

Central Oregon Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025



Education: Community Garden Coordinators are getting in on the act! There's a new kid in town, and it's called "Saturday in the Garden". This educational event was created by our Community Education Team and launched this year. Each community garden coordinator will host 2 educational events this season. Such topics as "Building a Cloche", "Growing Great Garlic", "Helping Your Garden Thrive" with weed ID, pruning techniques and insect damage control. So many reasons to get your hands in the dirt!

Garden Sale: The Central Oregon June Garden Faire and Plant Sale will be held this Saturday, June 7 in the OSU Extension parking lot in Redmond. First come, first serve! The event runs from 9am-1pm. There will also be a dozen other vendors for all your gardening needs.

Joy of Gardening Conference: We continue to collect donations for the JOG conference in July. We have a group of MG's that will be carpooling to the event.

Karen Simonet, Central Oregon State Representative





Curry County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

Successful First Plant Sale in our New Home



On May 10, 2025, the Curry County Master Gardener Association held their first plant sale since moving into our new demonstration greenhouse and learning garden!

More than 350 people attended, leaving with vegetable starts, succulents, dahlias, native plants, and perennials that do well in our coastal climate.

We learned a few lessons about traffic flow and laying out selection in our new site. The community was incredibly supportive and complimentary about this year's sale.



Plant Clinics in Local Libraries

Over the past few years, fewer people have been attending our weekly plant clinic held at the Extension Office in Gold Beach. This year, we changed our approach and now offer plants clinics at the Brookings, Gold Beach, and Port Orford libraries. This has increased our outreach and made it easier for people who live in Brookings or Port Orford to get their plant questions answered.

School Garden Programs don't end with the School Year

The final classes of the school year were held in May and first week of June, including hosting the Strawberry Festival at Riley Creek where 200 students enjoyed strawberry shortcake and lettuce wraps. These school gardens will be open to the community during the summer. In Brookings the library is partnering with the Master Gardener volunteers to offer a weekly garden class at the elementary school garden. The school gardens in Gold Beach and Port Orford will be open to community drop-in during the weekly garden maintenance activities.

Submitted 6/6/25 Julia Bott, OMGA Representative
Curry County Master Gardener Association

JCMGA Chapter Q2 2025 Report for OMGA

1. **Retreat:** Late May we held our Retreat and had lively discussions around several topics.
 - o Guest speaker, Lynn Kunstman Creator and Chair of the Certified Native Plant Nursery, presented follow-up answers to some questions from past requests for a part-time person. The request was to supplement the volunteer hours to keep our Certified Native Plant Nursery thriving. Burnout of our dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers is a serious concern. Getting help is critical to maintaining the production of our Native Plants. We looked at employee versus contractor scenario. It was decided that we needed to look at and evaluate the benefits and risks of each. Then determine which would be the best approach for JCMGA to implement.
 - o The second issue was review of the Strategic Plan which was initiated at the first 2025 Retreat. Discussions were held on changes. The changes will be voted on at next June Board Meeting.
 - o Third was the review of our early May Spring Garden Fair. One item discussed was, should we create a line item in the budget to earmark some dedicated funds for the New Building Projects we are planning for and hopefully starting soon. This will be on the next board meeting agenda.
 - o Also discussed was how to use the Impressive 2024 List of Accomplishments to JCMGA's advantage and help spread the word about what we the Master Gardens do for our community.
2. Collaboration between appropriate Working Groups by creating a short-term Ad Hock Joint Committee has yielded some positive results in the past. It was suggested that our Working Group Chairs have a monthly meeting and discuss what joint short-term collaboration between committees might aid JCMGA with more effect and efficient outcomes.
3. **Practicum:** A great deal of work went into streamlining and updating the methods, delivery of information and processes for the Class of 2025. Approximately 49 hours by 22 mentors to review and revise the processes plus weekly going over how the training would be delivered (train the trainers) of the Practicum 14 weeks at 2.5 per week time 22 mentors=308. Also, agendas were changed to accommodate subjects (raised beds and irrigations) that had been requested. Adding to the hours mentioned above; each mentor spent in their Practicum classroom and the 4 to 8 students' hours in each of the schedule classes add up to a Bucket-Load of Hours these dedicated people both mentors and students spent in Practicum for 14 weeks growing the many plants that led to the VERY SUCCESSFUL SALES at SGF. Thank You Practicum.
4. **Spring Garden Fair:** Raffle, Plants sales flying off the Shelves: It was a very successful sale. It was the first time that JCMGA returned to Expo since Covid. We used the Mace Building, the attached pavilion and the lawn area. The wonderful success,

experience and changes in process have led to a revised plan for 2026. Many things were made simpler and have led to process improvement that will be part of ongoing sales in the future. Also, it has been discussed that next year we will also rent the building next to the Mace Building as this year proved that we needed a bit more space for plants and vendors. One more thing we learned this year -getting a Sponsor really helped the bottom line. This will probably be part of the process for the future.

5. **Blue Heron Park:** JCMGA once again had an information table for this Earth Day Event.
6. **OSU Legislature Day:** Colet Allen attended this Event in Salem and found the experience rewarding, enlightening and fun. I highly recommend it in the future. It revised my expectations and provided a new experience that I think others would benefit from and maybe even enjoy as I did. Also met some of my fellow Extension participants that were part of the team that I was on. We visited 4 representatives to advocate for OSU continued funding. Each of us on the team gave a short 2-minute talk about why each of us felt OSU deserved their positive support with a yes vote.
7. **Awards:** This committee has met and decided who would be rewarded for the State level, Jackson County and Other Awards to deserving people. Some of these awards will be awarded by the OMGA at the Joy of Gardening in July if JCMGA's candidates are chosen, Jackson County's will be awarded at the Annual Picnic. Directors Please, Encourage members to attend both and show support to those who deserve the recognition.
8. **Annual Picnic:** is June 28th and planning is on track. There will be Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Veggie-burgers, all trimmings and Participants will round out the menu with deserts, salads and side dishes. Besides great food, there is the awards ceremony, and Update on the Monarchs, Games, Photo Ops with Big Boy, hopefully many people catching up with friends and maybe even a few surprises. Our goal is 100 people.
9. **Medford Street Fair:** JCMGA had an Information Table at this Event again this year. The attendants were steady, colorful and fun. We do need to do something to harness the wind. We spent a lot of time chasing our flyers. Those painted rocks were helpful. Maybe more and larger would help. It was a lovely day, the breeze did help with keeping temperatures comfortable.
10. **SGF Volunteer Appreciation:** As I write this it is scheduled for Saturday 6/7 and **Well** deserved. The little army of dedicated Volunteers, brought in the most money that has been achieved in the after Covid sales. We almost sold out most of our plants on the first day.
11. **Our Gardens:** class of 2025 completed mid May and since then have been working their hours in the demonstration gardens and Plant Clinic. Their hard work has brought visually noticeable and positive results.
12. **Legacy Tree Planting:** Andrew Norwood's from the OSU Foundation (the planting of two western Redbud Trees Event took place in April). Andrew had left OSU to return to

his home state but Jennifer Milburn of OSU Foundation came for the Event. She gave an informative talk, provided a wonderful lunch and helped to make the event very festive and a better place for the trees that are now there. We appreciate Andrew for setting it up and Jennifer for making it happen, Alec Lenin our OSU SOREC Director, for creating the perfect place for the new trees and site coordination helping with the planting. Also, thanks to Sandy O'Neil for photos documenting the event.

- 13. 2025 Class:** the 2025 MG students are doing great. Many of them have started working in the Plant Clinic and Demo Gardens. At least one has already finished all of her required hours! We are on track to have 30-35 graduating students this Nov.
- 14. Plant a Row:** this program has been announced and based on last year's results we expect this program along with the food produced from the demonstration gardens will provide produce to Access. Which is scheduled for pick up at extension every Work Day Wednesday starting once food is available.
- 15. Cultivating Companions classes:** Were very successful last summer and will continue this coming summer being held in Talent and Gold Hill Libraries this fall. We are on schedule and are going to meet soon with instructors to talk about training and duke out who teaches when, where and what.
- 16. Seed to Supper:** From the end of March through April JCMGA hosted the 6 week Seed to Supper Program at Rogue Retreat's Hope Village location in Medford. We provided a lunch item before beginning class each session and split the time between lecture and outdoor hands-on work in the raised bed space at the location. This was the beginning of a relationship between JCMGA and Rogue Retreat who has 2 other locations, The Crossings and the Kelly Shelter, both of which have or will have a garden space soon. We had anywhere from 3 to 7 in class each session. I am unaware of any actual scheduling that has been done for further classes this year, but I know it was in Grace's plan to do so. Thanks, Lindsey, for Update.
- 17. Friends of the Garden:** Signup sheets during the Events that JCMGA has had an information table at have provided many more names. We are waiting to see if those people who put their names on the signup sheets actually come into the Office and sign up.
- 18. Winter Dreams Summer Gardens (WDSG):** Blake Elliot, Barbara Low, Colet Allen and Susan Koenig started planning for our first WDSG meeting in late January. Today we are on track with 16 presenters confirmed and currently bundling information needed by Oregon LCB to approve the WDSG for Landscapers Continuing Education Hours
- 19. Speakers Bureau:** The Class of 2025 has brought 5 new potential speakers. Grace, our OSU Coordinator, has offered to create office hours for the purpose of helping new speakers put together their presentations. We are also working on updating the very out-of-date webpage for the Speaker's Bureau.
- 20. JCMGA building project** (New Practicum Classroom and replacement of old green house) that JCMGA will be engaged with in the future projects are on hold. SOREC is working with the county to determine how the new entry to county/state highway enhancement affects the area requirements for the JCMGA Class Building and the

associated new expansion plans for the research center. Once those dimensions are determined, JCMGA can take measures and continue to advance their part of the plan for SOREC and get engineer drawings prepared for approval by SOREC and Jackson County. Once Engineering Drawings are completed, we can get estimates.

21. Community Gardens: Thanks to Sherri Morgan’s outstanding leadership, Community Gardens have more structure, advertising and two new gardens requesting grants this year. Good job Sherri and thanks to Sandy Nelson for sending our Face Book Notices to let the public know that JCMGA is supporting Community Gardens. One area that JCMGA would like to help with is more education. Speaker Bureau is potentially one way to accomplish this goal and engage with our Mission of Educating Our Rogue Valley communities in expanding and science-based knowledge for the home gardener.

Community and contact	Location	Grant Amount Rewarded
Rogue River Food Garden Helga Bush	4733 West Evans Creek Road, Rogue River, OR 87537	\$1,000
Holly Street Community Garden, Dana Kline,	929 S. Ivy Street, Medford, OR97501.	\$1,150
Eagle Point Community Garden Shari Lawson	1409 Siskiyou Blvd, Medford, 97504	\$ 250
Providence Community Health Foundation Lila Farney	940 Royal Ave, Ste.410, Medford, OR 97504	\$250
Blue Heron Community Garden, Sandra Wine	109 Abby Street, Phoenix OR 97535	\$350



Lane County Q2 2025 Report for OMGA

Lane County had a busy 2nd quarter this year. Starting with our only fundraiser, the 2025 LCMGA Plant Sale that was on the last Saturday in April. It's a one day of sale, with two days of setup and preparation at the Fairgrounds. Of course, that doesn't cover all the work that goes into planning, propagation, purchasing, volunteer hospitality and logistics. This event not only raises funds for the Master Gardener program in Lane County, but it also fosters community and comradery, it's always wonderful catching up with MGs we don't often see around the Extension Office.



There's a strong cadre of MGs that are no longer certified for whatever reason, but they are major contributors to the LCMGA at the Plant Sale. Nineteen Master Gardeners grew plants for this event, and we purchased wholesale from nurseries, as well as receiving donations from 14 local retail nurseries, giving us over 10,000 plants. Approx. 2,500 people came through the doors, 989 purchases, approximately 80 volunteers contributing over 850 hours just in the three days of the event. Our gross income was \$40,396.77 after expenses we raised **\$30,597**.

A well-attended Appreciation Picnic was held in May to show our appreciation for all the work at the Plant Sale.

The LCMGA Board hosted a tour of the City of Eugene Water - Wise Landscape Demonstration Garden on Saturday, April 12. A fascinating tour led by Jeff Petersen (EWEB) of their Demo Garden showcasing strategies to reduce water use and capture/treat stormwater, while creating a beautiful landscape.



The LCMGA Summer Picnic – Potluck is set for August 3 just to gather as a community. We host a public seminar on the third Tuesday of each month – held at the Extension office. Our seminars for April, May and June were, “Creating backyard habitat to benefit nature in

our yards and community”, “Incorporating Pollinator Meadows into Your Landscape”, and “Gardening Made Easier: A Guide to Using Solve Pest Problems”

As we try to find new ways to spread the wealth from our very successful Plant Sales, we are exploring new scholarship opportunities with OSU including possible starting an endowment fund through OSU with the caveat if our county loses funding, we can access those funds to support our program in Lane County and We are considering increasing our contribution of \$1000 to \$2,500 annually to OSU’s Garden Ecology Lab.

The LCMGA converted our membership application to a Google Docs form, and it has made this process quick and easy for all our members and our Membership Chair.

Our T-Shirt supply needed to be refreshed, so we had a very talented MG create our newest t-shirt. This shirt can be purchased at our cost for any county in Oregon.

<https://osu-mg-shirt.printful.me/>



The Plant Sale fundraiser supports our specialist committees, and this is how we reached the community this quarter. We are excited about the 28 new 2025 MG Trainees, they are very enthusiastic, and we look forward to welcoming them to all our committees.

- **The Plant Clinic Committee:** We put on three training courses in March to make sure all plant clinic volunteers are prepared. We trained this year’s trainers who will be working with the new MGs in the plant clinic. We provided reorientation for everyone who works in the plant clinic. We hosted the new MGs at extension to introduce them to the plant clinic.
- **The Mobile Plant Clinic:** is getting into gear for the Spring events. The Mobile Plant Clinic is a great way to connect with gardeners across the county from Florence to Oakridge and Junction City to Cottage Grove. This group tables events and farmers markets every weekend and several times a week throughout the year, with over 50 events planned from June to October.
- **Demo Garden Work Parties** – Our MG’s gather every Thursday from 10am – 12pm at the OSU Extension Demo Gardens, keeping our Demo Garden in great shape for the public to enjoy.
- **Soil pH Committee:** Testing began in March and continued through May. We collect samples from the public on the first Saturday of each of these months, test for PH and give the gardening public results and suggestions to improve their soil.
- **Edible Gardening Committee:** We had a great turn-out for our March talks on seed starting and plant companions. The 20 individuals who came from the public were very

interested in the topics and grateful that the OSU Master Gardeners provide such great information for free. The next free Edible Gardening classes were held in April and June; the subjects were Seed Saving 101: Unlock the Secrets of Seed Saving and Some Cool Ways to Help Your Garden Beat the Heat!

- **Seed to Supper:** We at Grassroots are excited to announce the return of the Seed to Supper program again to our site! Since 2015, FFLC and OSU Extension MGs have partnered to offer Seed to Supper beginning gardening class for free in Lane County. The course was first developed by Oregon Food Bank and then created into a 6-week class series in partnership with OSU Extension, and it is now offered throughout Oregon. Starting in May, participants will also be invited to stay after class for our full spectrum garden lunch. On the last day of class, participants help prepare the meal themselves from fresh garden produce and crops we've preserved or put up.
- **Adaptive Gardening Committee:** The sun must have come out in our county! Eager community organizations are thinking of a new year in the garden regardless of their client's age, ability, disability, or a short-term life challenge. Presentations on our calendar:
 - Rural Living Day in May - Junction City Accessible Gardening Design/Ergonomic Tools
 - Junction City Assisted Living - Container Gardening
 - Merrill Gardens at Sheldon Oaks - Container Gardening
 - Retired Federal Employees "Pain FREE Gardening"
 - Junction City Small Farm Day "Tool Time in the Garden"
- **Compost Specialists:** Lane County Waste Reduction Specialist Maya Buelow spoke to the Compost Specialists at the March 6 meeting about their free compost program. Waste management focuses on doing everything possible before putting material into the landfill - Reduce, Re-use and Recycling is their mantra. Lane County has the highest waste recovery rate in Oregon- 51%- but aims to do better, as Short Mountain has only 100 years of disposal capacity left. Compost Specialists held workshops in April - at Grassroots Garden and at BRING. A table was set up for Veneta Elementary School's Earth Day event. Vermicompost harvesting happened on May 9th at Grassroots Garden. It's a great time with good conversation while sorting worms.
- **Native Plants and Pollinator group:** Natural Areas Steward at the University of Oregon, for a Native Plant Walk on May 6th. It was a laid-back walk, perfect for Master Gardeners who want to learn more about local flora.

Laura Hoover, OMGA Representative



Lincoln County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

Overview of LCMGA “Spring into Sustainable Gardening” Conference

Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association (LCMGA) held its first county-wide conference on April 12th, “Spring into Sustainable Gardening,” at the Samaritan Center for Health Education in Newport. The conference had 103 attendees and contributed to LCMGA’s mission to serve our 51,000 Lincoln County residents through education about sustainable horticultural principles and practices that are grounded by research or recognized as best practices. The Conference included presentations by two keynote speakers: Overview of Sustainable Gardening Practices presented by LCMGA Master Gardener™ Ann Geyer; and Ecolawns and Options for Lawn Replacement presented by Dr. Alec Kowalewski from OSU. After the keynote speakers, LCMGA Master Gardeners™ conducted simultaneous tabling presentations on Gardening with PNW Native Plants, Invasive Plant Management, Pollinator Gardening, Soil Health and Testing, Sustainable Landscape Design, Water Management/Conservation, Integrated Pest Management (OSU IPM Department), Garden Future, and Seed Saving.

LCMGA was awarded a Community & Economic Development Grant through the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to help partially fund the conference. The grant for \$1,000.00 helped pay for facility rental, materials, printing, etc. A big thank you to our Grant committee (Herb Fredricksen and Tom Green) for guiding us through the Grant application process.



Left, LCMGA members working at the conference; Right, community attendees listening to keynote speaker Dr. Alec Kowalewski. Photos by Janice Smith, LCMGA Historian.

LCMGA Community Education and Outreach Activities

So far this year LCMGA has completed 988 community outreach contacts as described below:

- EarthFest

- Habitat for Humanity Home and Garden Show 152
- Ann Geyer Presentation 22
- Seal Rock Garden Club – Adaptive Gardening Strategies 37
- Compost Giveaway 345
- Spring into Sustainable Gardening Conference 103
- MG Showcase – Tabling at Conference 224
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians 5

Contacts 988



LCMGA members Stormi Dykes (left) and Trish Riley (right), at the Habitat for Humanity Home and Garden Show. Photo by Janice Smith, LCMGA Historian

Overview of LCMGA Annual Plant Sale

LCMGA's Annual Plant Sale took place on Saturday, May 17, from 9AM-1PM, at the Newport Armory. Featured plants were those that are well-suited for our unique coastal climate and environment. Roughly 546 community members attended the sale. One attendee was in line before 7:15am and more started arriving at 7:30am. The initial line of people waiting for the doors to open at 9:15am was 136. By 10:40am the majority of attendees (approximately 428) came through the doors. Preliminary results indicate that gross sales were approximately \$17,000. A huge thank you to Laura Strom for all her hard work organizing the sale, and to all of the LCMGA members who volunteered at the sale and who grew and donated the plants for the sale.



First photo, LCMGA Annual Plant Sale set up. Second photo Laura Strom, Plant Sale Coordinator and LCMGA members Marlene Shapiro and Natasha Knight. Photo by Janice

Smith, LCMGA Historian. Third photo, LCMGA members Laura Strom and Larry King pre-Plant Sale. Photo by Stormi Dykes.

LCMGA Award Winners

The LCMGA Board of Directors awards Life Membership to individuals and this year the well-deserving recipients were announced at the March 27 Members' Meeting: Bill Hutmacher (class of 2008 first photo below) and Ron Woodard II (class of 2015 - second photo below, with Kristi Kind). A huge LCMGA thanks to them for their incredible Volunteer Service over the years.

Congratulations to LCMGA annual award winners! In the third photo, Janice Smith as our 2025 Behind the Scenes member (on the right), and Julie Roth-Carter as our 2025 Master Gardener of the Year (on the left). Both awards are very much deserved! Thank you for your hard work and dedication!



Photos by Janice Smith, LCMGA Historian and LCMGA member Lindsay Ramberg Clark

Plant Clinic

Prior to the regular opening of LCMGA's ECCO-based Plant Clinic, the 2025 Apprentices and LCMGA Plant Clinic "Gurus" worked together during several special Plant Clinic sessions to train the Apprentices on how to effectively receive and answer Plant Clinic questions. This approach was tried last year; the hands-on training and education was again a great success this year. The Apprentices are now well prepared to be successful Plant Clinic resources. Our regular Plant Clinic hours are now in effect. The regular season is 9AM-Noon, Tuesdays & Thursdays, at the OSU Extension Service office. This schedule will continue through October.



Scholarship Award

This year the LCMGA Scholarship Committee (Committee Members include Chair Lindsay Ramberg Clark, Lynne Holland, Bill Hutmacher, Alanna Miklic and Beth Williams) chose Blair Thompson from Newport High School as LCMGA's scholarship recipient. Blair will receive a \$4,000 scholarship. She will receive \$1,000 a year for four

years. Blair will be going to OSU to study environmental science and forestry. LCMGA received 23 applications this year from Lincoln County Schools, so Blair's achievements are truly outstanding.

(Lindsay Ramberg Clark on the left, and Blair Thompson on the right. Photo by Paul Martinson)

Revised Bylaws

LCMGA members recently voted to approve the proposed amended LCMGA Bylaws. The revised Bylaws have been distributed to all LCMGA members via listserve. The revised Bylaws are also posted in the Members' section of the LCMGA website.

Article VIII-Amendments of the LCMGA Bylaws requires the Board of Directors to establish a Bylaws Review Committee at least every five years to review the Bylaws and the Job Descriptions. The most significant change in the revised Bylaws is the definition of LCMGA Associate Members to more closely align the Associate Member activities to OSU's expectations of the Associate Members.

Polk County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

Membership:

PCMGA has officially wrapped up classroom instruction for our 2025 trainee class, and we're hopeful to see strong participation as students begin working on their volunteer requirements. This year's class is full of enthusiastic individuals who bring fresh ideas and a strong desire to serve.

We're especially excited to welcome a large group of trainees with backgrounds in education. Their experience and passion for teaching will be invaluable as we work together to expand community outreach and provide educational opportunities for learners of all ages.

Education & Outreach:

We recently kicked off our first field trip of the year, and it was a wonderful success! A big thank you to the OSU Campus Arboretum team for hosting PCMGA and leading us on a beautiful and informative *Tour of the Trees*.

Our summer library program for children is in full swing, and we're looking forward to welcoming a group of students from Grand Ronde for a field trip later this month. We've also seen a growing number of requests from local libraries to partner on community-focused educational events. We're excited about the opportunity to expand our outreach and bring gardening education to even more members of our community.



Plant Sale:

Our Plant Sale Committee has been hard at work over the past five months preparing for our annual plant sale, which took place on Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th. We're thrilled to share that it was our most successful sale yet! This year, we captured special behind-the-scenes moments by recording short interviews with our area leads, highlighting their preparation efforts and what attendees could expect in each section. These videos are now available on our [website](#) under the Plant Sale section—check them out! We were fortunate to receive generous support from many sponsors and

contributors. A heartfelt thank you to each of them for helping make this event such a success.

Most of our plants found new homes, with particular interest in native plants, vibrant hanging baskets, and a wide variety of vegetables and herbs. We were also able to donate the remaining plants to the Dallas Youth Garden and Ella Curran Food Bank. The Plant Sale Committee recently wrapped up with a final meeting focused on feedback and reflection, and we're already looking forward to making next year's event even better!



Inspiration Garden:

We have been working through a new method of tackling projects and scheduling volunteers in our Inspiration Garden, focusing concentrated efforts in specific gardens, and we've been seeing some success in how quickly we are able to tackle projects! One garden that is thriving this year is our rose garden, which is really special to see! We've heard lots of community members who are appreciative of the blooms this year. We've continued to work through some irrigation issues, including replacing some faucet heads. We are excited to host an [open house](#), and we **welcome you all!** On **Saturday, June 21**, from **10:00AM – 1:00PM** we will be hosting Destination Inspiration!

Stop by the garden to meet some Polk County Master Gardeners and enjoy our garden!
Please enjoy some beautiful blooms from our garden over the past 3 months:



Wasco County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM



2025 Master Gardener Classes Completed; 2026 Planning Begins

The annual Master Gardener program is complete; the final exam was April 22nd. This year's dearth of speakers prompted greater use of extension service lesson plans, overlaid with local knowledge. Given the ongoing speaker issue, next year the plan is to focus on identifying more new local experts and consistently incorporating more hands-on application to reinforce the lessons and spur more class-wide involvement.

Social at Sorosis Park, May 29, 2025

Seed to Start Plants Too Much of a Good Thing

With no greenhouse, one of the class projects entailed setting up seed start trays in class to support local food banks, community gardens and The DIG. Master gardeners then nurtured the starts at home. While far less quantity was grown than when the greenhouse—previously used for our annual fundraising plant sale—we had more successful starts than needed and donated them to local food banks.

Game of Gardeners

We're now 4 months into "Game of Gardeners," an experiment in incentivizing participation. A monthly raffle winner reaps rewards, upping their odds of getting a winning ticket through logging hours, attending board and committee meetings, coming to social committees, etc. We're still learning what communication is needed to encourage more gardeners to dig in. Graduation in November will mark this year's finale.

Socials

- May 29th The first social event in May at Sorosis Park was well attended. WCMA provided pizza and a few others brought side dishes to share.
- More socials are in the works; the goal is one or more per month through to graduation in October,

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & OUTREACH

Advice Clinics/Events: Home Depot, Extension Office, Farmers Markets, & Other Events

March: Maupin Spring Plant Fair & The Dalles Senior Center Seed Exchange

May: Maupin Daze and continues to be a great venue for us. At Home Depot, we staffed plant clinics every Saturday throughout the month. Plant clinics started at the extension office.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & OUTREACH, CONTD

June: Farmer's markets begin—they start late here—alternating between The Dalles, Tygh Valley and Sherman County

We'll staff a booth at The Dalles Discovery Center Wildflowers & Watershed event June 7th- 8th

The DIG Educational Garden

It's amazing how quickly the transformation occurs. The 1st DIG clean-up was May 5th. The DIG is taking off in a hurry, with most beds assigned and orphans taking shape ad hoc thanks to our village of master gardeners. Weekly Wednesday eves volunteers gather together to work.

Summer Talk Series

There will be a pollinator presentation by Hilary at The Dalles

Library on June 21st at 2:00 p.m. There will be 4 presentations at The DIG. We may

try to do a few at Sorosis. And we will do the ever-popular Harvest event at The DIG late summer.

Sorosis Rose Gardens Evolve

May—Cinco de Mayo coincided with a monthly Monday eve Rose Garden work party, so we celebrated with street tacos and salsa

The Parks and Rec department surprised us by sourcing and laying a deep blanket of sliver-free hemlock chips to protect the Sorosis Park Veteran Memorial Rose Garden plants from The Dalles blazing sun and gusty wind. Despite the annual European sawfly invasion, a little rust and too much powdery mildew, the newly mulched rose garden is flush with blossoms and the garden looks much better and is more inviting to gazers, walkers and workers. There's a weekly Monday master gardener work crew sprucing up the garden. We enjoy the support of walkers pausing as they pass to thank us for our work.

The plan to identify the roses and mark them with their proper names has just started. Parks and Rec provided a cursive, handwritten rose legend from 2013, which listed 435 roses, many unidentified. We counted 396 roses, including 30 newly replaced and labeled roses. With the roses now in bloom, we're comparing the current inventory of the list, cross referencing them with rose i.d. applications. The goal is to create a map where each rose is labeled, and bit by bit add identifying markers.

2025 MASTER GARDENER AWARDS

May's monthly social offered the perfect opportunity to announce this year's winners for

- **MG of the Year:** Laura Johnson, especially for her work on our 2024 plant sale (her first)
- **Behind the Scenes Award:** Kelsey Alsheimer for consistently producing a great monthly newsletter
- **Growing and Belonging:** Annette Luthy for her inclusiveness work engaging Oregonians with disabilities and for her role in encouraging across- the-board participation in social activities

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

Washington County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

Gardens may have been slowly waking up during the last quarter, but Washington County members were already making things happen!

I mentioned last month that our Chapter would be participating in Soil School. This event is hosted by Natural Resources Conservation Resources. Two of our members presented a breakout session on “Lawn be Gone”. The fifth year participating in this event, Master Gardeners also led a tour through the Education Garden focusing on soil protection, soil sampling and irrigation.

Our Grow 1 Give 1 just had another successful year. If you have not had experience with this program, Chapter members start early, growing tomatoes and peppers. We then have an event to distribute the plants, along with grow bags and assorted seeds to Food Pantries and affiliated associations. This year we gave away 1100 plants at 9 food pantries with the opportunity to educate 915 community members.

A new program last year, Master Gardener volunteers returned to classrooms to present topics and hands-on projects in collaboration with the classroom teachers.

Our annual plant sale, GardenFest, took place in May. This was our most successful year yet! We had a busy propagation team contributing to our highest numbers of sales – as well as our highest number of volunteers.



Gardenfest plant sale!

We continue providing well-attended classes for the community as well as for our new interns. Some classes so far this year have included:

- Spring Cleaning in the Garden
- Basics of Plant Propagation
- Nature Journaling

June will continue to be busy! Both of our demonstration gardens will have an Open Garden Day, more to come on those events!

Deb Hansen, Washington County Representative

Yamhill County Master Gardeners - Q2 Report 2025

Our “Garden to Table” classes concluded on April 12th with 47 students of 50 completing the class. Raised beds, seeds & plants were distributed in May. On a survey at the end of the classes, students were asked if they would have taken the “Garden to Table” classes if they didn’t get a free garden bed. Of the 35 responses, 16 individuals said “no” and 19 said “yes.” It reminds us that for almost half of the low income individuals taking our classes, being provided a garden bed or large containers was motivation and a support to their process of learning how to garden and provide more healthy food.

The “Spring into Gardening” seminar on March 29th was very successful, based on participant evaluations. Participants gave the venue, program, speakers, refreshments and raffle high marks. The date, Saturday March 28, 2026, is reserved at Linfield University Keck Science Center for next year.

The 2-day May Plant Sale on May 3rd & 4th netted a similar amount as the previous year. Instead of having an end of sale meeting, the plant sale committee sent out a follow up questionnaire for all members who attended the sale to give input. Results will be compiled to evaluate what worked and possible areas to change for next year.

The new “Vigorous Veggie” two part class was successful in both McMinnville and Newberg locations. Each class had about 10-15 participants. Participants could attend both classes or a standalone class. Most participants did not identify as food insecure/low income, but were beginner gardeners either with a raised bed or open garden space.

The board is exploring adding an Assistant Treasurer position with an appointed focus group. This position would help with expense document preparation and QuickBooks entries to lighten the load for the Treasurer.

Farmer’s markets have started in 3 different locations: McMinnville, Newberg and Sheridan. MG clinic tables are staffed at each area. “How to” videos were recorded and a PowerPoint was created to instruct for set up, what to do and how to act at clinics and the farmers’ markets, as a reference for Master Gardeners.

The Educational Outreach Committee is organizing an Ethnic Food preparation class for this fall that will count towards Growing and Belonging continuing education. Member field trips have been organized to the Cecil & Molly Smith Rhododendron Garden in April and to the Oregon Gardens in May.

The scholarship committee has recommended 6 scholarship applicants be awarded \$2000.00 scholarships for this next school year. The committee will be introducing the students at the next Board Meeting June 11 at 10am.

Cindy Kinnaman, Yamhill Co OMGA Rep
Lydia Cook, Yamhill Co OMGA Rep Alternate