



THE GARDENER'S PEN

Volume 12 Issue 3 - October, 2009

Newsletter of the Oregon Master Gardener™ Association. Produced in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service.

The Statewide Master Gardener™ Program Endowment – Q&A

by Gail Langellotto, Ph.D., Statewide Coordinator,
OSU Extension Master Gardener Program

For the past year, I have been working with the Oregon Master Gardener Association in hopes of solidifying a gift pledge from the OMGA to the Statewide Master Gardener Program Endowment. Specifically, I have asked the OMGA (the Association, and not individual Master Gardeners) to pledge \$5,000 per year for the next 5 years to the Endowment, for a total gift pledge of \$25,000.

I have taken this route because, as the Statewide Coordinator of the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, it is my job to act as an advocate and caretaker for the Program. The Master Gardener Program has a long history of excellence prior to my arrival at OSU, and the Master Gardener Program will persist long after I leave or retire. If I do not pay due attention to the Statewide Master Gardener Endowment fund, I will have missed an opportunity to safeguard and sustain the present and future excellence of the Program.

Below, you will find a few frequently asked questions, related to the Endowment and to my request for a gift pledge. If you have questions that I do not address, below, please contact me via cell phone (541-602-5175) or email (gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu).

Q: What is the Statewide Master Gardener Program Endowment?

A. The Endowment was established in July 2004 to 'provide unrestricted support for the statewide Master Gardener Program'. This means that the interest generated from the Endowment Principle can be used towards salaries, supplies, or other expenses incurred by the statewide Master Gardener Program. The OSU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization separate from OSU, manages the Endowment in accordance with OSU Policy. The OMGA has contributed to the statewide Master Gardener Program Endowment since 2005.

Q. How much money is in the Endowment?

A. As of July 30, 2009, the Endowment balance was \$108,664.85. Of this, \$90,397.28 was principle and \$18,267.57 is the expendable balance (most of which had been generated as interest on the principle). Since its inception, not a single penny has been spent from the expendable balance of the Endowment.

Q. What are the goals of the Endowment? How will the funds be used?

A. The ultimate goal of the Endowment is to build up the principle to endow a professorship or chair. However, to endow a professorship requires \$1,000,000 and to endow a chair requires \$2,000,000. Obviously, it will take quite a bit of time to build the principle to either of these points. Thus, the \$18,267.57 expendable balance, as well as future funds generated from the Endowment, provides a critical fail-safe for the program, should funds be necessary to support faculty and staff associated with the Statewide Master Gardener Program. Currently, I support the Program by: writing successful grant proposals; accepting contract work; using start up funds; administering the online Master Gardener course. Projections suggest that the Program can be kept fully funded using these tactics for the next 3-6 years (dependent upon contract renewals, enrollment in the online Master Gardener course, etc.). To keep the Program running at full speed without dipping into the interest generated by the Endowment, new partnerships and grants are regularly pursued. Nonetheless, having an Endowment is a fail-safe, should the Program encounter a year or more of poor funding. Having this cushion allows for better long term planning, rather than constantly needing to chase short term dollars.

Q. How does the Endowment pay out interest, and what is the administrative overhead associated with the Endowment Fund?

The OSU Foundation guarantees a quarterly payout rate of at least 4.5%. Payments are based on a three-year (12-quarter) moving average of the endowment's market value. The three-year average minimizes upswings and downswings in the market, helping provide a reliable stream of income to endowed programs.

Administrative overhead costs are assessed as a onetime fee of 5% per donation and an annual endowment fee of 1.24%. For perspective, the payout from the endowment, since its inception, totals \$15,260.13. The fees that have been assessed against the endowment totals \$8,154.85.

(MG Endowment Program Q&A Continued on Pg. 2)

President's Message

This will be my last president's message because my term ends soon. In looking back on our recent mini college, I like to think about how many people contributed to the success. Volunteers worked for months to prepare for those days of activities. Listening to people enjoy themselves is probably the best form of appreciation, but I would like to add my personal thank you to each of you that contributed. Whether you were a chairperson, a session leader, a workshop teacher, or a table mover, your part was important and we could not do it without you. (As always, we owe our special thanks to Gail and Patty for their work as liaisons between OMGA and OSU.)

As we look toward the coming year, I want you to know that your Executive Board is strong and progressive. Even though individual officers may serve their term and step aside for the next person, the vision and dedication are the same. Thank you to all the members that served with me. You made my term of office very easy and I appreciate each one of you for the strengths and direction you bring to each meeting. To the incoming president, I say welcome. We are looking forward to what your energy and experience will bring to our group in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to say a few words to each chapter representative throughout the state. You are a vital link between the Executive Board and your local organization. Without you, the Executive Board cannot be successful. We depend on you to attend the quarterly meetings with reports of what is happening in your home county. We depend on you to take information from the Board back to your chapter. That two way communication is most important to the growth and impact of the state program. Take time to ask questions, to offer suggestions, and to understand the key role you play in the on-going accomplishments of OMGA.

Bill Eller, OMGA President

"The Gardener's Pen" is published four times per year – March, June, September & December.

The deadline for the March, 2010 issue is February 10, 2010

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MG Endowment Program Q&A – Continued ...

Q. Who determines how the interest funds from the Endowment are used?

A. OSU created a founding document for the Endowment, giving the Statewide Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program (currently, me) the authority to determine how the interest funds are used. I am committed to seeing the fund grow to the point of endowing a professorship or chair, which will help to retain or recruit first-rate faculty members to lead the Master Gardener Program. I will inform the OMGA and its members, prior to spending any funds from the Endowment, and will continue work with the OMGA Executive Board, Board and members to determine the best route towards achieving the goal of securing the future of the Master Gardener Program through a fully funded Endowment.

Q. OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers give so much time to the Program and to Extension. How can you ask us to give our money, as well?

A. I hear this question often, and welcome the opportunity to clarify. First, my request for a \$25,000 gift pledge is specifically to the OMGA, and not to individual Master Gardeners. Second, it is important to remember the difference between the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program and the Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA). OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers donate their time and talents to OSU Extension and their local community, in exchange for advanced and continuing education in home horticulture. Master Gardener volunteers extend the ability of local Extension Agents and of the Master Gardener Program to educate Oregonians about sustainable gardening and local food production.

Most, but not all, OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers are also OMGA members. The OMGA is a separate, 501(c)(3) organization that has as its first mission statement (Bylaws of the OMGA, Article I. Purpose) 'to enhance and supplement the OSU Home Horticulture Program (Master Gardener Program)'. As an OMGA member, you are thus part of an association that works to support Extension Horticulture and the Master Gardener Program.

Q. What if I personally want to support the Endowment? Are contributions tax deductible? How can I contribute?

A. Donations to the Statewide Master Gardener Endowment are tax deductible, to the extent allowable by law. If you would like to support the Endowment, you can contribute in one of two ways.

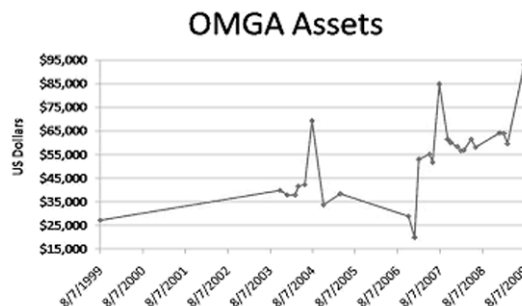
·Fill out a contribution form (which can be found at extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/endowment) and send it and your tax-deductible contribution to OSU Foundation, 850 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333-4015.

·Contribute on-line by visiting the secure website at www.osufoundation.org. At the site, click on "Make a Gift Online". Fill in your contact information. Under "Giving Information - Other", fill in the "Designation Description" as Statewide Master Gardener Program Endowment.

(Please note that it is very important to use the full name, Statewide Master Gardener Program Endowment, to ensure that OSU Foundation directs your contribution to the correct account. OSU Foundation manages a large number of accounts, and some have similar names.)

Q. How was the figure \$5,000 for an annual pledge derived? Couldn't OMGA pledge a lesser, greater, or variable amount (with some minimum)?

The OMGA can pledge a lesser, greater, variable or no amount to the endowment. However, I hope that the membership will agree that it is both within the mission and the means of OMGA to support the Statewide Master Gardener Program fund with a major gift. For example, the assets of the OMGA, as reported at the August 2009 board meeting, totaled more than \$93,000. Although most of the bills from Mini-College had yet to be paid when this number was reported, the assets of the OMGA have been relatively robust for the past 2 decades.



As attendance at Mini-College increases, the OMGA reaps a larger financial benefit from the profits associated with Mini-College, while the statewide Master Gardener program doesn't receive any of the profits from Mini-College. A firm and strong commitment from the OMGA to support the statewide Master Gardener endowment would signal that the OMGA supports and recognizes the work that the statewide Master Gardener program does on behalf of Master Gardeners and on behalf of the OMGA.

Q. How can I find out more about OMGA's support of the Endowment? How can I voice my support or concerns about OMGA's support of the Endowment?

A. To learn more about the activities of OMGA, please talk with your local chapter representative or alternate or visit the OMGA page on the Statewide Master Gardener website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/endowment>.

Clackamas County Busy with Harvest, Plant Clinics and Planning for 2010 Events

Clackamas County Master Gardeners have been busy this summer. Clinics at several Farmer's Market locations, Extension Office phones, Speakers Bureau engagements, County & State Fair clinics, hands-on gardening, and various other opportunities have both veteran MGs and "interns" racking up hours. Way to go!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 26th annual Clackamas County Master Gardener's SPRING GARDEN FAIR... coming up May 1st and 2nd, 2010, held as always at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby. Look for your favorite vendors and some exciting new additions!! Come and shop the best of Northwest nurseries, planting accessories, unique artisan quality garden art and other garden delights. Free plant check makes your shopping fun and easy. There are even plant taxi's available, new plant introductions, raffles and good stuff to eat.

Other upcoming events include the ever-popular 10-Minute University™ and pH soil testing (Oct 10th, 10am), Chapter Plant/Seed Swap (Oct 12, 6:30pm), Bee Wash (Oct 16th, 9am), and annual Used Book Sale (Dec 14, 6:30pm). See our website for more information and other fun and informative events: www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org

One of the gardens showcased in our award-winning Chapter Display is the 4-plot garden at Clackamas Community College. All the produce grown here is for the Extra Row program – harvested and donated to charities, food banks, and other organizations. So far this summer well over 100 lbs tomatoes and numerous summer squash (yes, including zucchini) have been donated. The potatoes have yet to be harvested, but is expected to be a bumper crop!

Another garden showcased in our display is facing an uncertain future. Due to lack of funding, The End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City closed its doors Sept 7th – this is the site of the Pioneer Garden. It is not yet known what will happen with the Garden as the site is a designated city park; we will be working closely with the City to preserve the future of this sustainable gardening gem. For now it's gardening business as usual – Master Gardeners are tending & harvesting veggies from the Garden with cover crops to be sown this Fall.

We are excited to be hosting the 4th Quarter Executive Meeting on Saturday, November 7th. Information will be mailed out 3-4 weeks prior to the meeting, so watch your mailbox. Hope to see you all there!!

Nikki Mantei, Clackamas County, Alt Rep

Umatilla County Tomato Tasting a Hit at Farmers Market

The Pendleton Farmers Market added a food cart to their weekly market. The purpose of this food cart is to provide a portable kitchen allowing local farmers, chefs and other interested parties to showcase their wares. It has running water, counter top, shaded cover, stainless steel counter top and storage. The Umatilla Master Gardeners were invited to partake in selecting a topic and putting together a presentation which we did mid-August.

After a little pondering we came up with the idea to do a tomato tasting. We collected a sampling of Heirloom varieties from one of our community gardens - Brandywine, Cherokee Purple and Orange Heirloom. Additional varieties arrived as Master Gardeners arrived. Farmers Market vendors sent even more varieties our way. We totaled 14 varieties by the time we opened for our tomato tasting event. Chocolate cherry tomatoes, Campbell's Soup tomatoes, pear tomatoes and many more summer delights. It was with much enthusiasm that our crew educated the public on the fact that there is much more to a tomato than a red ball of fruit. Several young adults and a large number of children were amazed that tomatoes come in dark red, orange and pink as well. We encouraged people to taste as many varieties as they wished and to share their descriptions of each variety describing the flavors, smells and textures. Public opinion showed that Brandywine, Chocolate Cherry and Sun Burst were the favorites. Cherokee Purple are not attractive to look at and people needed to be encouraged to take a taste. And those giant Orange Heirloom really caught people's attention. At least a hundred customers came by and all had a good time. The thing that I would like to see added next time would be literature on raising tomatoes, a list of recommended varieties for our area and other tomato related publications. Also, as was pointed out, apparently a salt shaker! Other than that, we were a hit and have been invited back to do a second tasting soon.

-Annette Frye, Umatilla MG



Central Oregon Master Gardeners

COMGA is honored to have Betty Faller, OMGA Master Gardener of the Year, and Rocky Bessette, In the Shade Gardener of the Year, as part of our organization. They both have been an instrumental and vital part of our organization. Our membership is active and involved with most of our projects. We have 39 Trainees who will become active members this year with a total membership of 75.

Our Demonstration Garden at the Deschutes County Extension Office was beautiful and productive this year. The annuals were spectacular and the vegetables tasty. Currently, we have just finished our successful presale of bulbs and anticipate getting our hands in the soil in October. The committee chairs of our Spring Seminar, April 24, 2010, are already hard at work finding speakers who will address our missions of sustainable gardening and food solutions. Hollinshead Community Garden will close down and clean up on Oct.3rd. The demand for garden spaces was great this year, so in conjunction with Bend Metro Parks and Recreation we were able to provide 17 more spaces.

So much to do, such a short growing season!!

SuzanneSaw, COMGA



Central Oregon MG's planting demo garden



The garden 2 months later ... WOW!

Master Gardener Program Recognizes Exemplary Volunteers



Betty Faller, state Master Gardener of the Year at left, and Rocky Bessette, "Behind the Scenes" award winner

Betty Faller from Tumalo is the 2009 Oregon Master Gardener of the Year, awarded for her outstanding and unusual service to the program and her community as a volunteer. Faller has been a Master Gardener 11 years and coordinated the Hollinshead Community Garden for three years. She also established a garden at Healy Heights Transitional housing apartment complex for homeless and low-income families. She has served as the Central Oregon Master Gardener state representative to the Oregon Master Gardener Association and is currently first vice president.

Rocky Bessette of Redmond received the "Behind the Scenes" statewide award for quiet and unselfish support to the community and local chapter or the Oregon Master Gardener Association as a volunteer. Bessette has amassed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service over 11 years. She has served as secretary of the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association for 7 years, newsletter editor for three years and mentor to new trainees for 10 years.

County Master Gardeners of the Year:

Benton: Kathy Butler, Kathleen Coleman and Kathi Tucker
 Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson): Chris Miao
 Clackamas: Herb Davis
 Clatsop: Jane Donnelly
 Columbia: Sheryl Putnam
 Coos: Janne White
 Curry: Tom Lewis
 Douglas: Larry Sutton
 Central Gorge (Hood River County): Cindy Collins
 Jackson: Clarence Wood
 Josephine: Craig and Patty Ingram
 Klamath: Starr Cordy
 Lane: Dianne Twete
 Lincoln: Claudette Schroeder
 Linn: Sheryl Casteen
 Marion: Carol Horning
 Multnomah: Sharon Baker
 Tillamook: Jean Scholtz
 Umatilla: Annette Frye
 Wasco: Charlotte Link
 Washington: Anna Stubbs and Carol Ross
 Yamhill: Patti Gregory

Mini-College Review – Photos & More

Chapter Display Awards

1st Place: Washington County

2nd Place: Lincoln County

3rd Place: Clatsop County

People's Choice Award: Washington County

Garden tours were available at Mini-College again this year, and many enjoyed touring local MG's gardens as well as the Benton County Demonstration Garden. Here are a few highlights:



Washington County



Lincoln County



Silent Auction Success

The Silent Auction at this year's Mini-College went off without a hitch, with many lovely items donated from the various chapters. Master Gardeners from many different chapters stepped forward to volunteer and help work out the kinks in a brand new system. Not only did the chapters donate a record number of items for the Silent Auction this year — every item donated had a bid on it. Out of 270 items, only three remained unclaimed at the end of the day. Those three items were donated as door prizes, so every item found a home. We raised over \$5,000.00 this year as our annual fundraiser and could not have accomplished it without the help from our worker bees: Diane Arney (Benton), Ann Brodie (Benton), Lee Bryant (Wasco), Tom Capel (Linn-Benton), Barbara Davidson (Jackson), James Galbreath (Washington), Katherine Johnson (Clackamas), Paul and Carol Manke (Polk), Gina Massoni, Carol Rugg (Jackson), Judy Shaw (Benton), Carol Small (Benton), Larry Steele (Linn), and Judy Zettergren (Yamhill). It is very possible that we have overlooked a few volunteers who stepped forward and helped out when they saw a need; to them we also want to express heart felt thanks. Your help and suggestions for improvement were very much appreciated, and you made it an enjoyable experience for all of us. We hope to see you there next year!

*With greatest appreciation for everyone's help,
Your co-chairs for 2009 Silent Auction
Marilyn Scheffler and Mary Mellard*



Mini-College Echoes

Jackson County Chapter give their impressions of the recent Mini-College.

The quality of the classes that I registered for was impressive, they dealt with important information and were presented extremely well. -M.H.

The Marje Luce Search For Excellence was most impressive. -D.R.

I wish the key speaker had been a bit more practical. Most of us don't have the means to rip out our garden every 6 months. -D.R.

I especially valued learning about the latest scientific findings, ie. Prof. Moldenke's class on the "Living Soil" and Assoc. Prof. Luna's class on covercrops. -J.R.

Most impressive presentation— Gail Langellotto's "Genetically Modified Organisms". -J.W.

Not a great deal of interaction between chapter members. -J.W.

Kick-off banquet was great, even for a vegetarian. -W.H.

It was easily the best organized and most worthwhile Mini-College I've attended in five years of going. The classes were outstanding. -R.R.

This was the first Mini-College that I attended, but I had a great time. I found the classes informative and useful, but wish the speakers would realize that there is more to Oregon than the Willamette Valley. -R.B.

Mini-College Marje Luce Search For Excellence Presentations

WINDOWSILL GARDENING

Benton County Master Gardener Association

The Windowsill Gardening program is an educational outreach to primary schools throughout Benton County. This highly successful program is a hands-on workshop in plant propagation for second grade students. At this impressionable age the 7-8 year olds, the lessons help students develop an understanding and appreciation of growing plants by teaching seven different ways plants are propagated with an emphasis on how to care for plants. When children associate the needs of plants with their needs to help them grow, they truly understand how their needs are interrelated with all living things. We believe this hand-on workshop will encourage and awaken their enthusiasm for gardening in the future. At the same time, it gives children an awareness of the great agricultural and horticultural activities which abound in the valley.

The Windowsill Gardening Program reaches over 400 students each year. Since its inception in 1985, approximately 10,000 students have gone through this program. Tammy Skubinna, our 4H Faculty Advisor sends a letter out to all the schools in the fall describing the program with times available for signing up through the OSU Extension Office. The classes are scheduled during the first part of fall and again in the spring.

Depending on class size, each presentation is 45 minutes to one hour long. The lesson is specific and easy to learn. Cards with the names for the seven types of propagation along with colorful visuals are provided. All of our volunteers are mentored by experienced volunteers by having new members assist at first until they are comfortable with teaching. The chair person is responsible for contacting the volunteers and providing baskets of materials to be used in the presentation. Presently we have ten great volunteers who go into the classrooms in groups of two to teach. Each year we welcome new recruits into the program.

Excitement prevails as the children are totally absorbed in learning seven ways that plants are propagated. They include several examples of seeds, bulbs such as onions and garlic, tubers, runners such as strawberries, how fruit trees are grafted, division of plants, and how plants are propagated from cuttings. The children participate in the lesson by being able to touch and observe how seed pods are developed from the flower of plants, how to cut out the eyes of a tuber such as a potato, they role play grafting of an apple tree and division of plants. Cuttings are introduced as each student gets to plant their own windowsill garden by planting two cuttings in a zip lock bag with soil. They water their plants with a spray bottle, zip up their bags and place them on a windowsill to watch their plants taking root. At this time we introduce the water cycle that occurs in nature. Weeks later, they transplant their plants into decorated pots to be given as Mother's Day gifts or they take them home and care for them as a special memory of second grade.

The teachers love this program as it targets their required Oregon Common Curriculum Benchmarks in science. They often reinforce what was taught by using the vocabulary used in the lesson as part of their spelling for the week. Teacher evaluations have been outstanding. Appreciation is expressed through children's wonderful letters of thanks and having the teachers sign up year after year.

I wish to thank all our dedicated volunteers and those of you who were instrumental in nominating Windowsill Gardening for the Marje Luce Search for Excellence.

If other counties are interested in this program, I would be willing to help you get started. Please contact me, Lindy Burgess, Chair Person at 541-758-5006 or email me at rwbcustom@aol.com.

Mini-College Marje Luce Search For Excellence Presentations

JACKSON COUNTY APPRENTICE PROGRAM 2009

The Apprentice Program provides hands-on training in the 23 Demonstration Gardens and in various leadership roles in the JCMGA. Through it, we can develop an organization bond with the new students, which guarantees that many will remain with the Association to assume future leadership positions and ensure continued success.

In order to survive and grow, JCMGA needed to recruit and retain the students from each year's Master Gardener class. The Apprenticeship Program, developed four years ago, is the best vehicle we have to meet that goal; our retention rate is approximately 70 %.

No great technical knowledge is involved in developing an Apprentice Program, just common-sense people skills and a desire to pass on what you've learned in the Master Gardener program. Our program starts with the first day of the Master Gardener class and continues on through the year to the start of the next year's class. After an explanation of each garden or committee (accompanied by campaign-like recruitment) students sign up for their 12-hour commitment in the area of their choice.

Students stay with that garden or committee until their 12 hours is completed, giving head gardeners or committee chairs a chance to "sell" them on the idea of remaining. Of course, students may change areas after the 12 hours, if they are not happy with their first choice.

All of the JCMGA programs are educational and the Apprentice Program helps develop and retain the human resources and organizational memory. This has helped to maintain the size of the Master Gardener program, increase the Association membership and maintain our outreach educational programs such as our Spring Fair, Evening and Saturday Classes Program, the Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens Symposium, and at the same time improve the level of excellence of all of them.

Our 2009 Strategic Planning Retreat highlighted our ongoing educational responsibility. Partnership with the head gardener of the demonstration garden from the previous year with his/her apprentices has developed new leadership and given our veterans a chance to rest, or to move to another area of interest. This same concept works well to develop new leaders in the JCMGA itself as apprentices work with committee chairs.

The Apprentice Program is simple to implement and provides people and talents to improve any Master Gardener Association Chapter. It advances students' educational performance and increases their impact on the local community. We would be happy to share our successes and help others to tailor the concept to fit their unique situation.

--Carol Oneal

"A Day in the Life of a Master Gardener"

Education Focus Group, Metro MG Counties
(Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington)

"A Day in the Life of a Master Gardener" is a 3-part multi-media training tool consisting of an office information binder, an interactive PowerPoint presentation, and a video series created by the Education Focus Group of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties.

Project focus

Our Training Tool was submitted to the SFE as an Innovative Project, with the sub-categories of a general MG accomplishment, also a workshop, presentation, and hands-on demonstration.

Description of SFE project

Our Multi-media Training Tool educates veteran and intern MGs on all aspects of office procedures via integrated components that function successfully combined or on their own. They are:

- An Office Information Binder with guidelines and procedures which enable MGs to provide consistent, accurate information to the community
- A PowerPoint presentation to highlight and reinforce essential features in the Information Binder through visuals, lecture, and interactive hands-on activities
- Four videos to illustrate real life interactions between MGs and clients at phone and off-site clinics

After nearly two years preparation, the Multi-media Training Tool was introduced to about 200 veteran MGs at a 2008 Recertification Workshop. The effects soon extended to an additional 800-plus active MGs and will continue to affect about 180 new interns yearly.

The end result is that, annually, roughly 5,000 persons receive high quality service from our various MG clinics, both in the office and off-site.

Interested MG Programs in Oregon and beyond are encouraged to adapt our videos and Office Information binder (pdf files) for your local needs. They'll be easy to replicate as they're at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro/training-resources>.

For further information, and to obtain MS Word 2002 docs instead of the pdf files, contact Jean R. Natter, OSU MG, at 503-645-7073 or jrnatter@aol.com.

Mini-College Marje Luce Search For Excellence Presentations

Celebrating Seeds

Marion County Master Gardener Association

"Celebrating Seeds" was developed several years ago by Marion County Master Gardeners wanting to bring garden knowledge to the classroom. The program has been developed to complement the science curriculum for first graders in Title I Schools. This is a "hands on" participatory program for children and MG volunteers. "Celebrating Seeds" is presented in two one hour sessions, two weeks apart.

Session 1 teaches the difference between fruits and vegetables. Fresh fruits and vegetables, and seeds are provided. We discuss: "What is a fruit? What is a vegetable? Are seeds edible? Using a plant poster we discuss the parts of the plant. Fresh vegetables are used in demonstrating the roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds. We explain the function of each plant part. Students are given baby carrots for roots, celery for stems, spinach for leaves, broccoli or cauliflower for flowers, and grapes or cherry tomatoes for the fruit. The children celebrate the growth of their edible plant with an 'edible plant picnic.' After the picnic, students are given corn and bean seeds to plant in a baggie with a paper towel inside. We discuss the seeds need for air, water and sunlight to germinate. After the children 'plant' their seed they take turns watering it with a squirt bottle, and then the seed bags are taped to a window. We leave them with instructions to observe the seeds daily.

Session 2 begins with sharing of how their seeds grew in the baggie. We review the basic points covered in session one. We then perform a short skit with the students acting as various seeds, the sun, water, air, sunshine, worms, and bees/butterflies to explain how a seed grows.

Children learn and remember when they are active learners with hands-on projects.

In 2009, we presented our sessions in 18 classrooms reaching 400 students.

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The Learning Garden

Central Gorge Master Gardeners

Planning for the Learning Garden began in 2002 when OSU Horticulture Agent Steve Castagnoli and Master Gardener Program Assistant Elizabeth Daniel sought input from OSU Master Gardeners™ – Columbia Gorge Chapter (now Central Gorge) about the development of a garden that could be used to teach creative, sustainable and practical gardening methods to members of the community. A steering committee was formed in 2003, and proposals for garden features were solicited from Master Gardeners.

The purpose of the Learning Garden is to provide an educational resource with opportunities for formal and informal presentations and activities that increase gardening knowledge of the community. The goal was to plan and implement a garden that would create a learning atmosphere for CGMG and the gardening public via classes and self guiding brochures as well as provide learning experiences during the planning and implementation process.

The following is a summary of the various garden features and their purposes. Eleven garden features have been developed to date with the first feature planted in Fall 2003 and the most recent planted in Spring 2009.

Hellstrip: The hellstrip or curb garden, the heavily-trod area between the parking lot and sidewalk was the first feature developed. The goal of the hellstrip garden is to demonstrate that proper choice of mulch and plants can result in a beautiful, low-maintenance garden feature. To achieve this, Master Gardeners amended the soil by layering organic materials, a technique known as lasagna gardening, and planted the area with tulip, daffodil, and crocus bulbs. A layer of rock mulch was applied to the surface of this bed. In subsequent years, this garden was enhanced with drought-tolerant native and perennial plants that provide color throughout three seasons.

Compost Demonstration: The working compost demonstration area was developed next with paths and compost bins constructed. Many different composting methods and lasagna gardening are on display in the area. Permanent signage was completed in spring of 2006, allowing visitors to explore the demonstration area and learn about a variety of composting techniques.

Herb Garden: Work began on a formal herb garden in 2004. Fresh herbs are expensive to purchase at the store, but easy to grow even in space-limited yards. Used brick was re-purposed from a tumbled-down brick schoolhouse in Klondike, Oregon, to create formal paths. The garden showcases aggressive herbs planted in pots that are sunk into the ground, an excellent technique to corral unruly, but useful plants. (Continued on Page 11)

Mini-College Marje Luce Search For Excellence Presentations

Learning Garden – continued ...

Shed: A durable storage shed was built for storing tools and other supplies.

Ecolawn: This feature showcases a turf-type ground cover that is both drought-tolerant and needs less maintenance. The mixture of ryegrass, clover, yarrow, and hard fescue was planted in 2006 to demonstrate an alternative to traditional turf lawns with their high input requirements. The saying “seeing is believing” really applies to the ecolawn; visitors can see for themselves how a low maintenance lawn can look and perform like a turf lawn.

Native Plant Garden: This garden feature was planted in 2006. The area has three large cedar and fir trees but was overgrown with English ivy and hidden by arborvitae. Master Gardeners removed the arborvitae and ivy before planting the area with native trees, shrubs and perennials. This site is extremely harsh as it is exposed to high winds and the existing conifers prevent rain from reaching most of the plants. However, it shows that even in harsh sites, native plants can (and will) provide color and landscape interest.

Bioswales: Two bioswales were designed, dug, and planted by Master Gardeners in 2006. These are designed to collect storm water runoff from the roof of the Extension office building, allowing it to percolate into the ground and preventing runoff. The bioswales were planted with native plants including grasses and sedges with strong root masses to resist erosion and inhibit weed growth. As in many communities, interest in re-directing stormwater away from streams and into groundwater is high so this area receives many visitors and stimulates many questions.

Brick Fountain Garden: A solar-powered fountain was constructed in 2007 from more of the Klondike recycled bricks. It is located in an area with lots of foot traffic. Recycled bricks were also used for the patio around the fountain. The garden plantings around the fountain were completed in 2009. This garden shows that even in a hot and dry locale, one can create a sustainable oasis using re-circulating water and a solar unit.

Japanese Heritage Garden: The idea for this garden was conceived to recognize the contributions of the Japanese immigrants to our valley, acknowledge the injustices done to them during their internment in World War II, and provide a contemplative garden that celebrates forgiveness and honors cultural diversity. In addition, the garden demonstrates a unique style of gardening that exhibits both spiritual and physical aspects. Sadafumi Uchiyama, a recognized Japanese garden designer, created the garden plan in 2007. Completion with a dedication ceremony is expected in Spring 2010.

Raised Beds: Three raised beds were built in 2008 by students from Klahre House and funded with a YouthPower grant from Youth Service America. These beds are constructed of rock, wood, and Orca Board Composite and are planted and maintained yearly by students as part of their curriculum teaching sustainable vegetable gardening. The three different materials used to create the beds show that raised bed gardening can be done with different materials to utilize existing resources.

Ornamental Grass-scape: An area was planted with five varieties of ornamental grasses in May 2009. This demonstrates a variety of grasses that can be used in the home landscape for aesthetic and practical purposes.

Over the past four years the Learning Garden has been host to community education classes taught by Master Gardeners including two to four composting classes per year, two classes on Waterwise Gardening / Native Plants / Eco Lawn, garlic cultivation, herb uses and drying, beneficial insects, and ten common mistakes in gardening. We have also hosted school tours of the garden and presented a class on brick wall construction, drip irrigation, and bamboo fence construction.

Events such as horticulture workshops, garden club tours, Master Gardening classes, agricultural field days and self guided tours take place at the garden. Brochures for each garden feature are available to the public and include information on the benefits of the garden feature, building or planting specifics, project specifications, references, and acknowledgements of donation. There have been over 2,000 visitors since 2003 and over 40 educational programs offered.

We have received strong financial support for the Learning Garden from the general community, local service organizations, Japanese American community, Master Gardeners, local garden clubs, and businesses related to building supplies and gardening. We have applied for and received several grants, and have had media coverage through the local newspapers and radio about the garden, resulting in additional donations.

For further information about the Learning Garden, contact Sandi Rousseau, Project Lead, 4179 Willow Flat Road, Hood River, OR 97031; Telephone: (h) 541-354-2580 (c) 503-806-7020; E-mail: swim@gorge.net

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2010 OMGA Board Open Positions

In November Nominations for Elected, Appointed Positions and Special Project teams will be announced. We have several open positions to where we invite interested Master Gardeners to consider:

OMGA Secretary
OMGA Webmaster
OMGA Database Manager

Contact any Member of the OMGA board if you are interested. Job Descriptions are also available upon request.

Tam Martin, OMGA President Elect

OMGA on the Web

OMGA is making all attempts to upgrade our records and we are pleased to inform everyone that the OMGA Policies and Motions have been updated and are now online for your review.

Go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/omga>. Towards the bottom portion of the home page you will find "OMGA Policies and Procedures". We encourage everyone to check it out. There will be more organizational updates posted to this website from time to time so continue checking this page for our updates.

Marilyn Scheffler-OMGA Secretary

OMGA 2009-2010 Meetings

DATE	Meeting	Location
October 3	Executive	Corvallis Benton County
November 7	Quarterly	Oregon City, Clackamas County
February 6, 2010	Executive	TBA
March 6	Quarterly	Central Point, Jackson County
May 1	Executive	TBA
June 5	Quarterly	The Dalles, Wasco County
July 27	Excutive	Corvallis, Mini-College
July 28	Quarterly	Corvallis, Mini-College
October 2	Executive	TBA
November 6	Quarterly	Beaverton, Washington County