

## Central Oregon Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024



We are grateful that Community Ed has a stable team of teachers, teaching assistants, dedicated audio/visual tech, and a well-received set of venues across the tri-county area. We offered two “end of the year” classes: Seed Saving and Putting Your Garden to Bed.

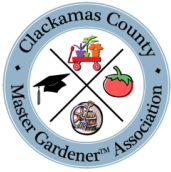
- TOTAL LIVE CLASSES OFFERED in 2024: 13
- TOTAL ATTENDEES: 498

Our best marketing is through Facebook, Friends & Family, followed by the OSU and GOCOMGA websites. Newspaper ads 1-3 weeks before class make a significant difference in the registration and attendance in Madras, Sisters, and Prineville, where the local newspapers are well received.

Volunteer hours are due and hopefully we have been recording these throughout the year. The hours are recorded electronically and can be a challenge for some to keep up with. Last-minute education hours are also available with the Level-Up Series and 10-minute University. COMGA Spring Seminar webinars for 2022, 2023 and 2024 are posted on COMGA's YouTube channel too.

Our annual Recognition Night is scheduled for November 7 th with dinner and awards to be presented. Thank you to AmyJo Dettweiler and her team for all their efforts in putting this together for us.

We welcome our new officers for 2025. We are looking forward to another exciting year in the life of Master Gardeners everywhere!



## Clackamas County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

In October we held the “Fall Into Gardening” event which is open to the public. It included soil testing, educational displays, questions and answers, and 3 presentations on houseplants, grass lawns, and de-bunking garden myths. It was well attended with over 100 people.

We sent out a survey to our membership asking about skills and interests. A main goal was to use this to help fill leadership roles. It was well received and gave us more info on our Master Gardeners (MG).

Our chapter meetings have been lively. We welcomed our new interns giving them gift bags with each speaking about themselves and their motivation to become a MG. We held an election for board members, honored those who won awards, and held a used book sale. Educational and entertaining presentations were given on planting garlic, characteristics of conifers, and native plants. During the winter months when it’s difficult for some members to get to our evening meetings we’re offering “hybrid meetings” so people can view presentations from their home via Zoom technology.

Other efforts include the Grow An Extra Row Garden. The garden plots were prepared for the winter in October after over 3900 lbs. of vegetables were grown and donated to 2 local food banks.

The Hopkins Demonstration Forest also had a busy year with volunteers keeping the Native Plant Garden looking good, maintaining pathways, and adding an information kiosk with photos of native plants. A new landscape design was made for the front of Everett Hall and established by volunteers and help from a landscape group.

The Pioneer Garden on the grounds of the End of the Trail Museum in Oregon City grows heirloom flowers including lovely roses, herbs, and vegetables. Volunteers continued to keep the garden looking great and collected seeds making over 700 packets which are sold through the museum gift shop.

The Seed to Supper program held one workshop this past summer. It’s designed to educate and provide resources to novice gardeners. To support future activities we are collecting used tools at our chapter meetings to donate to new gardeners. More workshops are planned for 2025.

10-Minute University has offered science-based information on a wide variety of topics. Check out their website to access the articles, hand-outs, videos, and webinars at 10-Minute University™ – Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association. The wonderful line up of webinars for 2025 is already listed. They’re free with pre-registration. Check them out!

## Columbia County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

On October 24<sup>th</sup> we had a double header visit from Dr. Leslie Madsen and Dr. Janhvi Pandey (our new Extension Agent) to show off our demo garden at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.



Following our time in the garden we had an early dinner and then moved on to the CC Extension office for a meet and greet. At the meeting awards were presented, here is a picture of our Master Gardener of the Year, Cassie Hall, receiving the award from last year's MG of the year, Gail Martyn.



Jenny Lewis presented the new Seed Library project that is a collaboration between the St. Helens Public Library and the OSU Extension service Master Gardeners. This project is designed to conserve heirloom and local varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers and native plants, in an effort to support sustainable gardening, self-sufficiency, and to build community. Elections were held and these offices were filled:

Katherine Johnson, President  
Gail Martyn, Secretary  
Karen Harte, OMGA Rep

On October 17, 2024 – we had a VRS training session with Kym Luth the Administrative Office Manager to walk through imputing hours into the VRS system. There will be a Master Gardener volunteer (Michael Kingsbury) in the office this week to assist those needing help.

*submitted by Karen Harte CCMGA Rep*



## Curry County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

### School Gardens

School Garden activities continue in all 3 Curry County school districts. Rainy day activities include students making a Garden in a Glove to track germination. As a bonus, the gloves look like spooky ghosts, appropriate for October.



### The Brambles Has a New Look

The Curry County MGA is now working with OSU's Constituent Relations Management (CRM) program to send our newsletter – The Brambles – via email linked to a webpage. Check it out at this link. As can be expected, we had a few hiccups with our first one, but overall it went smoothly and gives us greater flexibility sharing with members and the public.

### Community Outreach

Master Gardener volunteers finished the in person weekly plant clinic but continue to respond to calls and emails. We hosted information tables at local events.



### Greenhouse Construction Starts



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! Framing for the 24x48 foot greenhouse, which includes an indoor teaching area, went up in October. The garden will be developed over the next two years, incorporating educational workshops or community workdays into the garden development

Submitted 10/29/24 Julia Bott, OMGA Representative  
Curry County Master Gardener Association



## Lincoln County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

Lincoln County Chapter closed out a very successful reporting year with fifteen apprentices completing their hours and graduating, 37 recertifying members completing 687 continuing education hours and a combined 6,000 plus hours of volunteer service with 2,220 community contacts. The ceremony for our fifteen graduating apprentices was made extra-special this year with Statewide MG Coordinator Dr. Leslie Madsen joining to help hand out new badges and certificates.

A new board has been nominated and voted in. After a year of vacancy that followed several years of very little getting accomplished, we have a Historian for 2025 and are looking forward to Janice Smith working on getting things organized and caught up. The 2024 Co-Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer stayed in their positions for another year and Trish Riley will be taking over the OMGA Rep position. The nominating committee conducted an extensive search for a new President and was ultimately unable to find anyone or even two people to take it on. As a last-ditch effort, a group of 6 past presidents got together and formed "Council of Presidents" to serve the role of President for the 2025 year.

The Plant Clinic Help Desk remains under the direction of Larry King and Daniel Hutchison and has transitioned to the off-season adopt-a-week schedule for staffing.

All three demonstration gardens are winterized and various off-season projects and maintenance are in the works.

Our Facebook page remains popular and is a good resource for community gardeners to network on and keep abreast of upcoming events and opportunities. 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, outgoing OMGA Rep for Lincoln County*

## Linn County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

We had 85 people register for the Mason Bee cocoon harvesting classes in October. We began charging \$10 per person to try to reduce 'no-shows.' It was very successful and we had almost 100% attendance. Each participant received a \$10 coupon at the class that they could use to purchase bee supplies – or donate that amount to the Linn Co. MG Association. LCMGA has a supplier make bee houses for us to sell and MGs prepare thousands of bee tubes (by splitting the sides for easier harvest) for sale each year. We adapt our houses and tubes as our yearly research produces more data regarding the habits of mason and other native bees.

A total of eight classes were held in October in Lane, Polk, Marion and Linn County. Attendees were able to get help identifying the pest, diseases and non-bee insects that were in their tubes. Each class included:

- Learn the lifecycle of Mason Bees
- When and how to store cocoons from June to October
- How to harvest and clean cocoons, ridding them of disease and pests
- How to store after cleaning until spring release
- When and how to release in the spring
- <https://www.linnmastergardeners.com/pollinator-info>

This year's TomatoFest in Lebanon was a great success! We had over 100 varieties of tomatoes to taste and more than 800 attendees. Seeds have been saved in readiness for next year.

Our first Master Your Garden Demonstration Faire was held in Brownsville in September. The town is at the southern edge of our county, and this event is designed to be portable and repeated in other small rural towns in our county. We had many grateful visitors and it we will continue to expand it. We are looking at the opportunity to secure grants and sponsors and will be seeking advice from other chapters as to how they do that.



Master Your Garden Demonstration Faire, Brownsville.

*Ann Kinkley*

## **Polk County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024**

We received a \$500.00 donation to fund a new sunflower themed bench and signage regarding sunflowers for our demonstration garden.

We received 38 hedgerow pollinator plants from Xerces Society which will be planted in our demonstration garden. We are working on a plan to get them all planted.

We are preparing for annual voting on board members in November.

We are preparing for graduation celebration of about a dozen new master gardeners in December.

The vegetable gardeners are putting their plots to bed, there will be some cover crops for winter color and soil nutrition.

We have a library series in Monmouth this winter with speakers and activity like a houseplant exchange and native plants as well.

Respectfully submitted ,  
*Sharon Hill, Polk County OMGA*

## Washington County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024

Washington County Master Gardeners have found they like Zoom chapter meetings – but it prevents the opportunity to socialize and meet our new members. We have implemented Social events at our learning gardens to give us a chance to be together in person and welcome our interns. Our final event was held at the Jenkins Learning Garden in September – with snacks, conversation and a raffle with lots of laughs.

Our Education Garden is located on the campus of Portland Community College, Rock Creek. The garden received a grant from the American Conifer Society for durable engraved plant stakes that will list common, cultivar and scientific names of the plants in the garden. The PCC Education Garden is designated an “American Conifer Society Reference Garden” and also has Backyard Habitat Certification – Gold, and resides on the PCC Rock Creek Certified Tree Campus and Certified Bee Campus.

This year we experimented with offering Cover Crop seed samples at a Washington County Farmers Market, the Let’s Talk Plants booth, an “In The Garden” series class, (Putting the Garden to Bed), and several community tabling events in September and early October. The free packets were enough seed to cover about 32 sq ft. or a 4’x8’ garden bed. Gallon pots of samples, planted in August, were available for the public to see what the crop would look like and was an asset for engaging the public at tabling events. Those who took seeds also received a copy of the 10 Minute University handout, “Cover Crops for Home Vegetable Gardens”, Copies of the longer “Cover Crops for Home Gardens West of the Cascades”, and the USDA Climate Hubs NW Cover Crops for Climate Resilience were also available for viewing. The most popular choice was crimson clover. If resources are available, we’d do it again, starting a little earlier and targeting gardeners in communities we have traditionally not served. If anyone else is doing something similar we would like to hear about their experience!

*Debra Hansen, Washington County Representative*

## **Yamhill County Master Gardeners - Q4 Report 2024**

September and October are traditionally time to clean up the various raised gardens and other flower/vegetable gardens in preparation for the coming winter. Our Community Garden began that process in September and wrapped it up in October. Yes, it's sad to see all the produce gone, but there's also the continuing expectation of a new year without some of the mistakes of this year.

Yamhill County MG's are already planning for next year's events! Our Spring Into Gardening workshops event is already signed up to be held at the new Linfield Universities Keck Hall in 2025. The committees have been formed and already we have twelve speakers confirmed for the March event.

Our new trainees have accumulated their required hours and will be graduating at our November 17 event at the Yamhill County Heritage Center auditorium. As usual, it's a party with a wonderful slide show of each trainee's accomplishments as well as our own veteran's awards for the year.

Our newsletter, The Grapevine, has had many relevant and interesting articles authored by accredited experts regarding insects, fire prevention, gophers and musings by some of our members about the magic of gardening. One of our members has also been sharing books she recommends regarding gardening and the beauty of nature. In particular, "Enchantment" by Katherine May, "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and "A Garlic Testament" by Stanley Crawford.

The Education Outreach Committee has created a new a new workshop series called "Sharing Knowledge". This workshop's focus is to build knowledge, and skills related to sharing information with peers and community members. It is three 2-hour lecture and activity-oriented workshops culminating in teach MG's development of a 15 minute presentation that is shared with their peers. The series covers "Creating and Sharing Knowledge with your Peers and Community" "Grabe your Audience", "Building visuals and tools to share your knowledge". The final class is "15-Minute presentations".

Sadly we lost two master gardeners over the last 2 months. Both were extremely involved in the program, had been certified for many years and were a joy to work with.

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