2026 Q3 Chapter Quarterly Reports

Benton

Submitted by Catherine Whiting

BCMGA members enjoyed summer garden tours at Dancing Oaks Nursery in Polk county and the historic Lord and Schryver Gaiety Hollow Gardens in Salem.

Our Hospitality committee has organized our Annual BCMGA Fall Potluck Picnic for September 18, 2026 @5-8 PM.

President Elect John Bertani has put a nominating committee in place to search for new board members for 2027.

BCMGA is appreciative of all the MG volunteers who helped make the Benton County Fair a success. There were many visitors to our demonstration gardens. Our volunteers gave tours, answered questions, and shared their passion for gardening.

Our MG volunteers are going strong at Garfield, Adams and Philomath elementary school gardens. Planning meetings will start on 8/31/26 for our annual education event “Insights into Gardening” happening on 2/13/27.

Central Gorge

No report submitted

Central Oregon

Submitted by Patty DeGaetano & Bonnie O’hern

At the end of May, COMGA had its hugely successful major fundraiser, the annual Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale, at the OSU Extension parking lot in Redmond. We had a whopping 1,272 attendees! We sold 35 varieties of plants this year which include vegetables, herbs, flower annuals and perennials. In addition to our large plant sale area, we had an additional 24 booths/vendors with garden-related items and information for guests to peruse, including a booth by the Fire Dept. focusing on defensible space and fire-wise. COMGA also had educational and demonstration booths on the use of soil thermometers, seed planting fundamentals, transplanting tomato starts, and planting decorative pots. We had a new

booth this year specifically for marketing our Master Gardener program. And we had a fun kids treasure hunt through our demonstration garden area.

In July, COMGA volunteers assisted our local OSU Extension agent with hosting the annual High Desert Garden Tour, where local homes/gardens are on display for the public to tour. We had five beautiful and all very different gardens this year in the Redmond area on the tour, and sold over 400 tickets. The four homes on the tour were a delightful mix of size and style. There was an elegant ranch worthy of a high-end retreat with many spaces to read, relax, mingle or visit horses. The three smaller properties showed a lot of ingenuity from homeowners who love to recycle collectibles and stone as well as build new spaces for shrubs, trees, flowering perennials and veggies. The before and after photos were truly an inspiration. Their transformations ran the full gambit from whimsical eccentricity to thoughtful orderliness. The Redmond OSU Demonstration Garden was also on the tour this year, giving our community a first-hand look at the work our local volunteers do to highlight plants, vegetables and flowers that are particularly suited for the more challenging garden climate of the high desert, including American Selection plants. Through the OSU Demo Garden, two experimental plots were on display: (i) a turf grass replacement experiment; and (ii) a cover crop rotation exercise at the raspberry patch, comparing ground cover decomposition options.

Our chapter connects with our local communities and provides growing and belonging outreach efforts through gardening presentations and demonstrations made upon request from or by local senior living communities, schools, community museums, churches, and farmer's markets for example. Additionally, with the wildfire season having arrived in Central Oregon with intensity, COMGA is doing its best to remind the community how important it is to create landscapes that are both resilient and beautiful by incorporating firewise practices into their landscape. In response to the many wildfires in our area, COMGA volunteers assisted OSU Extension in providing box fans to help clean the air for those in need,as well as other coordination.

This summer, we've also been holding "open gardens," with COMGA members inviting other Master Gardeners to see their home gardens. Sort of a mini garden tour. So far this year there have been 6 gardens open to Master Gardeners through this program. This is a great way to see ideas put into practice and to learn from one another. It is also a great social activity for those of us who like the social aspect of being a COMGA member.

Our Board is undertaking its annual review of the chapter Policies and Procedures to see if any process improvements can be made. We have also sought full membership input on various ideas on how our Board should accomplish its work. That process is ongoing.

Our Board and members look forward to our monthly meetings especially during the summer, as the summer meetings are typically hosted by a member and held in the evening as a potluck dinner at a member's home. Our June, July and August meetings were each held at a different member's home. It's fun to see other members' gardens!

Clackamas

Submitted by Barb Seekins

Pioneer Garden

Volunteers at the Pioneer Garden at the End of the Oregon Trail Museum have been working in the garden twice a month. This small garden features heirloom roses, herbs, and varieties of vegetables that the pioneers would have grown. To combat a rabbit problem they built rustic trellises and fences from twigs. A new support structure was also constructed for the hop vines. Kent golden hops, dwarf gray sugar peas, scarlett runner beans, and wild bergamot are just a few of the plants grown here. Seeds are collected, packaged up, and sold through the museum gift store.

During the Festival of the Arts held on the museum grounds August 8-9, MG volunteers had a booth answering questions and talking about the garden. Because of the location this garden gets many visitors not only those visiting the museum but also people walking in the area. MGvolunteers also work with school student groups giving them garden tours and leading activities involving insect identification and seed planting.

Grow An Extra Row (GAER)

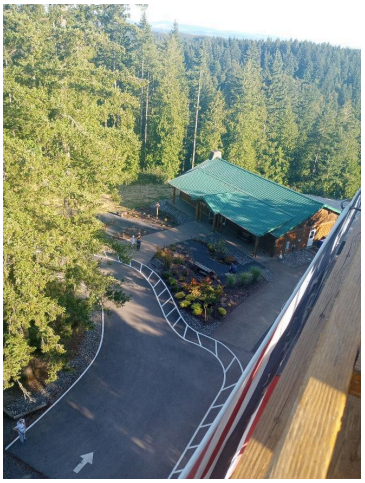
Starting in mid-June GAER workdays start at 8 AM and end at 11 AM rather than the 9 AM start with a noon end in order to avoid the hotter hours. Volunteers are reminded to bring water bottles, wear sunscreen, and are advised on poor air quality, heat alerts, and UV levels.

By letting all chapter members know they can bring any excess produce from their home gardens to GAER we've increased the total donations to the food pantries. At the garden all produce is weighed before it's donated.To up productivity, there has been increased succession planting and monitoring for pests and growth. As of the end of August GAER had grown and donated 3462 lbs. of produce with an additional 1580 lbs. given that was grown in Master Gardener's personal gardens. With tomatoes and green beans still producing as well as other veggies and herbs, the end of season donation total should be impressive. One of the volunteers also works at one of the two pantries to which GAER donates. She reports back that all of our produce is taken. She informs us of the popularity of items. Her advice is considered when making planting decisions. The pantries had said that herbs needed to be labeled. Much time was spent bundling and labeling them until a better solution was found. Photos of each herb were taken. Laminated herb identification sheets were made and given to the pantries. Their customers use them to know what they're taking and GAER volunteers spend more time harvesting and growing. One volunteer redesigned the Garden Action List making it easier for everyone to follow. The GAER leader surprised the group with a beautiful sign for the herb garden he made of clay and wood. A mid-season celebration was held with an unveiling of the sign which is decorated with tiny bees. Cutting celery and basil were very successful in the annual section of the herbs.

A number of interns who came to the hands-on workshop at the end of May have returned to volunteer, sometimes bringing produce from their own gardens. Another workshop will be held in October focusing on putting a garden to bed for the season.

The Native Garden at Hopkins

On July 13 Master Gardeners gathered to tour Hopkins Demonstration Forest in Oregon City. It was enjoyed by 65 attendees who were able to see the 200 year old log house which predated Lewis and Clark. People climbed the fire tower for spectacular views. Rides down to the log cabin were provided to those unable or unwilling to walk the trail. Our own Clackamas Chapter volunteers developed and maintained the Native Plant Garden and the fire wise garden around Everett Hall. They worked hard creating a wonderful habitat with interpretive signs for visitors to explore. A meal was shared in the pavilion giving people time to socialize and catch up with friends.



10 Minute University™

Developed by volunteers this institution offers scientifically-based garden information through its webpage in the form of recorded webinars, handouts, videos, articles, and briefs from the Garden Ecology Lab. New 2026 webinar recordings cover topics such as building garden resiliency, plant problem identification, tips for better tomato harvests, and cover crops.
[10-Minute University™ – Clackamas County Master Gardener™ Association]

Seed to Supper

Plans for the 2027 activities are already in the works. Four teams help people get started gardening. Tools, gloves, and seeds have been donated for the effort. There is a lot of enthusiasm with new community partners being brought in. They are looking for people who speak a second language to get involved. With new handbooks coming out, inquiries are being made as to their cost and how to cover that. Handbooks have always been free to participants.

Leadership Changes

With a few people stepping down from chapter leadership positions and an ongoing need for new blood, a nominating team was formed. This team spoke to people who had expressed interest via a survey taken previously.Positions, interests, and time commitments were discussed with the result being new people identified for specific positions. They attended the recent executive board meeting in order to become familiar with the chapter operations.

On Sept. 12 our **annual picnic** dubbed “Cheers to 50 Years” this year will take place outside the Milwaukie Community Center. Chapter members, family, and friends have all been invited. We’ll be celebrating 50 years of the Master Gardener™ Program in Oregon that has changed so many lives since its beginnings in 1976. We’ll be enjoying activities , door prizes, our annual sing-along, a photo booth, grilled sausage, and pot luck dishes.

On October 10 our **“Fall Into Gardening”** public event will take place. There will be a series of talks delivered by certified individuals using science-based knowledge and materials. People can bring soil samples to be tested for pH. There will be a “Let’s Talk Plants” area where garden questions will be answered as well as displays focused on specific topics.

Clatsop

Submitted by Amy Rens

Membership: This year’s trainees & certified members have been actively volunteering in the various programs throughout the county.

Community Education Events:

July:

- Ask A Master Gardener: Plant Clinic hours are 1-4pm on Tuesdays (3/17 through 10/27.
- Clatsop County Fair; educational booth at the Demonstration Garden with interactive games, 6/29-7/3
- Youth Program Event: Plant a Seed, Read, Volunteer. Kids were able to learn seed anatomy by looking inside a lima bean, then make a seed book. They also got the opportunity to build a mini greenhouse. 7/7
- Joy of Gardening Conference. 7/10-11
- ReGrow It!: Propagating grocery fruit and vegetables from seed, stem and root. Event demonstrates ways purchased herbs, fruits and vegetables can re-grow from sprouting seed, stem regeneration and root propagation. Seaside Public Library, 7/18, 2-3pm
- Astoria Sunday Market: educational booth to answer the public's sustainable garden questions, sharing tips and information. Every other Sunday from 5/17 – 9/20.
- Youth Program Event: Build a Bug. Kids 5-12 got the opportunity to learn what an insect is, the parts of an insect, and got to build an insect.
- KMUN Invasive Species Removal Work Party on Mondays. The event teaches the public about invasive species and best practices for removal.

August:

- Ask A Master Gardener: Plant Clinic hours are 1-4pm on Tuesdays (3/17 through 10/27.
- Astoria Sunday Market: educational booth to answer the public's sustainable garden questions, sharing tips and information. Every other Sunday from 5/17 – 9/20.
- Invasive Species Tour of Astoria. Walking 1-mile tour from Surging Waves Park to Pier 11 with a Master Gardener guide to point out invasive plants. 8/16, 10am-12pm
- Urban Tree Walk of Astoria starting at Flavel House. Walking 1.5-mile tour with OSU Extension Urban Forester guide, Jennifer Killian, to highlight notable tree species, 8/29 10am-12pm
- KMUN Invasive Species Removal Work Party on Mondays. The event teaches public about invasive species and best practices for removal.
- Seed Saving Class with Julie Hackett of Laughing Rabbit Farm. The event teaches which seeds are easiest to save, when to harvest, and processing techniques. 8/31, 6-7:30pm

September:

- Ask A Master Gardener: Plant Clinic hours are 1-4pm on Tuesdays (3/17 through 10/27.
- Astoria Sunday Market: educational booth to answer the public's sustainable garden questions, sharing tips and information. Every other Sunday from 5/17 – 9/20.
- Seaside Farmers Market: educational booth to answer the public's sustainable garden questions, sharing tips and information. Every Wednesday from 6/18 – 9/10.
- KMUN Invasive Species Removal Work Party on Mondays. Event teaches the public about invasive species and best practices for removal.
- Public Hops Harvest at Alderbrook Learning Garden. Learn about hops. 9/2, 10am-12pm (Cancelled due to rain. Harvest had to take place the day prior.)
- Tree Talk: Giant Sequoia & Coast Redwood in Oregon with OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension Agent Dan Stark at Flavel House. 9/12, 1-2pm

2026 Projects, Programs, & Committees:

- Alderbrook Learning Garden: This garden demonstrates organic gardening techniques to grow vegetables, herbs, and fruit in our challenging coastal climate. It has raised beds and a fence for vertical gardening. Viola adunca grow program with North Coast Watershed Association is ongoing. Hops harvest took place with all hops donated to Fort George Brewery. The compost area has been moved and is getting reimaged. Since the removal of a large English laurel, the garden receives more sun which is benefitting the apple trees, compost bin, and more! Volunteers recently planted some gifted tree collards and look forward to learning and teaching about them. Hundreds of pounds of fruits and vegetables have been harvested and donated to the Clatsop Community Action Food Pantry in Warrenton.
- Adaptive Herb Project (within Alderbrook Learning Garden): Conducting a Water Conservation Experiment this year: Reduced total water consumption to 10 gallons every 4 to 5 days using measured water, weather forecast, moisture meters, shade structures, drought resistant herbs, and straw mulch. Conducting Corralling Wandering Plants Experiment: created an espalier blackberry project, to utilize an endemic edible invasive, by making it easier to harvest and contain to designated areas. Potential benefit to the public, teaches how to take advantage of an urban food source while minimizing its risk of takeover, injury to kids and pets, eliminating 'thicket', making it unattractive to Rodentia, and pruning out all but fruiting stems. As of Sept 3rd, it is still producing luscious berries. We offered several public events in Seaside, and Astoria to promote our project, and developed a mailing list from attendees. We invited these signees to small group meet ups at the garden, to introduce the adaptive process, the incredible value of the herbs we grow, and to

participate in perpetual harvest. We are currently building a hügelkultur bed for winter crops.

- Cannon Beach Tomato Project: (Completed last quarter): This year, over 225 vegetable, herb, and fruit plants were given to families experiencing food insecurities. Expanded to partner with the South County Community Food Bank in Seaside in addition to the Cannon Beach Community Food Pantry. Master Gardener volunteers grew vegetable starts from seed, attended a transplant work party, and staffed plant distribution at the pantries.
- Communications Committee: Ongoing advertisements of events and opportunities. Increasing social media presence.
- Demonstration Garden – Plant labeling is completed. A contractor has been hired to complete the ADA path extension; they will start the project in September. Gazebo roof repairs are pending; materials are on hand, original installer backed out, searching for new installer. An additional bench was added to the garden in memory of Marion Sefren.
- Farmers Markets: educational booths to answer the public's sustainable garden questions, sharing tips and information. Astoria Sunday Market: every other Sunday from 5/17 – 9/20. Seaside Farmer's Market: every Wednesday from 6/18 – 9/10.
- Flavel House Garden Society - Partnership with Clatsop County Historical Society. Plant signage and new wood signs for the heritage trees is complete. In addition to the hundreds of tourist visitors over the summer, the gardens hosted numerous public events including two tree talks and a CCHS kids' day event in which volunteers taught the kids about gardening. *The Daily Astorian* published photos of the Royal Rosarians of Portland in the gardens during the Astoria Regatta. Weekly work parties are held to maintain the gardens. Volunteers are also making finishing touches on a new "Notable Trees of Astoria" website and brochure.
- Gray School Community Garden -There are 40 raised beds available for community members to rent annually and all are currently rented out. A storage shed was built for the property by the construction class at Astoria High School; painting was completed by volunteers. A picnic table was built for a senior project with the Astoria Choice Academy and donated to the garden. Monthly workdays include general cleanup, weeding, and spreading mulch to reduce maintenance on edges of the garden.
- Plant Clinic - available for the community to ask plant problem questions and get home horticulture advice. Weekly from 3/17-10/27.
- Scholarship Committee: (2nd quarter): awarded a $2000 scholarship to a Knappa high school graduate heading to the University of Montana Western for Forestry. Awardee is enrolled and funding is transferred to the school.
- Seaside Railroad Learning Garden: This CCMGA learning garden, one of four CCMGA learning gardens, emphasizes plants that thrive in the Pacific Northwest harsh coastal conditions with emphasis on small garden spaces. Focus: vegetables, herbs, natives, and pollinator-friendly flowers. Innovative gardening techniques like vertical gardening, cold frames, and cover cropping are featured. All annual harvested produce, herbs, and bouquet of flowers are donated to the South County Community Food Bank. Weekly work parties are held to maintain the garden beds with frequent enjoyable exchanges with many local residents interested in gardening. One to two educational events located at the garden site are planned annually inviting local residents for demonstrations.
- Seed Libraries - Free seed distribution to the community. Locations at Astoria Library (added this year), Cannon Beach Library, CMH Cancer Center Lobby, Warrenton Library, Seaside Library and Seaside Community Garden.
- Seed to Supper - (Completed 2nd quarter) Class sessions were from 4/18-6/13 and were held at the Lower Columbia Q Center in Astoria this year. There were 9 participants this year.
- Sunset Beach Education Center (Yeon House) - Partnership with National Park Service. Ongoing removal of invasive species throughout the property. Continuation of coastal

prairie preservation. Continuation of rhododendron species cataloging project. Rose species cataloging project completed. Pruning of ornamentals, weeding and general cleanup around the historical house is ongoing. Harvesting of pacific wax myrtle fruits to help NPS with growing more natives.

- Youth Program - youth activity kits have been developed and are available for public check-out. Coordinating educational outreach visits to libraries, classrooms, and summer camps.

Growing & Belonging:

- Seed to Supper teaches skills to help participants to grow their own food. Free course to help food insecure, underrepresented, and underserved.
- Cannon Beach Tomato Project is in partnership with the Cannon Beach Food Pantry & South County Community Food Bank. It provides families with container-friendly plants along with bilingual and kid-friendly educational materials.
- The Youth Program focuses on youth horticulture educational outreach throughout the county. Bilingual options available.
- Seed Libraries - Free seed distribution and educational materials to all community members.
- Alderbrook Learning Garden showcases adaptive gardening options that include a tall planter bed for individuals with mobility issues as well as vertical gardening options for those in apartments or otherwise limited on space.

Upcoming Events:

- Graduation and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. 11/7, 12-2pm

Produce Donated: 776lbs (as of 8/7/2026)

Columbia

Submitted by Karen Harte

We had 4 representatives at this year's **Joy of Gardening.** Sophie Verdoorn, Russ Hall, Cassie Hall and Calvin Kester. Sophie Verdoorn works at the Scappoose Bay Watershed and is their GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and Watershed Technician. Russ and Cassie head up our demo garden at the Columbia County Fairgrounds and Calvin has been creating a permaculture display as an addition to this year's demo garden.

Columbia County Fair- The garden looked incredible this year due to the hard work of many. During the fair we had **1,161 visitors** come to experience the garden. On children's day there were fairies in the garden and a fun bingo game with prizes!

Lavina Patterson was on hand to talk about companion planting and mason bees, as well as Toni Dockings did a talk on water conservation.
Plant Clinic: Master Gardeners have been involved with assisting the CC Extension office with running a plant clinic that started in May of this year and will go until November. It has proved to be a valued resource for the community.

Festivals and Saturday markets: We have had a presence at the Scappoose Saturday Market as well as an information booth at the 11th annual Clatskanie Garlic Festival! The garlic festival is a family friendly event featuring local farmers and growers.

Seed Savers Group: In coordinating with the new seed library held at the St. Helens library, a seed saving group has been meeting monthly. They will be doing a demonstration on how to save heirloom tomato seeds at our September chapter meeting.

Youth Garden Program <— CLICK TO VIEW

Coos

Submitted by Lynn Menashian

2026 Coos County Fair | Myrtle Point

The 2026 Coos County Fair was held on the fairgrounds in Myrtle Point beginning July 22nd and ending July 26th.

As they have done annually for more than a decade, **Coos County Master Gardeners** interacted and educated fairgoers during the five days, answering questions, providing educational materials, and offering research-backed gardening tips from a decorated booth.

Although the 2026 gate numbers are not yet finalized, historical estimates projected around 28,000 attendees this year for the five-day event.

Shown below is a photo of the booth setup in progress.

Food Donations

Coos County enjoys being home to four community gardens:

- Lady Bug Landing (Coos Bay)
- Harmony Gardens (Lakeside)
- Bandon Good Earth Community Garden (Bandon)
- Harvest Moon Garden (Coquille)

Today's report will focus on two: Coos Bay and Bandon. **These two gardens alone produced a half ton of donated produce in 2026.**

Lady Bug Landing broke ground in April 2005 in downtown Coos Bay.

Featuring 60 raised garden beds and including 12 handicap-accessible beds, garden participation has remained at maximum under the continuing leadership of Renee Blom.

Pounds of food donated by the first of August were just under 500 for the growing season to date.

Good Earth in Bandon features 40 individual plots where local gardeners of all ages cultivate flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Susan Zohreh coordinates the garden efforts, guiding new
as well as returning gardeners.

Pounds of food donated by August 1st were more than 500 for this year's growing season.

Curry

No report submitted

Douglas

Submitted by Chris Rusch

Douglas County Tribal Roots Program has become recognized nationally.
Check out the attached article.
https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/tribal-roots-blends-gardening-culture-recovery

Our Junior Master Gardener Program is entering its second year and has become successful as it continues to grow.
Check out the attached article.
https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/4-h-junior-master-gardener-programs-introduce-oregon-youths-horticulture

Food Donations continue to be a focus of our organization. Our Victory Garden crew works hard to deliver produce to our local food bank. This week's team picked 433 lbs. for UCAN for a total of 3,824 lbs., home gardens donated 274 lbs. for a total of 1,118 lbs. The grand total so far this year is 4,942 lbs.

Jackson

Submitted by Colet Allen

Field Trip to Scott and Anna's Tikkun Olam Research Farm 9/8
The inspiration for this field trip came when Scott gave his composting lecture to the 2026 class and a couple of the students at the end of Scott's presentation asked if they could come visit their farm. Anna was sitting next to me,and I asked her if a field trip would be possible, she said yes and we started working to make it a reality. It was the perfect day for such a wonderful learning and social event. 18 people attended and Mother Nature smiled down on us with light breezes and ideal temperatures. It helped that Scott and Anna's place was inviting and comfortable under a large tree and well set up with plenty of room to sit or stand mingling with each other. Scott's talk was engaging, informative, inspirational and left us with hope that WE could do something to help improve our current Climate situation. After Scott's lecture the group went into their Gardens and there Scott's once again showed them exactly how he had designed the Garden with hand dug Trenches, then filled with biomaterial and letting all the microbes in the soil turn them into next year's soil. After everyone's questions were answered people meandered up to the tables loaded with several kinds of Melons and we feasted on several varieties of the best melons that I have tasted in years. Several of us asked if this might become a yearly event for each new class. Anna and Scott agreed so we want to put it on the calendar. Here is the

Speakers' Bureau: Sherri Morgan's Presentation at Medford Library 9/26
Sherri Morgan: Bio Sherri is the owner/operator of Morning Gardens Landscape Design since 2010. Sherri has certificates in landscape design and construction from the Landscape/Horticulture department of Merritt Community College in Oakland, CA. She has worked with clients designing and installing over 50 landscapes in the Ashland area. She is a Master Gardener and has taught classes in sustainable landscape design, and fire mitigation landscape design for that program since 2020. She is currently retired but still wants to help folks make good decisions about their

Title: Landscape Design Focusing on Firewise Choices.
Class Description: In the Rogue Valley, all of us have some control over the landscapes around our dwellings, and need to be cognizant of how fire might impact us and our neighbors. The decisions that we make about what to plant, what not to plant, where to plant and how to maintain our landscapes can have important consequences when it comes to protecting our homes and neighborhoods from the eventuality of fire. This talk will focus on a process that folks can use to evaluate their own properties, and important changes they can make to their landscapes in anticipation of potential fires in our area.
I attended this presentation and found it to be one of the more comprehensive presentations on how to evaluate your property and design it with a fire reduction focus. Hoping to get Sherri to do this for WDSG next year.

YouTube link for the Library's latest Garden Class posting: https://bit.ly/4rPrR7J

Fall Plant Sale
JCMGA had a fall plant sale, and I have no date for that event. Once I get the info I will put it in next month's report.

Community Gardens Visits 10/7
Today Sherri Morgan and Mike Hornbeek were going to visit 3 of the 4 community gardens that received grants for JCMGA. This is a yearly visit to each of the community gardens that receive money based on the needs and proposals that they submit to JCMGA. The visit has a few purposes: accountability for the funds and that the money was used for the intended purpose mentioned in their proposal. It is also a goodwill and networking opportunity, accountability check and checking in to get a feel for what they may need in the following year. This could give us a heads up for what may be needed and helpful to them to continue to grow and expand. We will include a larger report as this is being written while they are making the visits to Blue Heron, Eagle Point and Holly Street.

We will be visiting Sanctuary One during their Fall Festival tableting event that we have been invited to participate in on 11/7. Sherri, Colet and Mike will go early and tour their gardens and then stay for the event. Hope to see you all there.

Klamath

No report submitted

Lane

No report submitted

Lincoln

Submitted by Trish Riley

1. Farmers Markets are in full swing. We will have tables at Lincoln City Sunday Market and both Newport and Yachts Farmers Markets. Farmers Market tabling events will run through September.

2. On June 27th we had a table at the Waldport Library Pollinator Day event.

3. LCMGA along with the Newport Public Library is offering a free Education Series at the Newport Library. On June 13, as part of this series, the Xerces Society taught a class titled “Bring Back the Pollinators”.

4. On June 20th we taught a class on Good Bugs/Bad Bugs at the Connie Hanson Garden in Lincoln City.

5. We are currently planning our annual 2026 Fall Education Series which will be moving from the three OCCC campuses to the Newport Public Library, the Lincoln City Recreation Center, the Siletz Library, and the Waldport Library. These classes are all free and open to the public. We will be able to offer Saturday classes at the libraries,and we will be bringing the classes into hard-to-reach communities to serve their needs. The classes will run from September through November.

6. LCMGA continues its radio interview series on KYAQ radio. Each week an MG interviews another MG on an array of gardening topics. KYAQ reports that this interview series has the highest number of listeners of all the station’s programming.

7. The LCMGA website 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.

8. LCMGA created a school garden at the Lincoln City Head Start program. With help from LCMGAs, students planted radish and flower seeds in the new beds. When the students went to harvest the radishes, the slugs got there first and destroyed the radishes. Then the MG developed lesson went from harvesting radishes to eat, to learning about slugs. LCMGA received a thank you letter from the Lincoln

City Head Start staff for the help LCMGA has provided for Head Start. $350 was given to purchase two garden beds and we have gone back several times to teach classes. September 13th is the next day in the garden to harvest radishes and peas. October 14th we will try to plant huckleberries to get some native plants in.

9. Our three demonstration gardens offered a series of classes entitled Grow YourOwn. Classes included reading seed packets and catalogs, growing edibles, seed starting, seed planting, and plant diseases. All five classes were taught in all three demonstration gardens. The Grow Your Own Series is now over for 2026. The turnout was great. Each event averaged about 30 people between the three gardens. The 2027 series is already being planned.

10. The new demonstration garden signs, which are part of the Carl Carson grant, are being processed. They will be in both English and Spanish and will be designated for the new exhibits in 2027.

11. Lincoln City Demonstration - The apprentices are doing well. The sensory garden is planted. The signage is being worked on. The turf and water wise garden projects are going well. 12 people showed up to help move dirt, so it only took about 35 minutes. Most of the projects are done. The project for the new garden is being revised. This may be a container garden rather than installing a cloche. Another work party is also planned .

12. SouthBeach Demonstration Garden - Garlic was harvested on July 15th and dried and cured offsite. Ten pounds of garlic was taken to Food Share. Nine pounds of squash and snap peas were also taken to Food Share. A second crop of beans have been planted where the garlic was harvested. The native garden is looking good, and signage is being worked on. The pollinator garden is off to a slower start due to plant availability. Early Spring bulbs will be planted in September and October. The plastic on the cloche will need to be replaced due to wind damage.

13. Waldport Demonstration Garden - Green Beans, Peas and Strawberries have been harvested. The apprentices are doing well on their projects. One apprentice is creating a hot compost bed. The solar panels are on the roof and the signs are being worked on. The last Grow Your Own Garden series was last week and on pests. There were about 6 people who participated. MG garden lead Tom Green is going to put in decking so that there is a place to sit for the classes. This decking is from other people's decks and being reused/repurposed.

14. Newport Library Seed Library - The remaining seeds at the seed library are lettuce and flowers. Restocking the seeds will be needed at the end of this growing season. The seed library is very popular with Newport residents.

15. Volunteer Engagement - LCMGA has created a volunteer engagement committee. The committee has created a banner that illustrates volunteer opportunities to show where people can get involved. The main purpose is to be used internally so that members will be inspired to find a place to get involved.

16. Mentor Program is ready to be rolled out. A survey will be sent out to the apprentices about where they live, what they hope to accomplish, how they want to be involved, what would you like to learn more about? The goal being to match them with a mentor with similar interests. In a few weeks another letter will be sent out to ask for possible mentors to fill the mentor pool. There will be a class for the mentors. The goal of all of this is to get people involved early on and help keep them involved and in the organization.

17. MG Garden Tours and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic - LCMGA members toured two member gardens. Both tours were very successful. MG Gary Dorris has put into practice the ideas we learned in our Master Gardener classes. His garden is beautiful. MG Shareen Rowland's farm tour was on August 29th. Her farm is extensive and is in Eddieville. The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be at Toledo Park on September 19th.

18. Appointment of Committee Chairs for Nominating and Budget Committee - Annually a Budget Committee and a Nominating Committee are created. The Nominating Committee is to seek out new board members. The Budget Committee will reach out to all the departments and have them submit detailed budgets for next year. Once they are all submitted, the treasurer will create a budget for the coming year.

19. LCMGA Plant Clinic is up and running and fielding many plant questions from the community. The clinic is staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays but takes questions via voicemail and email every day.

Linn

No report submitted

Malheur

No report submitted

Marion

Submitted by Stacy Moranville

Summer is here and that means problems with our water supply at the Marion Demonstration Garden. We lease our plot from Marion County and are connected to their well. Unfortunately, their well system is old and has experienced several problems over the years. They did replace the pump a couple of years ago, which helped, but the bigger problem seems to be on-going leaks in the lines that require them to turn off the water, sometimes for days at a time. The lack of water is a big problem for our Propagation Team, because of the thousands of plants they have potted up that need watering. When the well is shut down, there is no water running through the drip irrigation system for the plants.

We recently procured some additional water holding tanks and a pump, so now Propagation can get water pumped through a hose that they can move around to water the plants. This has been much easier for the team than hauling 5-gallon buckets around for watering!

We got the final tally for our 2026 Plant Sale and feel we did pretty good, for our first year in a brand new venue. The Plant Sale Committee had a meeting to go over what went right (mostly everything) and what

went wrong (only a couple of minor issues), and we feel we'll do even better next year. The Salem Armory has been secured for our Plant Sale again for May 7-8, 2027.

Our MGs continue to stay busy educating the public at the Salem Saturday Markets and other events, like the Santiam Summerfest and the Aumsville Corn Festival. Our 3rd quarter workshop schedule has covered a variety of topics, from Putting Your Garden to Bed to Growing Gourmet Mushrooms. We even had a class on Building Your Own Terrarium. We also have certified ten of the new trainees to help with the Grow Your Own Program. Several more will have completed the program after the State Fair.
We will be hosting our Bug Tables for the Oregon Garden Home School Day in September. Children will come and ask questions and do a little quiz or project. Then we stamp their "passport" and they move on to their next station. In the past, we have had up to 300 kids with their families come through. We also had 24 Junior Master Gardeners signed up for the summer camp.

Several of our Master Gardeners have signed up to help set up at the State Fair, an 11-day event, and to interact with the public providing gardening advice and educating the public on the OSU resources available to help them in the home garden.

We are also getting ready for our next big event, the Pollinator Connection on October 10, 12:00pm-4:00pm at the Scottish Rite Center in Salem. Folks can learn how to boost the population numbers of pollinators through gardening. We will also help folks figure out what pollinators might be in their backyard and which plants can help create a more eco-friendly habitat.

The Marion Garden continues to work on updating its signage, which will include a new entrance sign with an updated map of the garden. They have also been prepping the area for our newest addition to the garden, the Subtropical Plot. This plot will demonstrate growing Mediterranean climate fruit trees adapted to our zone 8b, and will include loquat, pomegranate, lemon and lime.

We have had a problem in the past with people walking through the garden and picking the grapes before they are ready to harvest. So, this year the grapes were sprayed with a kaolin clay mixture to try to deter people from stealing or harvesting them too soon. We also added signs cautioning people not to pick the grapes because they had been recently "sprayed". This seems to have helped deter the early harvesters.

The safety committee met to address some concerns brought up by a plot manager about chemicals in the garden. They are working on developing a clear spraying policy that will be posted in the garden and relayed to all plot managers.

Several of our Master Gardeners continue to help at the Marion Polk Food Share on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 1pm – 3pm.

Multnomah

No report submitted

Polk

Submitted by Becky Jay

PCMG funded the seed library at Monmouth public library when their previous sponsor pulled out.

We began, once again, supplying produce to the Ella Curran Food Bank starting May this year, and our vegetable beds in Inspiration Garden and members' own gardens are still producing and donating to either Dallas or Ella Curran food banks.

Grow Your Own (Seed to Supper) classes were offered in conjunction with Marion County MG this spring, as well as donating plant starts and large buckets for a container gardening class.

Members donated pepper and tomato plants to the Dallas Youth Garden, and they, in return, helped clean up the Fairgrounds after the May Plant Sale.

Polk Master Gardeners held an open house at Inspiration Garden in June, and partnered with the Polk County Water and Soil Conservation District to introduce more people to the demonstration gardens and the Riparian Trail.

PCMG held three joint sessions with the Independence Library for children, two were in Inspiration Garden, and the third was moved to the library due to smoke and high temperatures.

PCMG sponsored talks on various garden related topics at the Monmouth Public library that were open to the public (examples: How to maintain your tools, Wildlife Management, Bonsai Gardening, Drip Irrigation).

The Salem Audubon Society led Bird Walks through Inspiration Garden.

Several classes were held in the Inspiration Garden that were open to the public: Rose Pruning, Fruit Tree Pruning, Tree Grafting.

We fund a $2,500 scholarship for a horticultural student at Chemeketa Community College each fall.

Our informational signs in Inspiration Garden are bilingual.

We are planning to construct a sidewalk from the north side of Mt. Fir Park, from F Street to the main sidewalk that begins at the gravel parking lot. This would be a level access for those pushing a stroller, using a walker or in a wheelchair, instead of having to navigate the steep gravel drive into the parking lot as well as being out of the traffic flow into the parking lot.

Tillamook

Submitted by Wendy Kunkel

The Tillamook County Master Gardener Association spent the summer preparing for Farmers Markets, the Tillamook County Fair, and Lighthouse Day. They also contributed food grown from the Learning Garden to food insecurity resources in the county.

The Tillamook County Farmers Market, the Neskowin Farmers Market and Manzanita Farmers Markets were all staffed with Master Gardener volunteers this summer, offering advice, confidence and information about the Master Gardener Program in general.

Eight Tillamook County Master Gardeners attended The Joy of Gardening Conference this year. It’s always fun to bring back to the general membership what we learned during this spectacular conference. The Tillamook County Fair was held August 5-8, 2026.

The Tillamook County Master Gardener Learning Garden is attached to the fairgrounds, so every year, the master gardener volunteers spend most of the summer in preparation for this 4-day event. In preparation, weeds were pulled, plants were planted and or rearranged, identification of plants was documented, pruning was done and fun was had by all. During the four days of the fair, Master Gardeners staffed the learning garden in three shifts; one afternoon shift counted 250 visitors. Not surprisingly, the public loves to come into the learning garden during the fair for respite, conversation and admiration of beauty.

The following week, Tillamook County Master Gardeners were one of several community builder partners that participated in The Friends of Cape Meares Lighthouse/State Parks of Oregon, second annual lighthouse day. The beautiful Cape Meares Lighthouse is one of Tillamook County's treasured spots. The

TCMGA was joined by WEBS, Pioneer Museum, Fish and Wildlife, Garabaldi Boathouse, Cape Bird Alliance, Save the Hanger, Friends of Cap Meares Lighthouse and State Parks. At the TCMGA table, over 400 visitors dropped by during the day to talk about the Master Gardener Program in general and to talk about the different flora on the Cape Meares Point.

Tillamook County Master Gardeners will be holding their elections for new officers during the October 2026 Chapter Meeting.

Umatilla

No report submitted

Wasco

No report submitted

Washington

Submitted by Debra Hansen

Like other chapters, Washington County Master Gardeners have been busy tending demonstration gardens, leading workshops,and welcoming new interns.

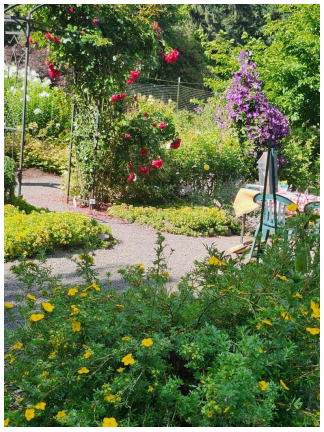
Because our Zoom monthly meetings can leave us feeling disconnected from other Master Gardeners, we now try to hold a monthly local meet-up where chapter members can spend time together. This summer, for one event, we gathered at Noble Woods Park in Hillsboro to socialize and identify native trees and plants.

We continue to participate in the Dark Sky program by monitoring nighttime light levels that can affect bird migration. Since fall 2024, we have collected quarterly light pollution data from the Dark Sky Monitor at the Learning Garden and submitted reports to Dark Sky Oregon.

To share the data with the public, we created a trifold poster using information from the Oregon Dark Sky website about how light pollution affects animals and people. We also researched outdoor lighting options for homes and businesses that reduce light pollution and help preserve the darkness needed by migratory and nocturnal animals, as well as people. At the June Garden Fair at the Learning Garden, we shared this information and talked with visitors about protecting the community from excessive nighttime light pollution.

Dark Sky Presentation

Our end-of-season social will be held in September at the Learning Garden. This family-friendly event is open to all Master Gardeners and offers a chance to celebrate our hard work and showcase the garden.



The Learning Garden

Plant Propagation Team - As summer gives way to fall, volunteers continue caring for plants left from Gardenfest and nurturing new plants grown from a variety of cuttings. Our inventory now includes more than 2,000 plants!

The Education Garden at Portland Community College, Rock Creek, is preparing for its annual open garden in early fall. This popular community event gives the public a chance to tour the garden and join educational activities for adults and children.

Waterwise Garden at the Education Garden

Our teams were very busy with intern workshops and public classes. Both gardens held free educational events.

Some of the topics presented were:

Making Compost Work for You / Seed Saving
Nature Journaling / Native plants in Urban Gardens
Herbs for Sun and Shade / Putting the Garden to Bed

It was a productive and rewarding summer, and we look forward to the year ahead!

Yamhill

Submitted by Linda Coakley

Yamhill County Awarded 5 College scholarships of $2,000 each which will be presented upon their completion of their first term of college.

Garden to Table presented 2 classes in Spanish, one in McMinnville and one in Newberg; English classes were held in Newberg, McMinnville, and Sheridan. Upon completion of the course each participant was given a garden bed, soil, and plants.

The Community Garden holds a church table every Thursday vegetables are free with donations encouraged. They held a garage sale on June 27th which brought in $900 which will be used toward the purchase of soil and compost.

To date 3,200 pounds of produce was donated to YCAP.

Propagation had the second installment of gravel installed in the grow alley.

81 members attended The Joy of Garden Conference.

Weekly attendance at McMinnville and Newberg Farmer's Markets.

Krystal Espana accepted the extension office position Office Support 2.

Finally, Alderbrook Nursery was named "Supportive Business of the Year" for supplying plants at cost to propagation.

Respectfully Submitted By *Lindsey McNab*, 2026 OMGA Secretary