



## 2026 Q1 Chapter Quarterly Reports

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### **Benton**

Submitted by Catherine Whiting

Kiana Ringuette is the new Master Gardener Education Program Assistant for Linn and Benton counties.

BCMGA member meeting on February 2nd – Zoom only – speaker was Linda Chalker Scott on Mycorrhizae. March 16th member meeting will be a Hybrid meeting with Jeff Cope on Woodland Gardens.

Grow a Row class is an independent educational class happening in March. It is a 1.5-hour class sponsored by Linn Benton Food Share open to the public.

The Doug Tallamy event in February had at least 300 attendees.

Insights into Gardening conference was sold-out and received mostly positive evaluation input on classes, venue, lunches, and exhibitors. Many attendees said they will come again next year.

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### **Central Gorge**

Submitted by Eric Bosler

Master Gardener training classes are at mid-point with 26 new trainees. Each trainee has a mentor and are now signing up for first times in Plant Clinic where the trainees are teamed with a Certified MG.

Seeding has begun for propagation of the inventory for the annual plant sale scheduled for Mother's Day weekend 2026. This year's plant sale offering will be substantially increased with plants propagated outside of the greenhouse which has reached capacity.

Planning and preparation for the startup of Seed to Supper classes have begun. This program is run in close connection with the Hood River FISH foodbank and our demonstration/production garden at the FISH property.

Community education kicked off with a presentation of our Growing Gardeners series. Native Plants were the first topic with classes held at the Hood River Library and again at the OSU Extension Office.

The MG training class on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> focused on “Tree Health”. Presented by OSU Forester Glenn Arens, the class was open to the community who were asked for a voluntary donation which was matched by the CGMGA and donated to the FISH Foodbank.

Ground has been broken on the Outdoor Education facility addition to the Hood River Extension grounds. Funded by the CGMGA with added support from Extension and grants from OMGA, this feature will offer a large landscaped and hardscaped area designed to provide a comfortable and inviting environment for Extension and Community educational activities.

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## **Central Oregon**

Submitted by Patty DeGaetano & Bonnie O’hern

COMG has returned Discovery Park Community Garden to Bend Parks and Rec.

We are asking members to share their story about what this program has meant to them since it is the 50 year anniversary of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program. We have created a statement that will be placed in the Hoedown, regarding the upcoming collection of items for the silent auction that is held at our annual conference — Joy of Gardening.

We have two volunteers who are going to reach out to the nurseries in Bend and surrounding community nurseries, to see if they would be on board with giving discounts to Master Gardener’s that show their coupon or Master Gardener badge.

We have had several Master Gardener’s send emails to our state legislators regarding the funding reduction of OSU Statewide Public Service Programs.

Our 2026 Master Gardener training program has begun and will be held from February 25th to April 29th. There are currently 27 applicants.

Our chapter is moving away from PayPal and has opened a CLOVER account through which most all credit sales activity and membership dues will clear.

We are holding eight in-person classes for the community during January thru April this year on how to grow your own food, in our classes titled “All Things Seeds” and “Growing Vegetables in Central Oregon.” To serve our diverse geographical community, the classes are being offered in Bend, Redmond, Prineville, and Madras. We are also holding six classes via Zoom for the community for our annual spring seminar series, this year to be held evenings and weekends throughout March to May.

The new OMGA and ODA plant sale guidelines are being worked through, as some of the vendors who have booths at the annual Master Gardeners plant sale do not currently follow all of the new guidelines (particularly the prohibition on selling or sharing plants dug from home gardens or dig and divide plants).

Our Board is also in the process of our annual review and updating of the chapter’s Policies and Procedures Manual, with each Board member taking a couple sections.

We are again this year hoping to expand our Master Gardener Open Garden tours. The idea is to create opportunities to visit the gardens of our fellow Master Gardeners on an informal basis. Maybe you’re

planning to work in the garden over a weekend, have plants you've divided to give away, have something interesting blooming, or maybe are thinking of making changes and want some advice. We are encouraging members to share their gardens with our fellow Master Gardeners.

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## **Clackamas**

Submitted by Barb Seekins

Our chapter meetings are held once a month in person allowing some time for socializing. We feel that this is important especially when interns are getting their training online and are not meeting each other during training. However, in the winter months some chapter members are unwilling or unable to drive at night to attend evening meetings. To include them, we have provided Zoom capabilities so they can see the meeting presentations and ask questions.

Recent chapter meeting presentations in Jan & Feb at CCMG meetings were on "Dry Farming at the Multnomah County MG Demo Garden" and "Use of Pelletized Wool in Your Garden". Our March meeting will feature a talk on "Pheromone Traps and Lures for Insect Pest Management".

Our internal executive board communications have relied heavily on email. At our secretary's suggestion we're considering shifting to Google Docs. To facilitate the sharing and editing of documents such as meeting agendas, interested board members have come to meetings an hour early with computers to learn technological capabilities and become more comfortable with the option.

With so many activities in our chapter, 3 liaisons have been established to improve coordination. They are advisors on the executive board and one is assigned to Public Service Events, Community Service, or Chapter Operations & Communications.

Our fundraising efforts in 2025 enabled us to make several year-end donations directly to worthy programs and organizations in our local community.

They went to:

- OSU Garden Ecology Lab which does research on topics relevant to home gardeners.
- Clackamas Community College Miken Scholarship Endowment Fund for students in the horticulture program.
- Milwaukie Community Center in support of their efforts in our community.
- Oregon Extension in support of the Master Gardener program.
- Oregon Garden Club Association for a Gold Star Monument at Willamette Cemetery honoring veterans who are MIA or died in the line of duty.

10 Minute University has reached its 20 year anniversary in 2026. This effort is running free online webinars every Wednesday on topics ranging from food scaping to pruning to blueberries. These are well attended. Attendee feedback is collected and evaluated to improve these excellent educational sessions. 10 minute university will do in person gardening workshops at the Spring Garden Fair.

On Feb. 24, fifteen volunteers showed up at the Sarah Hite Rose Garden to prune roses after learning proper technique to improve this garden in Milwaukie.

The Volunteer Opportunity Fair will be held on March 14 in Oregon City. The purpose of this event is to introduce new Master Gardeners to the various volunteer projects that exist under the MG program in

Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. It's important for networking, socializing and recruiting new volunteers.

We're holding Garden Discovery Day on March 28 from 9 AM – 12 PM at the Milwaukie Center with presentations on terrariums, seeds & seed propagation, and early garden vegetables. This free event is open to the public and will also have pH soil testing as well as educational displays and MGs available to answer gardening questions. Raffle prizes will be awarded at the end of the program to help ensure people stay for the entire program.

In March the Native Plant Garden MG group at Hopkins Demo Forest will hold a native plant sale (also answering gardening questions) during Clackamas Tree School at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Grow An Extra Row people have met to determine plant varieties for this year. Seeds have been ordered and volunteers assigned to growing starts.

Preparations are underway for the Spring Garden Fair which will be held on May 2-3 at the Clackamas County Event Center in Canby. This is a huge established event with well over 100 vendors along with other activities. It attracts over 5000 attendees. 10 minute university will do in person gardening workshops at the Fair on Saturday and Sunday from 10-4.

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## Clatsop

Submitted by Amy Rens



**Membership:** We had 36 new trainees sign up and are currently attending classes. Classes are held Wednesday nights at the local community college from Jan 7 through March 18 with some additional classes on various Saturdays. We held a Program Fair on March 11 to showcase our association's volunteer opportunities to new trainees. There are 72 returning certified members this year.

### Community Education Events:

#### January:

- Netel Grange Seed Exchange: Master Gardener volunteers supplied the community with seeds for the 2026 season. We had three educational booths: Seed Starting, Seed Saving, and Plant Propagation. There was also a kids' coloring table.
- 4-H Super Saturday: "Create Your Own 5-Star Hotel (for Insects!)" activity was planned for participants. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled by the 4-H due to several illnesses with the staff/volunteers.

**February:**

- Public Pruning Workshop (Plum Tree Pruning): Hosted at Gray School Community Garden in partnership with Barry Brown of B&B Stone & Tree
- Public Pruning Workshop (Woody Ornamental Pruning): Hosted at Demonstration Garden
- Public Pruning Workshop (Blueberry & Espalier Apple Pruning): Hosted at Alderbrook Learning Garden

**March:**

- Free Class (Dividing Dahlias): Hosted at 4-H Clubhouse
- Ask A Master Gardener: Plant Clinic hours will be 1-4pm on Tuesdays starting March 17 and running through the summer

**2026 Projects & Programs:**

- Alderbrook Learning Garden
- Cannon Beach Tomato Project
- Demonstration Garden
- Farmers Markets: Astoria Sunday Market & Seaside Farmer's Market
- Flavel House Garden Society
- Gray School Community Garden
- Plant Clinic
- Seaside Railroad Learning Garden
- Seed Libraries
- Seed to Supper
- Sunset Beach Education Center (Yeon House)
- Youth Program

**Upcoming Events:**

- Spring Event & Plant Sale: Open to the public Saturday, May 10, 9am-12pm; Online presale starts April 1
- County Wide Planting Day: May 16, 10am-2pm

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## Columbia

No report submitted

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## Coos

Submitted by Lynn Menashian



## 2026 Trainee Program

Coos County is celebrating its 2026 trainee class of twenty members, the largest cohort since 2019. Classroom education began on January 15<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Back by popular demand to lead the introduction to soil science was Linda Brewer, certified professional soil scientist affiliated with the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University, who lectured to a packed classroom at the Extension office in Myrtle Point. A high point of each class has been the amazing culinary offerings of both trainees and veterans. This group eats well.

## Community Outreach and Education

Master Gardeners Lynn Menashian (North Bend) and Mary Jo Audette (Coos Bay) created and co-led a five-week course aimed at filling a knowledge gap for those who have never gardened. Titled ***The Beginner's Guide To Gardening on the Oregon Coast***, the classes were held for five Saturdays in January and February at the North Bend Public Library. Each class was 90 minutes in length and included visual teaching tools as well as handouts created by the presenters. Relevant supporting materials from OSU Extension resources also helped create a balanced curriculum. Community response was terrific – each class averaged 40 to 45 attendees. Classes were designed to be independent from each other. Among the topics included were identifying planting areas, gardening in ground or containers, soil structure identification, fertilizers and amendments, seed packet literacy and seed catalog interpretation, and indoor/outdoor seed growing. Participants were provided with small pre-filled pots and sowed their own seeds – for most, this was a first-time experience. The final class featured a roundtable of five Master Gardeners who answered questions touching on any aspect of home gardening.



**BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GARDENING ON THE OREGON COAST**  
a free gardening series at the North Bend Public Library

**Saturdays, January 10 - February 7 from 10:00-11:30 AM**

**TAUGHT BY MASTER GARDENERS™**  
Lynn Menashian and Mary Jo Audette

**Class Schedule**

- January 16, 2026  
Course Overview: What to Know
- January 17, 2026  
The Secret Language of Seeds & Plants
- January 24, 2026  
The Inside Scoop About Soil & Fertilizers
- January 31, 2026  
Let's Plan Something
- February 7, 2026  
Master Gardener™ Roundtable

NORTH BEND PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Fertilize Your Mind**  
The "Dirt" on Backyard Gardening

**22nd Annual Garden Seminar**  
**Saturday April 11, 2026**  
**9 am - 3:30 pm**

**Keynote speaker: Carole Hardy, OSU Metro Master Gardener —**  
**Restoring a Garden Ecosystem to Create Resilience**

**Three class sessions with the following topics to choose from:**

- Raised Beds • Seed Saving
- Indoor Plants • Rainwater Collection
- Red Wiggler Worms • Compost • Shade plants for Your Landscape
- Vegetable Gardening on the South Coast • Pollinator Pathways
- Designing Gardens Using Native Plants

**Cost \$45**  
**\$60 after 3/24/26**  
**Includes lunch**

**Held at The Ko-Kwel Casino Resort**  
Preregistration recommended - for a registration form  
call 541-572-3663, ext. 25240 — OR —  
register online at <https://beaves/qCR>

**Sponsored by: Oregon State University Extension Service and Coos County Master Gardener Association**

OSU Extension Service is an equal opportunity institution. Oregon State University Extension Service is an equal opportunity institution. Oregon State University Extension Service is an equal opportunity institution.

**50 YEARS**  
OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
MASTER GARDENER

## Fertilize Your Mind

An annual community education event in Coos County for 22 years, ***Fertilize Your Mind*** will again be held at the Ko-Kwel Casino on April 11, 2026. Keynote speaker will be Carole Hardy, OSU Metro Master Gardener, speaking on ***Restoring a Garden Ecosystem to Create Resilience***. Multiple sessions will offer a variety of topics. Early Bird registration ends March 24<sup>th</sup> at a reduced ticket price of \$45. After that date, registration will be \$60.

# Curry

Submitted by Cindy Myers & Lauralee Cundiff



In January, we welcomed our new class of Curry County Master Gardener Trainees, and after a potluck social, got them right to work with a propagation session in our newly named Curry Educational Greenhouse and Garden (CEGG).



**Partners: Old and New**



In February, MG volunteers and trainees turned out for a hands-on tree pruning workshop, led by MG Lori Phelan and local arborist Tim Scullen. Not only did we learn pruning basics, but Tim also demonstrated how to recognize and remove tree bark disease from parts of our apple trees.

Trainees and MG volunteers attended an invasive species lecture and walking tour, presented by Erin Minster from Curry Watersheds Partnership & Curry County Weed Board. The infamous common gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, originally introduced in Bandon as an ornamental plant or hedge, is not only a prolific self-seeder, but the seeds are long lived. Gorse has proved very difficult to eradicate, is detrimental to native habitats, and the oily shrub is highly flammable.

Several MG volunteers attended a talk on the Tolowa Nee'Ni Nation's Native Plant Nursery and enjoyed medicinal tea. We are looking forward to visiting their nursery and hosting them in a tour of CEGG.

We were delighted to be asked to assist Mr. Cory Simonson, science teacher at Gold Beach H.S., now offering a new Horticulture class in the greenhouse that we once occupied! His class of 11, primarily Juniors, joined us for a field trip to CEGG. These may be our future vocational-tech students, and we are hopeful that they may want to do their Senior Projects with us!

### Upcoming Wicking Bed Workshop

Wicking garden beds are self-watering raised beds that use a bottom reservoir to supply water to plant roots. Benefits include saving time and water, reducing chances of fungus and insects caused by overwatering, reducing need for fertilizer, and producing healthy, lush plants. We'll be setting up the first wicking bed at the CEGG Demonstration Garden.



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## Douglas

Submitted by Julie Burchstead

Winter is over. The garden gloves are out. Programs are growing in spades around Roseburg. Here are a few:

- **Boots on the Ground** with a focus on Veterans, was started last year by Donetta Loomis and continues to thrive. This program will be merging with Bee Basics.
- **Weekend Warriors**, an educational program for gardeners thirsty for knowledge, but without the availability for commitment/access to become a full Master Gardener, began in February with over twenty students. Geoff Puryear, a DCMG and Extension Employee designed the event to increase extension accessibility for Douglas County residents.
- So many children showed up for a fairy garden event for our **Junior Master Gardeners** showcase in February, organizers had to scramble for more plants, soil and pots. A **Cloverbud** group (ages 5-9) will be added to the Junior Master Gardener program this spring.
- Our annual **Spring into Gardening** event, hosted at our local community college, will offer a daylong slate of keynotes and classes to area gardeners on topics from native plants to growing microgreens, to grafting apple trees. This year's attendees can even order lunch!
- **The Discovery Garden**, our local educational space, is gearing up for the season with several educational and working pruning events. The failing tiny "orchard" will soon be replaced with an espalier area-much more fitting for the space, and a native plant trail is in the works. Our **Victory Garden** volunteers are seeding for the new season. Their work annually contributes 8-10,000 pounds of produce to our local food bank.
- We held our annual celebration (who doesn't love a theme-can you guess ours?). It's an opportunity to recognize standout volunteers with the gift of a Hori Hori, to eat and relax before

the growing season ramps up, and this year to learn from **OSU's Dr. Andrew Millison** about Permaculture.

- And last, the greenhouses are buzzing with the hard work of crews preparing for our annual **Douglas County Master Gardener's Plant Sale** in May. If you will be in the area May 2, drop by the Douglas County Fairgrounds. There will be a large selection of plants and some wonderful garden related vendors.



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## Jackson

Submitted by Colet Allen

From Our OSU Coordinator Grace Florjancic and Programs, I did not get Grace's Programs information. She is immersed in New 2026 Classes. There are 29 registered for this year's class. Many are also engaged in Practicum.

JCMGA has another outstanding Student Rep to JCMGA Board in Lauren Bowers. I know we are going to see more from her and I am looking forward to working with her.

She has scheduled at least 9 Community Lectures so far for 2026.

### Spring Garden Fair:

· Planning has started and are on track for another outstanding year. We have doubled our sq ft for 2026 at the Jackson County Expo and have space for double the number of vendor spaces from last year. The good news is that 95 percent of our vendors will be inside, and the second building that we have rented will allow for plant vendors to be inside, hopefully no windstorms and weather mishaps will mess with the day which has occurred in the past.

· JCMGA has reserved the center 6'x 5'x18" Center Showcase at the Medford Library to advertise the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MG in Oregon, the Spring Garden Fair and other Events and activities that JCMGA is Planning in 2026. We have it for the month of April which is the month prior to Spring Garden Fair and will also use it to highlight many of Master Gardeners 2025 achievements. Also included will be Seed to Supper, WDSG, Senior Companions and other events, Programs and ways that MG enhances life in Jackson County.

**Winter Dreams Summer Gardens (WDSG):** We have started planning and are on target per our timeline. We have all of our 2026 presenters in place and agreements, once we get all of their info we can move on to bundling info required by the Oregon Landscape Board for their approval for Landscape CEH credits.

**Seed to Super:** Lindsey McNab is moving Seed to Supper forward for JCMGA and working with others in the State to gain the programs statewide momentum.

#### **Community Gardens:**

- Sherri Morgan (Community Gardens Jackson County's Network Coordinator) and Colet Allen (Outreach Committee) have engaged with the Director of Joy Community Tiny House Facilities. This is a planned Tiny House project for unhoused seniors. They have been given a large area that can be used for a Community Garden. The feasibility of this area becoming a Community Garden is being discussed. JCMGA is working with the Director of Joy Community to help them determine the best way forward as there is a great deal of work to be done and most of that will require donations and volunteers to bring this dream to fruition. Now that the little village has 12 residents, more people are becoming aware and donations are coming in as well as volunteers are offering help.

#### **Speakers Bureau:**

Is off to a good start. Spring Library Series is in place. Fall 2026 Library series is being planned and speakers and subjects are being contacted.

- Sherri Morgan is giving a presentation to Rotary 3/2 (not sure of the presentation title). This invite came through Sandra Wine, who is the coordinator for the Blue Heron community Garden in Phoenix. 20+ people (mostly men) attended.
- Thanks to Sherri, she has increased the number of community Gardens from 5 to 7 in the growing Community Garden Network for Jackson County.
- JCMGA has received a request to present to a Rose Organization. However they do not have the electronics capability that will allow a PowerPoint Presentation. They are still looking to see if they can get what they need to make this happen.

#### **OLLI@SOU Classes:**

- Lindsey McNab gave a 6 session Class on **Cottage Gardening with a Permaculture Perspective**. The attendance varied by day, consistently over 30 attendees.
- Susan Koenig gave an 8 session class **Vegetable Gardening in the Rogue Valley**. The Attendance each day was consistently over 30.

#### **Introduction to 2026 Class for OMGA and Joy of Gardening**

Grace Florjancic and Colet Allen planted a seed with a short introduction to the 2026 class on OMGA and the JOY of Gardening on Wednesday 3/4. Colet will continue to mention the organization and Joy of Gardening event during class and talk to the individuals of the class. The Goal is to have the 2026 graduation class have a better understanding of OMGA and get more people to JOG. Colet will send Grace the Save the Day Flyer, Presentation Schedule and other information as it becomes available.

A few of JCMGA's members attended the Doug Tallamy Lecture at OSU Alumni Center in February. We are looking at ways to bring Doug Tallamy to Southern OR later this year or next. Other organizations have expressed interest in becoming involved in this effort.

**A Field Trip to Scotts Goode's and Anna's Farm:** Is scheduled. After Scott's outstanding presentation on composting to the 2026 class and several references to he and Anna's practices on their farm, sparked several individuals to ask for a visit, veteran Master Gardeners as well as students. Colet asked Anna and a plan was made with dates and times being established for September 2026. Expressed interests in the dryland gardening, how they manage their gardening, year round gardening in our area, and their labor-saving composting methods, are subjects that will be addressed during the field trip, along with samples of some of the best melons that Colet has ever tasted.

**Agreement with Costco:** JCMGA entered into an agreement with Costco to receive and pick up unsold plants and some gardening materials. Part of the agreement is that if donated then all identification items showing the Costco name must be removed. Items not donated or used by JCMGA will be composted.

#### **Other Documents:**

The JCMGA Winter Retreat was held on 1/23/2026. Minutes [attached](#) ← **CLICK TO VIEW**

[2025 JCMGA Accomplishments](#) ← **CLICK TO VIEW**

[Garden Series with JCLS Hits on their YouTube Channel](#) ← **CLICK TO VIEW**

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## **Klamath**

**No report submitted**

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## **Lane**

Submitted by Patty Driscoll

The LCMGA and Master Gardener Program in Lane County ended the 2025-year with our badging and award dinner on December 9. Twenty-two new trainees finished the training and received their badges that night. We have 126 certified Master Gardener volunteers in 2025, they provided 10,010 hours of service. Our outreach through the Mobile Plant Clinics, and Gardening Speakers (Adaptive Gardening, Compost, Edible Gardening, Pruning, Native Plants and Pollinators) in all areas of Lane County increased with the addition of more trained volunteers reaching 9,473 in 2025.

The LCMGA Board held its annual retreat to pass along the board binders for each position to new members, it was held at a members home. They enjoyed lunch and welcomed the new board members. They discussed updates to the membership application and our donations to local organizations.

This year the LCMGA asked for applications for giving out the grants for 2025 and were pleased to receive fourteen applications. The LCMGA gave grants to five rural schools and to the Black Cultural Initiative for a total of \$5,000 in 2025.

The Pruning Specialist and have 10 demonstrations planned for this winter. The Compost Specialist has 15 demonstrations and 2 worm bin workshops scheduled for this coming year. The Compost Specialist will hold a training late April for MGs and the public. The Adaptive Gardening Committee is booking

speaking engagements for 2026 The Edible Gardening and Native Plants & Pollinator groups are scheduling classes and workshops for this coming year (see our events page link below).

The Native Plants and Pollinator Group held a native shrub propagation workshop in February with 34 in attendance. Each attendee took home an 8" pot with cuttings from different native shrubs to try and propagate them. The Mobile Plant Clinic and Pruning Specialist are teaming up to share information tables at propagation fairs around Lane County held by the Agrarian Sharing Network this spring.

The Plant Clinic was closed in December, opened for mornings only January to February and will be open 4 days a week for two 3 hour shifts starting in March. Demo Garden Work Parties and Soil Ph testing will be starting again in March. Upcoming outreach events we have the Florence Home Show, Living Rural Days and the Lane County Home Show all in March.

The LCMGA annual Plant Sale started holding planning meetings in January and will continue monthly through April. The Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Lane Event Center. Many of the LCMGA members are propagating plants by seeding and cuttings (are normally held over one year by the volunteers) to have nice size plants for the plant sale.

The LCMGA 2026 monthly seminars are starting in March with a Seed Swap and Social Time. The rest of the year speakers are booked and we look forward to having the public join us throughout the year for a great line up of seminars. If you are interested in any of our upcoming seminars and workshops check out the following events page <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/county/lane/events>

We have a Five-Year Option Levy on the Lane County May ballot; A PAC is forming of community members and will be working for passage of this measure. We hope to have the support of the OMGA on this campaign.





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## Lincoln

Submitted by Trish Riley



1. LCMGA is sponsoring its second annual spring conference entitled “**Cultivating Garden Ecosystems**” on **March 28, 2026** at the Samaritan Center for Health Education in Newport, Oregon.

This year we're highlighting ways to create and restore flourishing garden ecosystems. Experts from Portland State University and the MidCoast Watersheds Council will address strategies for **Cultivating Garden Ecosystems** in your own backyard. Keynote Speaker biographies and the agenda are below. Information tables staffed by Lincoln County Certified Master Gardeners™ will be available on a variety of topics following the keynote speakers. This event is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. We will be collecting food donations at the door for the Food Share of Lincoln County.

**Carol Hardy, Keynote Speaker**

Carole Hardy grew up in the hills of Portland with Forest Park in her backyard and gardens in the front. Her love of forests and all things growing led her to earn a degree in Forest Management and later a Masters in Environmental Science. She teaches forest ecology and environmental policy part-time at Portland State University and serves on the board of the Forest Park Conservancy. She has been an OSU Certified Master Gardener™ volunteer since 2022, is the President of the Multnomah County Master Gardener™ Association. Carole develops curriculum and teaches gardening workshops around the state. When she isn't teaching, she certifies yards for the Backyard Habitat program helping people turn their backyards into native habitats.

### **Evan Hayduk, Keynote Speaker**

Evan Hayduk was born and raised in Western Washington and has spent his entire career dedicated to restoring natural systems in the Pacific Northwest. After completing his undergraduate at Santa Clara University, Evan returned to Washington to complete two AmeriCorps terms with the Washington Conservation Corps and received a Masters of Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College. He has worked in various ecosystems—from estuary and riparian areas to prairie and oak savanna restoration at Joint Base Lewis McChord—and spent three seasons growing plants for sub-alpine meadow restoration at Mt. Rainier. Since 2016, Evan has been the Executive Director for the MidCoast Watersheds Council, working with partners to complete major restoration projects in the Council's nearly one-million-acre footprint on the central coast. When he isn't working at MCWC, you will likely find him tending to his backyard garden, walking with his wife and dog on the beach, or you may not be able to find him at all as he spends as much time as possible backpacking and camping in remote locations all around the world.

### Agenda

09:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Keynote: "Growing Resilient Gardens" - Carole Hardy

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Break for Refreshments

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Keynote: "Habitat Restoration can Start in your own Backyard!" - Evan Hayduk

12:15 AM - 01:00 PM

Tabling/Poster Presentations by members of the LCMGA and Keynote Speakers

Topics include: Gardening with PNW Natives, Invasive Plant Management, Pollinator Gardening, Soil Health and Testing, Water Management and Conservation, Integrated Pest Management, and Garden Futures, Preparing and Using Compost, Seed Saving, How to Grow a Resilient Garden 101 by Keynote Speaker Carol Hardy, Getting Involved Beyond Your Garden with MidCoast Watersheds Council by Keynote Speaker Evan Hayduk.

2. Farmers Market signups have not begun yet but will soon. We will sign up for Lincoln City Sunday Market and both Newport and Yachts Farmers Markets.
3. Habitat for Humanity is putting on the **Home and Garden Show** on **April 11** at the Newport Parks and Recreation Department. LCMGA will have a table at the event.
4. Lincoln County Solid Waste District and the three Lincoln County haulers will hold their free **Compost Giveaway** on **April 18<sup>th</sup>** at Lincoln City, Newport, Waldport and Toledo. LCMGA will have MGs at all locations distributing the Compost booklet and interacting with participants.
5. On June 27<sup>th</sup> we will have a table at the Waldport Library Pollinator Day event.
6. LCMGA along with the Newport Public Library is offering a free Education Series at the Newport Library. The first class was in November 2025 and covered Cloche building. The second class

was in February 2026 on PNW Native Plants. On April 4 we will be teaching a class titled “Creepy Crawlies” and on June 13 the Xerces Society will be teaching a class titled “Bring Back the Pollinators”.

7. On March 19<sup>th</sup> MG volunteers will be at Oceanlake Elementary School in Lincoln City helping 1<sup>st</sup> grade students plant seeds. Then on May 27 the students will come to the Lincoln City Demo Garden and plant the seeds.
8. On April 21<sup>st</sup> we will be doing a presentation for the Gleneden Community Club on what grows well on the Oregon Coast.
9. On June 20<sup>th</sup> we will be teaching a class on Good Bugs/Bad Bugs at the Connie Hanson Garden in Lincoln City.
10. Our OCCC Fall Education Series Final report is [attached](#) ← **CLICK TO VIEW**.
11. The LCMGA website now has all of LCMGA’s education and outreach activities and all of the Demonstration Garden classes posted. Here is the link: <https://orcoastmga.org/>. All of the KYAQ radio interviews are posted on the website as well.
12. The LCMGA Board approved funding for us to help create a school garden at the Lincoln City Head Start program. Planning is underway.
13. Our three demonstration gardens are offering a series of classes entitled **Grow Your Own**. Classes include reading seed packets and catalogs, growing edibles, seed starting, seed planting, and plant diseases. All five classes will be taught in all three demonstration gardens.
14. Client questions tapered off as expected for fall. In September only nine questions were submitted to the clinic. MG’s Larry King and Daniel Hutchison are preparing a 3-year plan and budget for the Plant clinic. They have also obtained an additional PC Laptop to use in the Plant Clinic. Larry and Daniel are also developing an “Adopt-A-Week” Signup Genius and an “Adopt-A-Week” Zoom overview to help keep the Plant Clinic operational through the winter.
15. In December 2025 LCMGA held a Cookie Swap for all members.



16. In February 2026 we held our first Membership Meeting.



Photos provided by Cathy Fitzhugh

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## **Linn**

**No report submitted**

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## **Malheur**

**No report submitted**

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## **Marion**

**No report submitted**

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## **Multnomah**

Submitted by Angela Myatt

In January, MCMGA launched a strategic plan that sets out objectives and goals that support our mission to share research-based knowledge with the public to support sustainable gardening practices. This plan supports and enhances the work of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program in the Portland Metro tri-county area. This plan was informed by a Portland-Metro Area MG Program Needs Assessment Report for 2025 conducted by Srijana Shreshna, Assistant Professor of Practice, OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, Portland Metro Area.

### **2026 Opportunities and Objectives**

- Objective 1: Increase reach to communities throughout Multnomah County.
- Objective 2: Provide programs to engage diverse communities.
- Objective 3: Increase reach of MCMGA educational programs.

- Objective 4: Increase engagement opportunities with MG volunteers.
- Objective 5: Develop a 3-year financial plan for organizational stability.

### First Quarter 2026 Projects

- 1) To increase reach to diverse communities in Multnomah County we are mapping our existing program offerings and identifying geographic and community gaps where we will seek opportunities to expand programming. We will prioritize opportunities based on need and expand based on resource availability.
- 2) To help create events that engage diverse communities, we have updated the [MCMGA Growing and Belonging](#) page on the website to include checklists that identify specific ways to ensure that everyone experiences a sense of belonging at our events. Check out these lists:
  - [Plan and Promote a Welcoming Event](#),
  - [Ensure an Accessible Space for All to Participate](#),
  - [Promote a Culture that Welcomes Everyone](#).
- 3) To increase awareness and attendance at our public classes including the monthly In-the-Garden classes held in the MCMGA Demonstration Garden April-October, we have created a new [Event Calendar for the Public](#) feature on the website using Google Calendars so the information can be easily updated by anyone with Edit permission.
- 4) To increase engagement with MG volunteers, we also created a new [Member Calendar](#) on the website that lists all teaching opportunities, volunteer days in the Demonstration Gardening, Monthly Speakers Series webinars. This will allow MG volunteers to find ways to earn partner and program hours and CE credit at a glance. We are exploring the creation of a tri-county calendar with Washington and Clackamas Counties.
- 5) To help meet revenue goals to support our program activities, we continue to support two main fundraisers for the chapter:
  - a) The Bottle Drop program brought in over \$2030 in 2025. MCMGA-specific bar codes are attached to Bottle Drop bags and distributed to members to collect returnable bottles and cans. The program continues to expand each year thanks to our dedicated fund-raising team.
  - b) Beginning in February we began promoting our [Incredible Edibles Plant Sale](#) to be held on May 9th. At this celebration of all things gardening, we sell locally-grown, organic vegetable and herb starts. The event features community tables, food, music and mini-workshops.

Activity has begun for our Plant Sale in May. Plants ordered, starts about to be planted, new shade cloth on the greenhouse at Inspiration Garden, plant stakes ordered, numbers obtained for the yard and road signs, collection of items for the Country Store. A lot of prep work goes on long before the Plant Sale.

Inspiration Garden is getting ready for spring, new wood chips placed; bitter cress dug up; roses, fruit trees and wisteria pruned as we begin to enjoy the Daffodils Project blossoms. Some new trees were planted along Ash Creek as we start to deal with the coming loss of the Oregon ashes along the creek. Plans are being made for the Vegetable Garden, both to illustrate new and innovative planting techniques as well as meeting the needs of our local Ella Curran Food Bank.

Two classes were recently held at Inspiration Garden, open to the public, one for fruit tree pruning and one for rose bush pruning. A Seed Swap and Tool Sharpening event was held in the Garden on the first Saturday in February and it is always well attended by the public.

As an organization we have decided to not hold Chapter Meetings each month as members are unable to attend many in the darker part of winter. We are able to utilize the Monmouth Public Library on Saturday mornings to hold Chapter Meetings and then open the presentation to the general public after the meeting. This way we have been able to join forces with other organizations for speakers and sponsorship. We also filled in a lack of funding for the Monmouth Library so that they will still be able to have a seed swap at the library.

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## **Tillamook**

Submitted by Wendy Kunkel

The Tillamook County Master Gardener Chapter launched into 2026 with 57 current members and thirteen apprentices.

Master Gardener classes began the week of January 5 and will continue until mid-April. Besides the mandatory orientation and Growing and Belonging class, the group has so far covered: Native Species and Plants of the Pacific Northwest; Plant Propagation and Pruning; Botany and Plant ID; Vegetables and Container Gardening; Sustainable Landscape Design; IPM; and Soils and Fertilizers. Upcoming classes will be Coastal Gardening; Pesticides; Entomology; Berries and Fruit; Composting and Pests and Disease Diagnosis. A hands-on Pruning class was also held at our learning garden attached to the Tillamook County Fairgrounds.

TMGA is preparing for it's one fundraiser of the year, the Tillamook County Master Gardener Plant sale; the sale is scheduled this year for May 2. TMGA members and current apprentices have already met at the hoop house at the learning garden to plant seeds and starts for the coming sale. Preparing for the sale also involves label generation and box procurement. The sale will include a Creators' Table, for those who are crafty and want to sell their wares. Our members have been busy.

Our Program Coordinator, Samikshya (Sami) Budhathoki has been diligently and patiently guiding our members into the Volunteer Hub. We salute her and her efforts.

TCMGA is again offering a Seed to Supper Program to the public this year. The three classes are scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 11 and 18. And early preparation is taking place for our volunteers to participate at the three locations of Farmers Markets held in Tillamook County.

A finance committee has been formed to aid and assist our chapter treasurer in their role. Finally, hats off to one of our own TCMGA members, Carla Albright. Not only does she send out a weekly BLAST, that informs our members of upcoming events; but she writes a bi-monthly article for the Tillamook Headlight Herald and now has a weekly blog on Substack. You can follow her at <http://carlasgarden.substack.com>.

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## **Umatilla**

**No report submitted**

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## **Wasco**

**No report submitted**

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## **Washington**

Submitted by Debra Hansen

2026 has already been busy for Washington County Master Gardeners! Our teams began again at both of our demonstration gardens and our interns are in classes and out in the field.

This year's intern class is a good size – 156 students! As we have already started the workshops for hands-on learning, we can tell this year has interested and enthusiastic students! This year's intern cohort includes 156 students, reflecting strong interest in the program. Hands-on workshops are already underway, and participant enthusiasm has been high.

The Education Garden at PCC Rock Creek Campus opened the season with public classes on pruning and blueberry care. Shortly thereafter, the Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate hosted an intern session on pruning climbing roses, with an upcoming class focused on pruning apple trees. In addition, a training on Mason bee care was led by Ron Spendal, a local expert who is retiring. As a result, efforts are underway to develop a new bee team.

Propagation teams have remained busy, and the Education Garden is exploring the addition of a vegetable garden. The Learning Garden's existing vegetable garden yielded an unexpected highlight when overwintered parsnips were harvested—exceptionally large but tender when cooked.

Garden maintenance has also been a focus, with teams spending mornings on cleanup, pruning, and early weed management. One garden required special attention due to invasive mint, which has been covered in hopes of controlling its spread. Seasonal cleanup has also begun for the pitcher plants.

We continue with the Dark Sky program, (nighttime light monitoring), and a few of our members got their toes wet in a trial of Seed to Supper. Our annual Grow 1 Give 1 program which provides plant starts to limited income community members is also ramping up.

The year's first social gathering was held in February at the Beaverton Library, providing an opportunity for members to reconnect and network. Information tables were available to share volunteer opportunities for the coming year.



The mega-parsnip!



Clean-up time for the Pitcher plants!

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## Yamhill

Submitted by Linda D. Coakley

The new class of Master Gardener trainees began on January 22<sup>nd</sup> with 27 trainees.

The Educational Outreach Committee is planning events for Growing and Belonging.

The annual **Spring into Garden Seminar** will be held **March 28<sup>th</sup>** at Linfield University Keck Science Center. Twelve classes will be offered featuring classes in three tracks: Sustainable gardening, landscape plantings, and potpourri.

**Garden to Table** classes started on **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**. It is the first of six classes held at five locations in both English and Spanish. It is funded by a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Group Fund and is guided by a three-member steering group. It has about thirty volunteers who organize, market, track, secure supplies, build garden beds, buy plants and seeds, mentor, demonstrate, and teach.

The new **Vigorous Veggie Program**, designed for people that do not qualify for Garden to Table, will begin classes on **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. Classes will be offered in two locations: McMinnville and Newberg. Classes will be limited to 25 participants.

**Perennial Propagation** held a class on Mason Bees and had "Grow Alley" where plants are held, leveled and a compacted gravel surface installed.

The community garden located at Parkview has replaced worn raised bed side boards, prepared beds for planting, and put up a new canopy for outdoor harvest tables in preparation for opening. Their greenhouse is being prepared for seeding.

Planning is underway for our **Annual Plant Sale May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds.

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Respectfully Submitted By *Lindsey McNab*, 2026 OMGA Secretary