECT, the Vegetable Garden had to be considerably reduced so the creative team of Sean Crawly and Paula Roberson decided to incorporate a long-time indigenous practice and created a 3-Sisters variation. Here is what they did: The demo garden has been constructed in three concentric circles of corn, sunflowers, squash, pole beans interspersed with basil, parsley, nasturtiums and calendulas. In the outer ring buckwheat and more sunflowers are planted as cover crops. The entire design fits within a 40ft x 40ft square. The addition of buckwheat and sunflowers was to experiment with allelopathic plants.

- **Annual Picnic:** We changed our Annual Picnic date this year to try and beat smoke season and be in a cooler time frame for the event. It worked well and we also changed the format.

We were fortunate to get Robert Coffan of the Monarch Advocacy and his lovely wife Simone to attend and present at our event this year. Robert provided an educational and entertaining program which included being able to bring new monarch caterpillars which we were asked to provide names for the three caterpillars. Our youngest participant at the picnic could not get enough of seeing these new little future monarchs. She kept asking her mom to take her back to where the caterpillar containers were located. We are hoping that next year we get more young folks attending and having a program that engages children of all ages.

Robert sent us the following note and I wanted to share it with our membership.

“Take a look at Mr. Majestic! He eclosed this morning, and he is still preparing and stiffening his wings and testing things right now. This is one of those three little caterpillars that I brought with me to the Annual Picnic! You might remember that I left a page there asking folks for suggested names. Well, all three have turned into lovely adult monarch butterflies: the other two were females. So, in honoring the suggestions for names. We have released Rosie Rocket, Flying Florence and Mr. Majestic into our community! Feel free to pass this news on to the group if you want.”



**MR Majestic**



**Big Boy**

Robert also brought Big Boy which added just one more attraction to our event.

JCMGA owes a big thank you to Food 4 Less, manager Jared Mulhollen and his very helpful assistant Pat Cox for partnering with us for a nice food discount. Colet Allen worked with Pat and staff who did the collecting of everything on our list, had it ready and then loaded it into her car. Can't ask for better service than that.

We also increased our number of participants this year and will set a new goal for next year.

- **Craft Day:** JCMGA had a craft Day led by Marcie Katz. They made a beautiful Tree of Life from Jute. They are part of our fundraising efforts as well as a social event and some will be available for purchase at the Fall Festival in late September. I am hoping for a couple to donate to the Silent Auction at next Summer's Joy of Garden.
- **Friends of the Gardens:** We finally got all of our t's crossed and l's dotted required by OSU. This is now an official program within JCMGA. We had one meeting and had a few people attend. We are encouraging all friends, family members and especially our perennial volunteers in the gardens to encourage and invite their friends, family and children to join them in our demonstration

gardens. The process is easy, they must fill out two OSU forms, a waiver and code of conduct. There is a safety and setting the expectation video that will also need to be viewed. Next, show up, work and have fun.

We are working on marketing methods and other ways to get the work out. Also, looking at other activities that will help let people know there is a second way to work with and learn from Master Gardeners.

- **Winter Dreams: Winter Dreams Summer Gardens:** WDSG 2024 is on track. Here is the following line up.

**Theme Ideas Grouping for WDSG 2024**

<b>Ecology</b>	<b>Design</b>	<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
<b>Coping with Climate: How Our Changing Environment is Affecting Native Plants and Habitat Restoration in the Pacific Northwest and Beyond</b>  Tom Kaye	<b>Firescaping For Home, Habitat, and Sense of Place</b>  Adrienne L Edwards And Rachel A Schleiger	<b>All About Lavender</b>  Jered Grzybowski	<b>Tricks of the Trade</b>  <b>Strawberries, Peas and More</b> John Kobal  <b>Hoop Dreams</b> Kent Patrick-Reilly  <b>Tips and Tricks for Controlling Insects in the Home and Garden</b> Marsha Waite
<b>Climate Forward Trees</b> Tim Coyne Mimi Enright	<b>Naturalistic Privacy Screens</b> Bonni Engelhardt	<b>2024 Trials of Organic Vegetable and Flowers</b> Jennifer Gerrity	<b>Bringing Nature Indoors: Creating a Houseplant Home</b> Grace Florjancic
<b>Grow the Best Butterfly Garden</b>  Lynn Kunstman	<b>Take a Walk on the Dry Side</b>  Bonni Engelhardt	<b>Backyard and Small-Scale Composting</b>  Regina Boykins	<b>From Fermentation to Forest Ecology: The Many Applications of Fungi</b> Lorelle Sherman
<b>The Many Uses for Ground Covers</b> Susan Koenig	<b>Container Gardening</b>  Marcie Katz	<b>10 Proven Ideas for a Bee Friendly Garden</b> Leah Puhlman	<b>Companion Plant Gardening</b>  Barbara Low

All classes for WDSG have been approved for Landscapers CEH by the OR State Board. Registration has opened and is on the JCMGA website. There you will see the time and dates of each of the above Classes.

In addition to several marketing techniques this year we added a list of 300 landscapers that Blake Elliott class of 2024 was able to find for us. We are planning to keep track of the numbers that we get from our US mail list. Also, WDSG is listed on the State Landscaper Licensing Board Website as a source for Landscapers to get their recertifying CEH.

The WDSG team is looking at ways and a process that the past presentations from WDSG can be used to help other Master Gardener Chapters get their Continuing ED Hours and presentations.

- **New construction at JCMGA Extension:**  
 Due to the requirement to demolish some of the structures with asbestos issues some long planned structures will be removed. This will make space and provide the needed opportunity to build a Master Garden Classroom, a new Tool Shed and a Lathe House. Jackson County will remove these old buildings and thus make way for new construction of these needed facilities. The Master Gardeners are only one part of these long-term plans for SOREC. The Master

Gardeners have started to get bids for the building so when the County removes the asbestos structures, we can start the building process to replace these structures immediately.

- **Speakers Bureau and Teaching at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, OLLI:** Once again Susan Koenig is doing a Garden class for OLLI at OSU. She has engaged a Master Gardener from 2023 Class and is thrilled that Connie Lyssand will be breaking into this arena. OLLI garden Classes that Ronnie Budge, Susan Koenig and John Kobal have fostered over the past few years is a good addition to our educational outreach. They have established a following over the past 4 years and have typically had between 60 to 25 attendees per class.

We have a Fall Medford Library series with three classes in the series set to start in late September. There is a Winter series in the planning stages and is near completion.

One of the things that I discovered earlier in the year is that these zoom gardener classes at the library are recorded and placed on YouTube a couple of weeks after these zoom presentations. We have had up to 100 hits on these recordings. It was thrilling to find out that we are reaching an even broader audience with our gardening series.

- **Retreat:** The second retreat is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will review and evaluate our goals set earlier in the year. At that time, we will adjust and add new goals as determined by the membership of the retreat.

*Submitted by Colet Allen*



## Lincoln County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

Lincoln County Chapter is continuing to thrive. Sixteen apprentices have demonstration projects in one of our three demonstration gardens. Details of these projects are noted in our July and August Newsletters.

The LCMGA Facebook page remains popular and is a good resource for community gardeners to network on and keep abreast of upcoming events and opportunities. Members are staying involved and participating in various tabling activities, such as farmers markets, a pollinator presentation, county fair and presentations to HOA groups. To support these activities, we have offered a number of continuing education classes geared toward presentation skill building, such as public speaking pointers, a powerpoint presentation tutorial and a class going over how to find science based information resources.

Our Plant Clinic Help Desk is going strong under the direction of Larry King and Daniel Hutchison. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, at least one certified member staffs the office with the help of one or two apprentices, who are all becoming well acquainted with how ECCO works to answer the gardening questions brought by the folks of Lincoln County.

All three demonstration gardens have hosted at least one event, including a children's fair at Lincoln City, Blueberry growing presentation with tasting at South Beach and an open house event at the newly constructed Waldport garden.

Our part-time Coordinator Evie Smith's position with OSU Extension has been converted from Small Farms & Master Gardeners Outreach Program Coordinator to Assistant Professor (Practice) for Small Farms & Community Horticulture in Lincoln County. She started in this new position on July 1. Evie will continue to support the Master Gardener program in her new role with OSU. We have had a summer intern helping out with the program, as well.

Our President, Ann Geyer, is working on updating our bylaws and as a part of that, convened a committee to address the issue of associate membership. The committee came back with some recommendations that were reviewed with our Coordinator and Program Assistant and the final product will go into the bylaws for some much-needed clarity and guidelines.

A monthly newsletter edited by our program assistant, Stormi Dykes, contains notes on Chapter activities and highlights opportunities and activities that members can take advantage of. We have a website, as well: [www.orcoastmga.org](http://www.orcoastmga.org)

*Submitted by: Kristi Kind, OMGA Rep for Lincoln County*

## Linn County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

Our annual June fundraiser, “**Through the Garden Gate**” tour of Albany-area gardens, had increased numbers of attendees – 425 tickets were sold and there are several gardens signed up for next year.

The fall **cocoon harvesting classes** – part of our year-round educational project to encourage pollinators – will begin next month. There will be 10 classes in our county and two or three surrounding counties, to teach proper ways to harvest and store mason bees, identify other bees and predators, and clean bee houses in preparation for next spring.

<https://www.linnmastergardeners.com/pollinator-info>

Our **demonstration garden** at the Linn Co. Expo Center has continued to run into issues with no parking or access to the garden, no water, etc. Gates have been locked – paths barricaded and parking lots closed so that people that are interested in visiting cannot gain access, as well as making it very difficult for the MG volunteers. Some of the reasons for the extra security is due to vandalism, and some is due to lack of awareness by those responsible for events and properties near the garden. A committee was created to consider our options which, short of moving our 20+ year old garden to another place entirely, are few.

**Farmer’s Markets:** Our dedicated volunteers have a presence at four markets in our county, as well as occasional pop-up events from June through September. We are increasing the number of times we are at the Albany market to allow trainees more opportunity to volunteer.

We have updated our chapter’s **by-laws** and are creating new **binders** for officers to keep current and historical information.

A **school garden** program is ongoing in a local school with a MG volunteer assisting.

We have been **gathering produce** from our gardens and the demo garden to take to farm workers in nearby areas. This is a new project just started this summer working with the AWARE program.

In place of our traditional “Brown Bag Lunch Gardening Talks” at the Albany library – which have been poorly attended the last few years, we have created a new, portable, educational event called “**Master Your Garden.**” The first one will be Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Brownsville Farmers Market. The intent is to have several tables of gardening information that our volunteers can present – while being able to take this event to other communities and ‘bring the information to them’. It takes 40-60 minutes to drive between each of the four corners of Linn County and we have been trying to create a sustainable event that will help us reach our constituents throughout the county. The tables will cover: Compost/vermiculture, soils, small space gardening, fall/winter gardening, seeds, insects, native plants and gardening with kids.



*Ann Kinkley, Linn County*

## **Multnomah County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024**

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

We finished the new shed by painting both it and the old shed in matching colors. Recently, we installed solar fans, and now in the process of adding shelves to the new shed. The blueberry bed got a new enclosure to protect the ripening berries from the birds. The old method worked but kept having to be repaired as the screening was very sensitive to UV damage. The new structure is much sturdier and the screening should be more resistant against UV damage.

Almost finished with the new pergola retractable awnings that should give us better sun protection in the years ahead. At this point the DG is looking great and has donated 1,200-1,500 lbs. produce so far. This year the squash bugs have been a big problem this year, but have also provided some fun for the bug hunter teams to sharpen their termination skills.

### **Education/Outreach**

Our Open Garden Event was a success this year with a full clinic, themed areas like Xeriscape, and pollinator gardens, and joined by partners including the Xeres Society, Backyard Habitat, Multnomah County Vector Control (a big hit with the kids – who knows?) and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Over 160 visitors, most of whom stayed for the full event.

Many of the attendees were new to the DG, and since most were neighbors, we've seen some of them return to help on our workdays. While the interest is high in the Master Gardener program, the tri-county metro program is working on how to get training for them with a waitlist of over 1,000 people. We started a monthly "Learn in the Garden Series" where we open the garden to visitors and host special themed topics for the attendees to learn and ask questions like – "How to garden for pollinators", "Planting a winter veggie bed", Best practices for cover cropping including free seeds", "Hugelkultur bed construction". The two we have held so far were well attended, and again were successful in generating interest, and getting folks to try new things in their gardens and community beds.

We had 2 visits from Florida MG groups. Great MGs, but it was clear to them that gardening in the Willamette Valley is a bit different from Florida.

We continued with our Zoom series, "Come Learn at the Demo Garden," which included presentations on:

- 1) Incorporating Edibles into Your Yard and Garden, and
- 2) Birds at the Demo Garden

The DG was visited by both Leslie Madsen, Statewide Master Gardener Program Manager, and Srijana Shrestha, Metro Master Gardener Assistant Professor of Practice. Both relatively new hires who were very impressed with the DG and very open, approachable and listened to our MG's concerns for the program. They are bringing a lot of new energy and ideas into the program.

# Polk County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

Polk County is working on closing out the 2024 year for September, October, November and December.

## September

- Appoint Nominating Committee
- Appoint Budget Committee
- Appoint End of Year Banquet Committee

## October

- Report Committees progress and updates at Board/Chapter meetings

## November

- Budget submitted for board approval
- Board candidates announced to membership at least 3 days prior to Chapter meeting
- Chapter meeting votes on Board candidates and budget

## December

- End of year banquet , install new board , appoint audit committee

## OSU and Extension Update

- Hundred of contacts were made at the Oregon State Fair and many signed up for next years Master Gardener Class

## The Plant Sale Committee

- Starting to work on Perennials and Natives for our next Plant Sale to be held May 9 & 10, 2025.
- A new shed was built by an Eagle Scout and will be used by the Plant Sale group to store planting supplies.

## Inspiration Garden Update

- Benches are being built by the master gardeners and are being placed along the cemented walking path for people with mobility issues and anyone who wants to sit and enjoy the garden.
- The 7 acre Inspiration Garden has been mapped out and a list of individual plants has been created. The notebook with the list is available to the Master Gardeners working at the Inspiration Garden.
- New Brochures have been created with QR codes for the community
- Our Children's Garden Lead has been in the hospital for the last 6 months, many Master Gardeners have stepped in and organized work days at the Children's Garden which has been a blessing for our lead.

# Wasco County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS & OUTREACH

### **Greenhouse Gone.**

#### **What Next? TBD!**

The greenhouse we used in a 12-year partnership with NORCOR to grow the plants for our annual plant sale was damaged in a storm this summer. This event is inspiring our chapter to move in a new direction. We're excited about finding new ways to connect with our community.



### **Plant Advice Clinics @ Extension Office & 3 Farmer's Markets**

Our plant clinics at the extension office generated a decent stream of questions. Plant advice clinics at the farmer's markets —The Dalles (twice monthly), South Wasco and Grass Valley (each once a month) maintained a steady level of community connections.

### **The DIG (Dalles Imagination Garden) Educational Garden**

As summer wanes, the DIG beds are exuberant, awash with flowers and produce to donate to the food bank. Due to this year's cool spring, most donations will be later in the year.

### **Sorosis Rose Gardens Blossom**

The Sorosis Rose garden's 400-plus roses are looking better than they've looked in the last two years since the Master Gardeners took on the garden in partnership with Parks and Recreation.

A major project starting this fall is to identify and mark the roses which have gone back to the rootstock. We will start with identifying which roses need replacing in just one section this fall. Once identified, the Parks and Recreation staff will remove those roses. We will replace them in the spring. So far, we know that about 20 roses in the S.W. section needs to be replaced.

In addition to ongoing maintenance, we plan to identify the roses and then mark them with their proper names. This is a difficult project because we do not yet know what roses were planted. There is a legend for the plantings but we have not yet obtained it. This is a great winter project.

### **2024 Outreach: Gardening How-Tos & Harvest Fest**

Gardening seminars split between The Dalles Farmers Market and The DIG this year, with 2-4 per month, June through August, culminating the popular annual Share the Bounty Harvest, August 31 st this year. This program succeeds because so many WCMGA members participate by donating their garden produce and are willing to share their successes, knowledge and experiences. Home-made (rhubarb!) cake and jams made with master gardener-grown produce were also at hit among the 30 or so attendees.

### **OMGA: JOY OF GARDENING (JOG)—ANNI's ATTENDEE REPORT**

Anni Kappus-Lively, winner of our 2023 chapter's Behind the Scenes award, attended this year's Joy of Gardening in Corvallis and enjoyed the classes and had a hard time deciding between all the great options. She also got a kick out of the Garden Trivia Game and the

walking tour of the OSU Campus' Living Arboretum. She recommends the latter early in the day, before it gets too hot. She reported the silent auction was also fun, with a wide range of auction bid items, from small bundles of mason bee nesting tubes to a large hand-made quilt. Anni graciously ferried our chapter's silent auction donations; everything sold.

## **MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

### **2024 Master Gardener Classes Completed, Volunteer Work in Full Swing**

Volunteers have until Halloween to complete their hours; between plant clinics in 3 different farmer's market locations and the OSU extension office, work The DIG educational master garden and 2-3 gardening presentations a month, there were plenty of opportunities for volunteering. Graduation date is still TBA.

### **Annual Summer Socials**

- June—Pizza & Pruners: The Veteran's Memorial Rose Gardens takes a lot of ongoing work. This year's social-work party got an extra boost with a pizza party.
- July—The DIG social offers an opportunity to get to know each other, enjoy the gardens and swap stories. It's supposed to be purely social, but it's hard to keep master gardeners from digging into more than just the potluck. We got some work done there, too, including harvesting for our food bank donations. Kudos to Annette for the games.
- September—coming up—annual potluck social hosted by master gardeners Garry and Peggy Peterson at their home.

### **MORE INFO**

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

*Bounty of the Harvest photo courtesy Ann Scherzinger*

## Washington County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024

The Washington County chapter has remained busy throughout the summer. We finished June with an open garden event at one of our educational gardens, the Learning Garden at the Jenkins Estate. Our Master Gardeners were on hand to talk about the various gardens showcased and we also had Food Hero participate, (the OSU program that provides information on meals, budgets, recipes, and gardening). The Oregon Bee Atlas had an activity table as well. Children had an opportunity to learn about pollinators, hummingbirds, and plant vegetables.

We had another successful year with the Grow 1 Give 1 project. Totals this year:

- 879 tomato and pepper plant starts were distributed at seven food pantries
- 915 contacts with the public teaching them about growing the starts
- 1712 seed packets were given out
- 420 grow bags and fertilizer also distributed

Along with the Grow 1 Give 1 donations, the Learning Garden also donated 250 pounds of vegetables, fruit and herbs to the Westside Brigade, a partner of the local Food Bank.

Members of the WCMGA/DEI committee began featuring a term or phrase on our webpage each month to help foster an understanding of DEI vocabulary, with the understanding that definitions may change over time.

Our interns are working with us now and orientations have been held. It is great to have them alongside us! We have missed them.

We continue to provide free educational opportunities for our members and the public. Recent talks in the Learning Garden and Education Garden have included classes on Herbs, Composting and Perennials for Year-Round Flowers.

*Debra Hansen, Washington County Representative*

## **Yamhill County Master Gardeners - Q3 Report 2024**

July was an especially exciting month for this chapter. Two of our members were recognized by OMGA as Master Gardener of the Year, and Behind The Scenes for 2024: Gene Nesbitt, MG of the Year and Rita Canales, BTS. Both are so worthy of these awards. They each are so integral to the successes of our chapter as leaders and workers.

Interesting public and MG's only lectures were held in June. "Oregon's Wonderful Native Bees" and "Propagating Clematis ". Both had a large attendance. We also have been participating in three farmer's markets in the area; McMinnville, Newberg and Sheridan. Our booth is very festive and eye-catching which helps attract people unfamiliar with Master Gardeners as well as current and past folks who have shared their gardening questions with us and received answers. We are always aware of how important public outreach is to our program.

The Yamhill County Fair was another public outreach we participated in. Our focus this time was insects. We had 3 tables inside a building which was covered with insect-related activities for children and adults. These activities were created by the insect team—totally original and very clever. Being in the building was a real advantage as the days were extremely hot.

Our newsletter, The Grapevine, has MG's who are now regularly contributing articles. Their current subjects are "Raised Beds: the Details are in the Corners", " Potato Patch Therapy", "Delight in Love-in-a-Mist" and "Fall Evenings, Garden Reads". So very well written with vocabulary that is colorful, full of variety, and such enthusiasm!

We are also pleased that our current new trainees for 2024 are very active in our chapter. Some years this is not so, but these people have jumped into numerous committees and events for their own personal fun and interest. This is always wonderful for they bring new skills, ideas and contacts which every organization needs.

*Submitted by: Nancy Woodworth  
Yamhill County OMGA Rep.*