

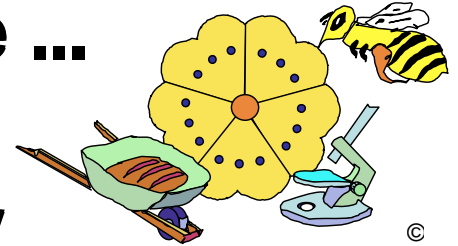


# THE GARDENER'S PEN

Volume 13 Issue 1 - March 2010

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

## You're Invited to Mini College ... Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability



A new year has already begun and your Mini College co-chairs, Gail Langellotto and Dave Rugg, are hard at work. A great group of volunteers have stepped forward to create a premier educational opportunity for Master Gardeners and those who are interested in improving their garden experience.

This year's theme focuses on **"Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability."** Save the dates, July 28<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Join us on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis. We are putting together classes that will explore the latest scientific advances and how they can help you develop your backyard beyond the basics. You'll find answers to how to know your garden is truly sustainable, great for the environment, and will yield great tasting food. You'll discover the science behind the answers you give or receive at plant clinics, grower's markets and website searches.

We've got great volunteer opportunities to help put on this year's Mini College. Volunteers get in on the ground floor and get first-hand experience in a widerange of activities. We also need someone to coordinate chapter displays—a great chance to learn what is going on around the state. Do you like to take photographs, pull people together, and experience the excitement of seeing people have a good time? We need photographers, and folks to fill in where needed. If any of these interest you, please call Dave Rugg at 541.512.9517 or e-mail him at [emgees@charter.net](mailto:emgees@charter.net). See you there.

### WANT TO KNOW THE LATEST ABOUT MINI-COLLEGE?

Visit the Master Gardener's website, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college>, to keep up. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February you will find a beginning list of speakers and classes, housing information, and general information. We will be updating the site regularly. Look for registration information (how to and when) by mid-May.

## OMGA President's Project

One of my goals as President of OMGA, is to reach out and increase communication with our OMGA Chapters.

How best can I answer questions about the association, be a resource for your board, and learn more about the great things you are doing in the community? A traveling team of Master Gardeners and Supporting On-line resources webpage became an answer.

This adventure is not meant to duplicate the annual Gardener's Mini-college and Leadership day event. But rather provide service in a hands-on and timely approach. I have a webpage, on our OMGA website that maintains as many tips and tools as I can.

This is an innovative strategy of travelling to chapters with a group of knowledgeable master gardeners to provide a variety of informational, educational assistance and technological resources covering specific topics. We envision a sharing venue

for open dialog, discussion and interchange of ideas and an opportunity to meet members of OMGA. Why are we offering this? The main opportunities for master gardeners from other chapters to meet together for detailed discussions is at mini-college and OMGA quarterly meetings. This president's project focuses on personalized and individualized contact with chapter members and exposure to OMGA board members and knowledgeable MG's from other chapters.

Funding for this project is from the sale of specially marked Nichols Garden Nursery seed available through Gary Landis, Washington County MG (cell phones 503-805-6226 or 503-341-2381). OMGA Representatives and Chapter Presidents were individually contacted.

Please visit my President's Project on the OMGA website for full details.

*Thank you, Tam Martin, OMGA President*

# President's Message

An OSU Master Gardener since 2003, I consider it a tremendous honor to serve as your OMGA President for 2010.

Within this spring season there is a fresh excitement in the air. The 2010 MG Trainees bring new energy to our programs. Plans for varying our area demonstration gardens are underway. Plant Sale Committees are busy preparing enticing purchases. Educational outreach efforts are being constructed and redesigned to best meet the needs of the public. We have so many ways to have fun and remain well-versed Master Gardeners.

Your OMGA Executive Committee has also been busy. Our goals center on increasing efficiency of this organization's infrastructure, strengthening communication of educational support to all members, and helping provide another excellent Gardener's mini-college event.

**Visit our new OMGA website at:  
[www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org)**

Look for new things such as our newly redesigned OMGA website, a 2010 President's Project, and more robust OMGA documentation and program materials among other things.

I thank you for this opportunity and look forward to everyone's participation. I look forward to these exciting times and meeting as many of you as I can.

*Tam Martin, OMGA President*

## Statewide Master Gardener Program Fund Endowment

Balances (as of Feb. 3, 2010)

Spendable: \$22,747.42

Principle: \$108,372.84

Total: \$131,120.26

Thank you for your continued support of the Statewide Master Gardener Program, as well as for your support of the Endowment fund.

Interested in learning more about the Endowment or contributing to the fund? Please visit:  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/endowment>

# 2010 OMGA Executive Committee

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<b>Urban and Community Horticulturist</b>		
<b>Statewide Coordinator, Oregon Master Gardener Program, Gail Langellotto</b> . . . . .		541-737-5175
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		<a href="mailto:gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu">gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu</a>

## Get the Real Dirt

This year's Mini-College theme is 'Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability'. Talks, tours and workshops will celebrate the illustrious 34 year history of the Oregon Master Gardener Program, as well as highlight the research-based, objective information that Master Gardeners use when teaching clients about Sustainable Gardening.

Our reliance upon research-based, objective information sets a high standard for Master Gardeners. Where else can our clients go to 'get the real dirt'? This is the 'catch phrase' used by the Portland Metro Area Master Gardeners to advertise their programs. I think it does a wonderful job of conveying the fact that our clients rely on us for high quality information, which is delivered with an intention to educate.

The 'OR-WA Master Gardener Handbook: Sustainable Gardening' is an essential resource that we use when training new Master Gardeners and researching answers to clients' questions. However, many sections of the Handbook could benefit from a thorough revision that incorporates current knowledge about sustainable gardening. In addition, as the Oregon Master Gardener Program continues to develop resources and programs in support of our two focal areas (e.g. Sustainable Gardening and Local/Community Food Production), there is a need for more information on Organic Gardening, Permaculture, Native Plants, Rain Gardens, Green Roofs, Water-Wise Gardening and other horticultural topics that have recently seen an explosion of interest from academic scholars, as well as the general public.

I am pleased to announce that we are about 8 months into a multi-year plan to fully revise the Master Gardener Handbook. The successful completion of this revision will rely upon the expertise and industry of your OSU Extension faculty members who are serving as authors and will complete peer-reviews. In addition, we will work with Master Gardener volunteers to review key chapters, prior to publication.

Keep your eyes out for updates, as well as for requests for reviewers.

It's an exciting time to be a Master Gardener - and to 'get' (via continuing education opportunities) and 'give' (via our work at Plant Clinic desks and hotlines) the real dirt!

*By Gail Langellotto-Rhodaback*

### Are you on Facebook?

Become a fan of the OSU (Oregon) Master Gardener Program.

<http://tinyurl.com/ya3j9la>

## It's Not Leadership As Usual

*Beyond Basic Leadership* is where we're taking the Leadership Forum at Mini College, Wednesday, July 28, 2010 on the OSU Campus. The sessions will challenge you and facilitate dialog on difficult topics like the following:

- Measuring Chapter Meeting Productivity: Can a Retreat Help? Setting up an agenda; parliamentary procedure; dissention among members; tone; leadership; and professional attitude and planning for the future with a retreat.
- Is Your Chapter Liable? What if someone falls on your garden tour; a member of your community garden breaks a wrist while tending their plot? Speaker is guest attorney, Brian Williams, from Portland. This is a double session to cover the topic and questions adequately.
- Chapter Documentation -- What's important to save: taking care of photos; creating a winning display board? This will be a double session with the second part including a hands-on layout of scrapbooks and display boards. You will be asked to bring some materials.
- Selection and Assessment of Projects -- Do you follow your mission statement guidelines when selecting a project? Do you actually assess projects that you have done for several years? How to say 'no'.

We will have classes on communication using a Speaker's Bureau, Creating an Informative Chapter Newsletter, putting on Presentations with Panache and Learning the Basics of PowerPoint.

After reading the evaluations from 2009, we are making several of the sessions two-part to allow for more information and exchange of ideas among attendees. You will have the opportunity to join a 'hands-on' session on Grant Writing, and Chapter Documentation.

Put the date on the calendar and don't miss out on going **Beyond Basic Leadership** on Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at Mini College in Corvallis. See you there!

*Betty Faller, Leadership Day Chairperson  
OMGA President Elect*

## Wasco County Spring Fair

The OSU Wasco County Master Gardener's are presenting their second annual Spring Fair on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm at the City Park on Union Street in The Dalles.

This fair will feature a good variety of vegetables, herbs and other annuals. These vegetables and ornamental plant varieties were especially selected for our own soil and weather conditions.

The fair will also feature a Master Gardener Plant Clinic, educational booths and vendors from the area. There will be music and refreshments for your enjoyment. Come early for the best selection!

Please join us on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Fair!

*Janet Probstfield, WCMG*

## Oregon Master Gardener™ Association (OMGA)

### Extension Educator Grant Program

The OMGA Extension Education Grant Program has funds to help OSU Extension Community Horticulture Agents, Program Assistants, or designated OSU Extension Staff responsible for County Master Gardener programs enhance their ability to educate the public in home horticulture. Applications for 2010 must be submitted by May 15, 2010. If you have questions, please call or email Terri Hoffmann (503-982-4825, [thoffmann@web-ster.com](mailto:thoffmann@web-ster.com)). Let us help you help home gardeners!

#### Criteria:

1. All grants will be made to aid in the development of programs or the acquisition of materials, designed to enhance public education in the field of home horticulture.
2. Grants shall not exceed the amount of \$500.00 for any chapter, in any one (1) fiscal year. The total of all grants can not exceed \$1000 in 2010.
3. All grant applications must be submitted on the OMGA Extension Educator Grant Request form, with at least two (2) quotes, bids, estimates, or a material list with projected costs. Submit a concise description of your project, with details such as maintenance plans and other sources of funding.
4. The OSU Extension Community Horticulture Agent, Program Assistant, or designated OSU Extension Staff member must sign grant requests.
5. In event of dissolution or disbanding of a local chapter, the equipment or materials purchased with this grant shall revert to OMGA to be held in trust.
6. Funding from the local Master Gardener Association Chapter should be sought before applying to OMGA.
7. Grants may include the purchase of equipment and materials: e.g. books, office equipment, software, signs, program promotion, etc.

#### Applying for a grant for 2010:

Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2010; funds will be available for use as soon as each grant is awarded. Grant recipients will be named and honored at 2010 Mini College. Grant request forms will be emailed to all OSU Extension Horticulture Agents, Program Assistants, and designated Staff responsible for MG programs by February 1, and also available at [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org). Applications should be emailed ([thoffmann@web-ster.com](mailto:thoffmann@web-ster.com)) or mailed to Terri Hoffmann (chair), 8343 Carson Ct. NE, Woodburn OR 97071.

## Karl Carlson Memorial Fund

The Karl Carlson Memorial fund was established in 1992 to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Karl Carlson, co-founder and first president of the Douglas County Chapter of OSU Master Gardeners™; OMGA president in 1989 who presided over the second International Conference of Master Gardeners.

The purpose of the fund is to enhance the Oregon State University Community Horticulture Program in the state of Oregon, by making available Oregon Master Gardener™ funds to help OSU Master Gardener™ Chapters, in the following ways:

- ❖ In the establishment of new OSU Master Gardener Chapters
- ❖ To assist new or struggling OSU Master Gardener Chapters become better established
- ❖ In the implementation of new programs or projects related to community horticulture, when financial assistance is needed.
- ❖ Financial assistance for any of the described programs may be in the form of an outright grant or a zero interest loan.

#### GRANTS:

Shall not exceed an amount of \$250.00 for any one Chapter, in any OMGA fiscal year. May be provided for purchase of educational material or for projects or programs relating to community horticulture, when Chapter funds are not available for these purposes. Will have a deadline for receipt of application as stated on the OMGA Website. Typically the application deadline will be 1 month prior to the OMGA Gardener's Mini-College presented in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service and awarded during the annual OMGA Gardener's Mini-College in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service.

#### ZERO INTEREST LOANS:

Outstanding zero interest loans shall not exceed \$500.00 for any Chapter, in any OMGA fiscal year. Total outstanding zero interest loans and grants shall not exceed an amount of \$1,000.00 in any OMGA fiscal year. Zero interest loans may be provided to Chapters for projects or programs relating to community horticulture, when the chapter does not have sufficient funds available to fund the entire project or program. While these would generally be fund-raising activities, other projects or programs which would enhance the OSU Master Gardener™ Program may also qualify. Source of funds for repayment of loans should be indicated on the request form.

For more information about the Karl Carlson Memorial Fund visit [www.oregonmastergardeners.org](http://www.oregonmastergardeners.org), contact OMGA President-Elect Betty Fallner at [fallners@teleport.com](mailto:fallners@teleport.com) or 541-389-8088.

## Dianne Twete Helps Tanzania Farmers

Dianne Twete, Lane County Master Gardener for several consecutive years, recently spent 19 days on a volunteer assignment in Tanzania, where she provided agriculture assistance through CNFA, a nonprofit organization focused on empowering people and enterprises in the developing world.

Twete's assignment at the Midawe Mshikamano Horticultural Cooperative Society was to demonstrate how to harvest, grade and store the pigeon pea cash crop, essential to the Tanzanian economy as a primary export. Through workshops and hands-on training, Twete instructed local farmers in proper drying methods, soil management and crop diversity for a healthy, sound crop.

Twete worked in four primary villages in the Tanzanian cooperative: Gendi, Qaash, Kwaraa, and Mamire, where she focused on post-harvest techniques of the pigeon pea, including assessing its market value as an export product.

Twete used her lack of familiarity with the pigeon pea crop, which looks like a small black-eyed pea in shape and size, as an opportunity to expand her knowledge. Twete was excited and nervous about the trip but was welcomed warmly.

Her hosts—extension agents and agricultural directors as well as local farmers—exceeded Twete's expectations. "They were inquisitive, asked a lot of questions and were very attentive," she said. "The more information they gained, the more they wished to know."

A former Peace Corps volunteer, Twete is familiar with the role of outreach educator, and international volunteering is something she always wanted to do.

"In the Western world, we have a certain level of sophistication that we take for granted. When you volunteer, you improvise right on the spot. It's so creative. I loved it! The cultural exchange was probably as important and valuable to me, as the locals getting the technical information from me," she said. She was invited to attend a traditional Tanzanian funeral.

Twete traveled to Tanzania under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Farmer-to-Farmer Program, which provides technical assistance to farmers, farm groups and agribusinesses to develop and promote sustainable improvements in food processing, production and marketing.

Founded in 1985, CNFA is dedicated to strengthening agricultural markets and empowering entrepreneurs in the developing world. CNFA is now recruiting for volunteer assignments.

Visit [www.cnfa.org/farmertofarmer](http://www.cnfa.org/farmertofarmer) for a list of opportunities and how to become a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer.

## Gardener's Pen Deadline & File Submission Guidelines

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

**The deadline for the June, 2010 issue is May 1, 2010**

Please send your articles and photos to:  
 Laura Swanson, editor -[laura@nehalemtnet.net](mailto:laura@nehalemtnet.net)  
 Files should be submitted as Word .doc files  
 (not .docx, or other formats).

OR, copy-and-paste into body of e-mail.

**PHOTOS--minimum resolution 100 pixels per inch**  
**ADDRESS ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS TO:**  
 Larry Byrum, OMGA Database Manager,  
 2675 Sykes Rd., St Helens, OR 97051  
[byruml@comcast.net](mailto:byruml@comcast.net)

## Tillamook County Spade & Wade Garden Tour – June 19th

Saturday, June 19th is the date for TCMGA Spade and Wade Tour featuring gardens to tour, MG Plant sale, and a vendor plant sale. The plant sale will be held from 9 am to 3 pm on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum in Tillamook. Garden tours will run from noon until 5 pm June 19th. Six gardens in the Tillamook and Netarts area will be featured.

The ticket price will be \$15 for the Spade and Wade tour. Passports for the event can be purchased after May 1 at the OSU extension office in Tillamook, 2204 Fourth Street, 503-842-3433. For more information, contact Jean Scholtz at 503-355-2792 or visit the TCMGA web site:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook/mg/tcmga>

## Happenings in Wasco County



Here is a photo from Wasco County's Summer Day Camp at The Dalles Imagination Garden, June, 2009. The campers are learning about composting. Day Camp will be offered again this summer, with 2 week-long sessions.

Wasco County Master Gardeners will be putting on their second annual Spring Fair and Plant Sale Saturday, May 8th in City Park, The Dalles. Planning is still underway, but last year's fair featured a plant clinic, children's booth and educational spots by Master Gardeners, the plant sale, and booths offering food, native plants, annuals started and grown by teens at the NORCOR facility, glass art, information about water features and more. Planting started in January at the NORCOR facility for both the plant sale and the teens' plants. NORCOR, stands for Northern Wasco County Correctional Facility. We use the kids in detention to start our seeds in their greenhouse and we, in turn, teach them the finer points of gardening and being responsible for their plants. It is a privilege to be in the greenhouse and they are very strict with the kids. Any problems and they are back to their room. This has made a huge difference in behavior at the juvenile unit.

The plant sale will have both vegetables and ornamental plants available. May is a gorgeous time in the Columbia Gorge, so mark your calendar and plan to spend a leisurely day enjoying the spectacular wildflower displays coming and going to the Spring Fair!

June 19th will be the day for "High Desert Treasures", Wasco County's garden tour in the south part of the county this year. Higher and drier than The Dalles, South County has it's own challenges but gardeners there have succeeded in creating wonderful gardens and are eager to share their labors of love with the rest of us. Save the date and come see what the excitement is all about!

*Carolyn Wright, WCMGA  
Lana Tepfer, WCMGA*

## News from Lincoln County:

Our 2010 class has two more sessions: Susan Coast: Propagation, Annuals, Perennials, Woody ornamentals on February 16 at the Newport campus of Oregon Coast Community College; and Jay Pscheidt on Plant Diseases on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the O.C.C.C. Both of these sessions are re-certification.

With two new Lincoln County MGA Demonstrations Gardens opening up this year we are busy with work parties: O.C.C.C. campus in Lincoln City on February 7 and 21 and the O.C.C.C. campus in Newport on February 18. The Yachats Demo Garden, established just last year, has a work party on March 12.

A workshop on pruning that is open to the public met on February 23 at Newport O.C.C.C.

On March 18 Betty Bahn will conduct a plant ID session at the Seal Rock Garden Club Building in Seal Rock, followed by a tour of the Gerdemann Garden in Yachats. The brown bag lunch affair is open to the public.

The other Big Event for us is our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Sale on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Newport Armory.

Any questions? Call Janet Anderson, 541-996-8937 or the Kathy Buisman at the office in Newport at 541-574-6534.



*Raised beds are being built in all three new demonstration gardens in Lincoln County: Lincoln City and Newport at the Oregon Coast Community College campuses and in Yachats at the new Combination Demonstration and Community Garden on 7th Street west in Yachats. This photo shows the raised beds in Lincoln City.*

## Clackamas County Prepares for Spring Events

### GARDEN DISCOVERY DAY

Clackamas County is proud to introduce the newest Chapter venture – our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Garden Discovery Day. This event will be held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to noon and is open to the public. With the huge interest in home gardening and surge in first-time gardeners, we will offer an array of information about gardening and acquaint the public with our resources and programs. In conjunction with our 10-Minute University program, our “Know, Sow, Grow” themed event will include presentations on Attracting Mason Bees, Pruning Trees & Shrubs, Year-Round Vegetable Gardening, Growing Berries, and Raised Bed Gardening. Weston Miller, OSU Metro-area Community and Urban Horticulturalist, will be giving the presentation on year-around vegetable gardening. Soil Testing, Gardening Clinics, and Children’s Activities will also be available.

### SPRING GARDEN FAIR

The Clackamas County Master Gardeners will hold the 26th Annual Spring Garden Fair at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby Saturday May 1st 9am-5pm and Sunday May 2nd 9am-4pm.

This gardening event is a unique showcase of over 185 vendor booths as well as educational events hosted by the Clackamas County Master Gardeners. The venue includes outdoor vendor booths with vegetable starts, shrubs, trees, annuals and perennials and garden related products from containers to tools and art. This year’s participants will include the best of the Northwest’s nurseries with returning favorites and some new additions. Vendors with planting accessories and artisan quality garden art and other garden delights will again be participating with their one-of-a-kind offerings. Local hybridizers will reveal new plant introductions that will be available at local retail nurseries this spring.

Garden-related educational activities and services will be available for gardeners of all levels. Returning this year will be a potting area where Master Gardeners provide potting services and advice about plant

requirements, and plant combinations. In addition, the very popular educational “10 Minute University” sessions covering topics from tomatoes to pruning will be back. Free pH soil testing will be available all weekend, as well as indoor educational displays and exhibits, and a clinic staffed by Master Gardeners to answer gardening questions.

This year there will be an expanded food service area with new introductions, including tasty and nutritious food offerings, lattes, and refreshments. There is a plant check area and volunteers to help move and transport visitors’ purchases. There is always an ATM onsite.

Also, there will be an hourly raffle with a variety of plants and garden oriented prizes. Admission to the fairgrounds is \$3; less than 16 years of age are admitted free. Parking is free.

The Spring Garden Fair is a major fundraiser of the Clackamas Chapter and proceeds from the event go to fund an endowment to provide horticulture scholarships at Clackamas Community College and other horticultural causes.

As always, we invite you to check out our website [www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org](http://www.clackamascountymastergardeners.org) for all our activities and events.

*Nikki Mantei, Clackamas County Rep*

## Marion County Master Gardeners Association Plant Sale Save the dates!

The Marion County MG’s will be hosting their annual plant sale on April 30, May 1, and May 2 at the Marion Garden in Salem, Oregon. We will be offering a vast assortment of annuals, perennials, herbs, trees, and vegetables for sale. All have been grown with lots of TLC from the MCMGs.

Also, we will be having a fantastic yard sale at the plant sale. Looking for gardening tools? Gardening books? Yard decorations? Come and take a gander at our stuff. It will be “stuff” you can’t live without.

Please join us and support the Marion County MGs, and take home some beautiful fuchsias, geraniums, begonias, tomatoes, or whatever suits your fancy, and enter the raffle (good prizes!) and have lots of fun, too. We hope to see you there!

Marion Garden, 3180 Center Street NE, Salem, OR  
Friday, April 30, 4 pm-7 pm  
Saturday, May 1, 9 am-5 pm  
Sunday, May 2, 9 am-2 pm

For more plant sale information, contact Molly Petram at [molly@petram.org](mailto:molly@petram.org).

*Ann Okelberry, Editor, The Garden Gate*



## Jackson County MG's "Green Practices" Inventory

In our endeavor to reduce our impact on the environment, we have collected our current best "green" practices.

### Low Environmental Impact Practices

- ◆ We are in the process of implementing at all MG events and meetings the goal of reducing waste products such as disposable silverware, cups, plates, napkins. A number of Master Gardeners have also completed the Master Recyclers program and assist in providing recycling information in the MG program.
- ◆ In our local horticultural programs we recycle/re-use garden pots and containers and are in the process of looking for a non-chlorine bleach alternative for cleaning reused pots. We inform students about the ability to recycle pots at the Grange store.
- ◆ We compost all organic garden and meeting waste generated on grounds and as much as possible from off-site events.
- ◆ Horticultural programs use local compost and aged sawdust for potting mixes and are experimenting with reducing or eliminating use of peat moss.
- ◆ Horticultural programs use renewable/reusable bamboo as a staking material.
- ◆ Horticultural programs also reuse plastic containers such as salad tubs for propagation containers; buy used tools, class seating and equipment; reuse prior year course curriculum materials where possible; and reuse old venetian blinds for labeling.
- ◆ We are adding a native plant garden to our demonstration gardens at the Extension Center gardens which include a water-wise and a native wild flower garden.
- ◆ We propagate many local plants for use on the grounds and in the community using donated plants and seeds.
- ◆ We are working on using less paper, by increasing use of email notifications where practical.

### Reducing use of synthetic chemicals

- ◆ We currently use organic/non-synthetic fertilizers in most demonstration gardens.
- ◆ We use on-site and locally generated compost in pot plantings and in demonstration beds.
- ◆ We use integrated pest management practices and few synthetic pesticides in demonstration gardens.
- ◆ We are working to reduce use of synthetic herbicides for weed control.

### Education & Outreach

- ◆ Our basic instructional activities on how to propagate plants, save seeds, etc, is in itself a way to reduce impact on the environment by reducing transporting goods/materials from afar.
- ◆ Low environmental impact information is provided in the OSU class curriculum such as integrated pest management practices, organic mulches for weed reduction, etc.

- ◆ We include education on sustainable gardening practices in JCMG Association events such as Spring Fair, Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens symposium and evening and weekend classes.
- ◆ This year's Spring Fair theme is green/sustainable gardening practices, including the educational exhibit and presentations.
- ◆ This year's Winter Dreams/Summer Gardens symposium will include a sustainable gardening focus for presentations. The group has also chosen to hold the event in a green/sustainable building. The RCC/SOU Higher Ed center is the first LEED-certified project in southern Oregon with a target of silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- ◆ Include articles on sustainability in the chapter newsletter *Garden Beet*.

*Composed by Master Gardener Janet Rantz  
Submitted by Bill Hunt, chapter representative.*

## News from Klamath County



Klamath County 2010 incoming officers and board members, sitting from left to right, Maryann Hartmann, President; Trisha Nagorski, Treasurer; standing from left to right, Cordy Starr, Vice President, Vanessa Todd, Board Member; Angela Reid, Secretary; Larry Hearne, State Rep.; JoAnn Kurbaums, Board Member; not pictured Mary Ellen Sargent, Board Member.

Klamath County is preparing for their 15th Annual Spring Fair coming up June 5th at the Klamath County Fair Grounds. It is a one day event of gardening vendors, craft vendors, Master Gardener plant sale and advice booth, food, music and door prizes all day long.

*Maryann Hartmann, Klamath County MG*

## The Oath of Office for Central Oregon Master Gardeners

For the first time in a number of years, we administered the COMGA oath of office to the incoming slate of officers. No one could find the previous oath so we set one of our creative members to the task of writing a new oath. She started with the oath for the President of the United States, but it didn't take long to realize that it was just a little too lofty and stiff for our group. We needed something a little more unique that fit our style.

The end result was an oath that guides our officers in how to carry out their tasks as Master Gardeners as well as what we are charged with doing. Upon reflection the oath probably also can serve as a guide for the general membership of Master Gardeners throughout the year.

The first part "I, (state your name) agree to volunteer more hours than I thought possible;" is so true. It's astonishing to see how many people have devoted hundreds and even thousands of hours to Master Gardener projects.

All of this volunteer time may give some pause – do I really want to give that much time? But then there is the second part of the oath, "I will execute the duties of my office with humor, compassion and dedication." This brings to mind all the fun, laughter, caring, friendship, teamwork, learning, growth, creativity and sense of accomplishment that we Master Gardeners share. In that context, the hours seem much less important.

And then the final part of the oath "I will, to the best of my ability, serve to educate the community, have fun on all projects with fellow gardeners and support the Master Gardener Program in accordance with the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of the Central Oregon Master Gardeners Association." We are reminded of our purpose and that we do have guidelines to keep us on track, focused and in line.

This oath reveals who we are, what we do and how we do it. It was administered with the appropriate amount of solemnity and ritual with a Beaver drape and all hands on top of a stack of 1980's PNWs! Remember the orange knit hats at Mini College 2009? Those Central Oregon MGs love to have fun.

*Betty Faller, COMGA*

### Oct. 2009 Gardeners Pen Correction

**3rd Place for Mini-College Chapter  
Display was awarded to  
CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

## High Desert Treasures

Wasco County's Master Gardener 2010 Tour will be held in what locals call "South County". Located over 30 miles from The Dalles, the southern part of the county is known for its decidedly scarce trees, plentiful sage and rabbit brush, steep canyons, and rocky terrain. But looking closer, nestled amid the small towns of Wamic, Tygh Valley, and Maupin there are some High Desert Treasures certainly worth searching for. Fueled by a green imagination that only true gardeners can know, these Owner Inspired and Created visions are truly diamonds amid coal. Whether it is carving terraces from rocky slopes, transforming old pools to patio sensations, or creating Buddha like serenity for a wildlife sanctuary, these homeowners have done it all.

If all the flowering eye candy isn't enough, the tour will feature manned project booths with experts on wildlife, hazardous waste/composting, native plants, and pond construction. Presentations located at each of the gardens will include noxious weeds, Xeriscaping, living with deer, and container gardening. The Maupin Garden Club will be holding a plant sale at the Seed to Table Organic Greenhouse and Nursery, which is also on the Tour.

Last, but not least is the City Garden in Maupin. Volunteers from the Maupin Garden Club, Maupin School, and Master Gardeners transformed a roadside eyesore into a blooming oasis. Home to the Blue Star Memorial Highway Plaque and a Purple Robe Locust, this by-way garden near the Deschutes River has received national recognition for the tribute it pays to American Veterans.

The tour is scheduled for June 19, 2010, 9 am to 4 pm. The tour name is "High Desert Treasures" and the theme is "Owner Inspired and Created," and the focus is on Education.



*Tammy Tripp, Wasco County MG*

### Washington County Spring Plant Sale & Raffle – Sat. April 24th

**8:30 am to 3 pm**

**Kinton Grange, 19015 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.  
Perennials – \$3.00/gallon; Offering small shrubs,  
ferns, natives, bareroot trees, yard art, \$1.00 a  
pot table, Great raffle items. [www.wcmga.info](http://www.wcmga.info)**

## Get Your Tomatoes Here!



Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association will offer more than 45 varieties of standard and heirloom tomatoes at our **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Garden Fair** on **Saturday, April 24** in the Commons of St. Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road in St. Helens. Hours will be 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission and parking are free. Parking is limited, so please carpool.

We will be offering a total of 7,100 tomato plants for only \$1.25 each. Our growers are Curt Nelson, a member of our chapter and commercial grower Yoshitomi Brothers, located in West Linn. You'll want to stop by our Tomato Information Table where specially-trained Master Gardeners can give you all the help you need to get your plants started the right way.

More than two dozen local vendors will be offering garden-related items such as herbs, trellises, containers, garden art, perennials, vegetables, books, trees and shrubs.

Our ever-popular raffle will return with tickets on sale for only \$1 each for dozens of prizes to be given away throughout the day.

Our Plant Clinic table will be stocked with information on a wide variety of garden subjects. On display will be our chapter's insect collection, a cold frame, a mason bee house and a composter.

For more information, contact Gail Martyn, Publicity Chair, at 503-397-5537, send email to [Spring.Fair@comcast.net](mailto:Spring.Fair@comcast.net) or visit our chapter website at [www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org](http://www.columbiacountymastergardeners.org) where you can take a photo tour of our 2009 Spring Fair. Click on the Chapter News tab, then Photo Galleries and then 2009 Spring Fair.

Don't forget to attend the **Columbia County Fair & Rodeo**, July 14-18, at the Columbia County Event Complex (formerly the fairgrounds), located at 58892 Saulser Road in St. Helens. Stop by our **demonstration garden** located there. Master Gardener™ volunteers will be on hand to give tours and answer questions. Get directions from Google maps.

*Gail Martyn, Columbia County MG*

## News from Coos

Coos County Mater Gardeners closed up the year 2009 with success in the county educating children and adults about the benefits of gardening. The enthusiasm, commitment and passion for growing food and beautiful flowers caught on and in cooperation with the Community Garden Association provided assistance for the start of 4 community gardens.

The 2010 year began with the Master Gardener training classes which started on January 7, attended by 25 trainees anxious to learn all about sustainable gardening.

The Master Gardener plant clinic opened for business Feb. 1, with beginning hours of 9 to noon Mondays and Thursdays.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> CCMG awarded its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual school grants to 4 schools: Powers High School, Lighthouse Charter School, Madison Elementary and Christ Lutheran Church and School. The grant money will be used to help each of these schools develop their school's gardens.

Continuing Master Gardener's involvement in education CCMG's are in their second year providing a scholarship for a high school graduate (or GED equivalent) from Coos County. A new scholarship has been added to include residents of Coos County who graduated or earned their GED from another place. Both scholarships are available to non-traditional students such as those who never went to college or are returning after a long absence, veterans and seniors. They all must intend to study horticulture, forestry, botany or a related field.

The spring garden series kicked off Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> with "Propagating Seeds", March 20<sup>th</sup> "Rhodies 101" and will finish on April 17<sup>th</sup> on the topic "Greenhouses: Maintenance and Care". All talks will be held at Coos Bay Library from noon to 2 pm.

Plans are being finalized for the OSU sponsored "Fertilize Your Mind: The Dirt on back yard gardening" and will be at the SOCC campus March 27, 2010.

Coos County Master Gardener's annual plant sale will be held May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16 at Pony Village Mall. Doors open at 10 am. This is our annual fund raiser for College scholarships, School Grants and free garden programs. To read more about CCMG go on-line to do a google search for Coos County Maters Gardeners and find the link to their newsletter "The Garden Thymes."

*Kay Pace, Coos County MG*

## Botany Primer for Gardeners

Linda McMahan, PhD

Posted online at

<http://www.slideshare.net/lindamcmahan/botany-primer-for-gardeners>

**Central Gorge Master Gardeners Association Spring Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 8, 2010**  
**9 AM - 2 PM**

**OSU Extension Office grounds in Hood River**  
 For more information contact:  
 Cindy Collins, cindy@astrion.com 541-354-6541  
 Margo Dameier, margo@gorge.net 541-386-4970

**Josephine County SPRING GARDEN FAIR - APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Josephine County Master Gardener Spring Garden Fair will be held at the Josephine County Fairgrounds on Redwood Highway #199, Grants Pass, Saturday & Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This is the largest annual plant and garden sale in the county. Master Gardeners will have thousands of plants for sale as well as a Plant Clinic. There will be over 70 gardening related vendor booths. Admission and Parking are FREE.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY EVENTS to mark on your calendars:**

- March 5-7 Home Show**  
**Douglas County Fairgrounds**
- March 20th Trash to Treasure**  
**OSU Ext on Douglas Ave.**
- May 1st Annual Plant sale and Expo**  
**Douglas County Fairgrounds**

We would love to see you all!  
*Carolyn Register, State Rep. Douglas County*

**The Purple MG T-Shirts from Multnomah County**

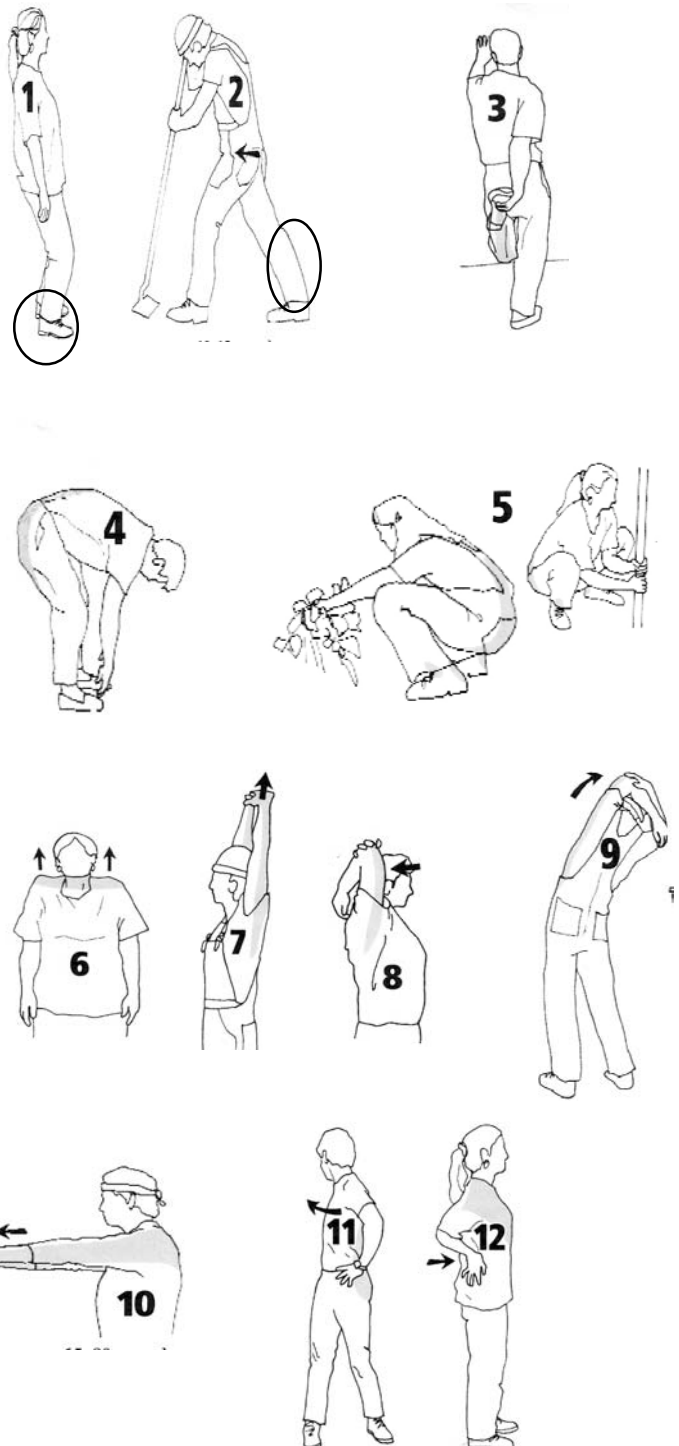


Available in short sleeve for \$15, and long sleeve for \$20. Pick up in the Portland Metro area can be arranged, or for additional \$2.00, your order can be mailed anywhere in the state.

NEW -- now available fleece vests for \$40.00, in sizes, small to x-large.  
 Contact Mary Tompkins-Fiocchi at 503-312-6762 or e-mail to maryto@johnlscott.com

**STRETCHING EXERCISES Before and After Gardening**

It's early Spring and we all charge full steam ahead into our gardens. Take 5 minutes BEFORE (and after) your Spring garden chores to do these simple stretches and your body will thank you! This will help get your body ready to work, reduce muscle tension and make the work easier. The shaded or circled area shows the area of the body being stretched.



Oregon Master Gardener Association  
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# Master Gardeners Event Calendar

## MARCH

- 5-7 Douglas County Home Show**
- 6 Clackamas County Discovery Day**
- 20 Douglas County Trash to Treasure**
- 27 Coos County "Fertilizer Your Mind: The Dirt on Backyard Gardening"**

## APRIL

- 24 Columbia County Spring Garden Fair**
- Washington County Spring Plant Sale**
- 24-25 Josephine County Spring Garden Fair**
- 30 (May 1 & 2) Marion County Plant Sale**

## MAY

- 1 Douglas County Plant Sale & Expo**
- GARDENER'S PEN DEADLINE**
- 1-2 Marion County Plant Sale**
- Clackamas County Spring Garden Fair**
- 8 Central Gorge Spring Plant Sale**
- Wasco County Spring Garden Sale**
- 15 Lincoln County Spring Garden Sale**
- 15-16 Coos County Plant Sale**

## JUNE

- 5 Klamath County Spring Fair**
- 19 High Desert Treasures, Wasco County Garden Tour**
- Spade & Wade Garden Tour & Plant Sale, Tillamook County**

## OMGA 2010 Meetings

DATE	Meeting	Location
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

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