



LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting: Hybrid In-Person at OSU Extension Office
Sept. 8, 2025 at 10AM

FINAL DRAFT

Attendance

Board Members: Cathi Block, Kristi Kind, Mary Jane Bonelitz, Marlene Shapiro, Julie Roth-Carter, Emilia Lacy, Gary Dorris, Trish Riley, Janice Smith
Board Absentees: Ann Geyer, Sharon Busby, Laura Strom, Evie Smith
Other Members: Stormi Dykes, Carita Edson, Shereen Rowland, Joan Crall, Steve Vogel, Kathy Burke, Terry DeJongh, Larry King, Jill Johnson, Anne Irving, Tom Green, Dawn Henton, Ron Woodard II

1. Call to Order

President Kristi Kind called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

2. Announcements

President Cathi Block announced that Shereen Rowland will be the 2026 Plant Sale Coordinator.

Terry DeJongh announced that the CSC Head Start in Lincoln City contacted him with a proposal to partner with LCMGA to establish a school garden. Their proposal is attached. (School Garden Proposal letter_250908_112140.pdf) Julie Roth-Carter will contact them for additional information.

3. Approval of Minutes

Secretary Emilia Lacy made a motion to approve the August 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Gary Dorris seconded. Motion was approved.

4. Treasurer's Report/Financial Discussions

Financials and Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2025 are attached.

CharityDonation0012025.pdf

Treasurer Gary Dorris reported that the Association received a \$100. donation in memory of Claudette Schroeder from her "Circle of Friends". Claudette, a Life member of LCMGA and designated "Tomato Queen", had a memorial stone placed by her circle of friends at the South Beach Demo Garden.

Gary devised an official form for donation. A copy is attached.

5. Updates

Co-Vice Presidents

Julie Roth-Carter stated that two paper banners with LCMGA logos are available for member thank you notes and signatures. The banners will be available at OSU Extension up to the date of the picnic; they will acknowledge the contributions the entire membership made this year to the association. President Marlene Shapiro will deliver a message of appreciation at the picnic. Forty-four members have signed up to attend.

Education & Outreach: Julie Roth-Carter

Julie said the OCCC's "Catch the Wave" publication of classes has been released. She thanked Martha Mills, the lead on this project, class presenters and Steve Vogel for his photographic skill in using a drone to capture garden images.

Julie stated that planning for the 2026 educational conference is underway. Scheduled for March 28, 2026, the theme relates to restoring garden eco-systems and climate resilience. Carol Hardy, MG from Multnomah County will be the keynote speaker. Carol is an adjunct faculty member at Portland State University, a forest ecologist and environmental science educator, the 2025 statewide winner of the “Growing and Belonging” award at the Joy of Gardening Conference, a certifier of the Backyard Habitant Program, and is deeply involved in many other garden related activities. There are plans for a second speaker. Arrangements have been made for the event at Samaritan Health Education Center, where the entire facility will be used for conference and tabling events.

Julie asked the Board to formalize approval for the O & E Committee to move forward with executing plans for the 2026 LCMGA sponsored educational conference to be held in March at the Samaritan Health Center. A vote was taken and the approval was granted.

OMGA: Trish Riley

Attachment: September 2025 LCMGA Quarterly Report to OMGA Board.docx, OMGA Q3 Board Minutes 09_05_25.docx, 2025AwardsBooklet(1).pdf, 2025 OMGA Grant Awards.pdf

Trish reported that the 3rd Quarter OMGA Meeting was a Zoom meeting. During this meeting, discussions included: course development and revisions of the MG notebook, climate resilience, seed implementations, dig and divide, Joy of Gardening (JOG) Conference financial results (\$40,000+, of which \$5,416 was from silent auction), registration numbers at JOG, budget proposals for grants, etc. Trish suggested the grant committee review the 2025 OMGA Grant Awards for prospective ideas. (Attachment) The OMGA Treasurer is proposing use of one uniform accounting system, Quicken, for all chapters. OMGA has a new website. 2026 marks the 50th Anniversary of Master Gardeners in Oregon. This will be the JOG theme. There is a proposal to change OMGA quarterly meetings to on-site meetings at various chapters. Shelby Schuppe is the president elect for 2026.

Program Updates: Stormi Dykes

Stormi reminded every MG and Apprentice to report their hours by October 31, 2025 no later than 11:59 p.m. She will be sending individual updates to every Apprentice and MG regarding their newly completed graduation and recertification VRS requirements. She reiterated that MGs can contact her by Oct. 5 for her help in completing their recertification or graduation hours. After that date, she may not know of any opportunities or have ideas for fulfilling the requirements.

Apprentice presentations in Waldport (2 presentations) and Lincoln City (2 presentations) had a strong showing of support. South Beach’s “Evening in the Garden” will be on September 19 from 3:30 to 5:00.

Graduation and Recertification ceremonies and potluck will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the OCCC South Beach campus. Stormi has contacted the Hospitality Committee, had no response and would like to hear back from them. She asked MGs for help and ideas with the Apprentice portion of the program, and would like help with the slide show section.

2026 Apprentice Program Training is under development. Sessions are blocked out and plans for program promotion have begun.

As of September 5, community contacts numbered 1,556 according to VRS recording, E&O and outside sources, and does not include ECCO. This number is down approx. 459 from 2024 due to our tabling absence at the Lincoln County Fair. Stormi asks that MGs who made community contacts outside of E & O, such as community presentations, tours or other outreach efforts, to please report those numbers to her as they are not always entered in VRS. She needs the name of the event, date, names of participating MGs, if applicable.

Community contact numbers represent a tangible, quantifiable measure of MG impact in our community. High activity numbers indicate greater community support and reflect the vitality of the program. Stormi recognizes that not all contacts are captured in VRS, etc. She reports our activities to/for Lincoln County Government administration sources. Since a percentage of property taxes support OSU Extension Service, reported contacts of MG programs help the OSU Extension Service provide support to the MG program. The Lincoln County Master Gardener TM Association: Event Contact Tracker form was made available. The form was discussed; MGs were asked to use the form. It will be updated as “2nd shift” is not always relevant.

Questions from Larry King: How are contacts made via the radio program captured? Answer: Stormi did not know. Larry will contact station. Can the number of ‘Unique Visitors’ as reported in the website report be applied to the contact number total? Answer: yes.

OSU group form, “Acknowledgement of Risk and Waiver of Liability” (IRMS 08.01.22), was distributed to the Board and Demo Garden Leaders, and was discussed. Evie Smith asked that all DGLs have community visitors sign this form, especially if any non-LCMGA community members perform volunteer work in the gardens. The requirement applies to any offsite community workshops/presentations with a “hands-on” component, or if they (community volunteers) will be working with gardening tools, and/or lifting/pushing/unloading, etc. The form is to be used for: 1) gardeners/visitors, garden groups and community members visiting the garden. (It is not for OSU Staff or MGs as a previous Waiver of Risk and Liability form had been signed and submitted as part of the program’s required documentation); 2) anyone under the age of 18. The form must be co-signed by a parent or guardian. Signatures are required for all outdoor activities, including portions of indoor classes that have an outdoor garden component. It is not required for indoor classes unless tools are being used. Completed forms can be given to Celia August during normal work hours, or placed in the OSU Extension 24-hour Drop Box after hours, which is located next to the front door.

MGs working with youth: notify Stormi 2 weeks in advance of the date. Stormi will register the event with the Youth Office of Protection. Information needed: type of kid-oriented activity, who are the MGs, when, where.

Listserv problems: matters were discussed with OSU IT department. OSU has implemented a stricter online procedure, and suggests that MGs check their spam, junk, quarantine, safe list folders, etc. Stormi suggests that MGs add the following listserv sender address to their “safe list”:

lcmastergardeners@lists.oregonstate.edu

Newsletter deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Evie Smith will be out 9/6 through 9/30 (work, followed by vacation), and on vacation from November 27 through December 4.

Stormi is on vacation from November 19 through December 5. She will not be available for texts, voicemails or work-related emails during her vacation.

Grant Committee: Tom Green

Tom had nothing to report. He noted the grant suggestions made by the OMGA delegate.

Plant Clinic: Larry King

Attachment: Plant Clinic Report for August 2025.pdf

Plant Clinic questions are winding down. There is staffing through most of September. Most, with the exception of one or two, of the apprentices have fulfilled their required hours. He is monitoring the printer for maintenance or service. Stormi suggested that he check with Emily Blume for connectivity issues.

Publicity: Larry King

Larry proposed to the Board to make the monthly publicity report a part of the website monthly report. Proposal was approved.

Larry reported that social media usage levels have changed. The most popular social media is Facebook followed by Instagram (#1, and 2). The publicity committee is putting together a "how to do" publicity playbook in both electronic and print versions. Their goal for completion is January/February 2026. Trish Riley asked if it was possible to tie-in the playbook with the new policies and procedures manual. Larry thought that it was possible. Gary asked if there was access to DropBox for forms and board info. Larry will pursue the matter. See Website report for developments following 9/8 Board meeting re Dropbox and file storage.

Demo Gardens

Lincoln City Demo Garden:

Kathy Burke wrote: "The last month at the Lincoln City Demo Garden has been a busy one. We continue to provide vegetables for the Lincoln City Food Pantry. This month we have been able to provide nearly 20 lbs. of summer vegetables including green beans, eggplants, summer squash, herbs, tomatoes and more.

Our vegetable beds are transitioning to fall crops like cauliflower, broccoli, garlic, and kohlrabi. We have been trying our hand at propagation for the plant sale with lavender and rosemary transplants, and rock rose, huckleberry and honeysuckle cuttings in the nursery right now.

This month also saw the finishing touches being applied to the Sensory Garden Self-Guided Tour experience. New signage and maps help visitors enjoy the garden using all their senses.

Our apprentices finished their projects and two have presented their findings at the open house that was held last week with nearly 20 in attendance. Sadly, an apprentice had a personal scheduling problem and was unable to attend. She will be providing a summary of her project later.

Our new signage is in place and has been well received. Please check out another article with more information about our new signs.

We continue to have Garden Parties on Wednesday, September 10 and 24 and October 8 and 22 from 4PM to 6PM. Please join us as we transition the garden to Fall mode and make plans for next year."

OSU Extension Service's Lincoln City Demo Garden made front page cover news in the Oregon Coast Today, August issue with a feature article of their Sensory Garden entitled appropriately "Heaven Scent".

Waldport Demo Garden:

Carita Edson wrote: "Our two accomplished apprentices presented their projects to the community and Master Gardeners on Saturday, August 30. They did a fantastic job on methods to control slugs! There was a great crowd of interested gardeners and lots of questions.

We used our very own compost at our last garden day. This compost was started last season in our brand-new compost bins. It looks and smells great!

We've been tending our beds and harvesting our vegetables at our garden days. Excess veggies go to the Food Share in Waldport.

Unfortunately, some of our squash and cucumbers have powdery mildew. We have been removing infected leaves and pruning, but the dry conditions and high humidity have not helped. Luckily it is towards the end of the season for these vegetables.

Our next open house will be Saturday, September 27 in the garden from 12-2 pm where garden leaders will give a presentation on cover crops. We'll plant some in the garden and participants can take home samples of cover crops. This is part of the Education Series through OCCC and counts as continuing education.

The garden is a happy place to be at this time of year seeing the rewards of all our hard work. Remember everyone is invited to visit us on our Wednesday Garden Days 11-1 p

South Beach Demo Garden:

Joan Crall wrote: "Food Share donations have picked up with a weekly donation of bush beans, squash and assorted veggies. The Fall crops of snap peas and bush beans are doing well and should produce into October. A memorial stone was placed for Claudette Schroeder by a group of her friends to remember the "Tomato Queen". Apprentice Showcase is coming up on September 19th from 3:30 to 5 pm. Steve, myself and Debbie Poland will be hosting a basic apple class and apple tasting on September 26th. Sign up is through OCCC. We still need to get the greenhouse and arbor stained before Winter, which will require a work party in early October."

Joan asked Stormi to inquire why demo garden activities are not allowed after 5:00 pm, while indoor classroom events are held later than 5:00. Stormi will look into the rationale for this.

6. Updates on priorities

Demo Gardens Steering Committee

Mary Jane Bonelitz reported that the steering committee is looking at infrastructures, funding/grants. Their priorities are 1) irrigation, 2) signage/QR codes, 3) accessibility and to provide spaces in the gardens for everyone. Look for more information to come.

Seed Library

Anne Irving reported the committee is comprised of Amy Shoulders (lead), Julie Erickson and Sharon Busby. Anne will assist in 2026. Amy attempted to meet with the Newport Library Director, but was unable to do so. The committee hopes to meet this fall to develop plans for the process, use of forms and to simplify use and access. Question: will the library accept seeds from home gardens? Answer: There are a number of problems with implementation including handling seeds from other garden sources.

Website

Attachment: Website Report for August, 2025

Gmail – LCMGA Dropbox Discontinued –PLEASE READ.eml

Larry King stated the website report is summarized in the attachment. On the question of access to DropBox, Larry said that he will seek a refund.

Following the Sept. 8 Board meeting, in an email response to problematic DropBox access, Larry informed the Board, Demo Garden Leaders, and users of storage files that he moved all files into a free Google Drive folder. See below attachment, (Gmail – LCMGA Discontinued Dropbox, etc.), for more information and procedures to access files.

7. Next Board Meeting: October 13, 2025

8. Adjournment

President Kristi Kind adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Submitted by: Emilia Lacy, LCMGA Secretary

Attachments:

Sept. 8th, 2025 board meeting agenda.pdf

Sept 8 25 LCMGA Bd Mtg Hybrid FINAL DRAFT

School Garden Proposal Letter_250908_112140.pdf

CharityDonations0012025.pdf

Bal Aug 25.pdf, PLBudvsActualAug25.pdf, PLPrevYrCompAug25.pdf

September 2025 LCMGA Quarterly Report to OMGA Board.docx, OMGA Q3 Board Minutes 09_05_25.docx, 2025AwardsBooklet (1).pdf, 2025 OMGA Grant Awards.pdf

Plant Clinic Report for August 2025.pdf

LCMGA Website Report for August 2025.pdf, Gmail –LCMGA Dropbox Discontinued –PLEASE READ.eml

12:42 PM

09/04/25

Cash Basis

LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOC

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2025

Aug 31, 25

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Reserve Accounts

CD-1st Security -7950	21,253.69
Saving Money Market 1st 7940	18,591.50
Savings - 1st Security.7168	2,002.48

Total Reserve Accounts

41,847.67

Checking - 1st Security B..7226

10,974.64

Educational GH

360.00

Lincoln City Donations

600.00

Seed to Sup Donation

120.00

YachatsDemo Bed Rental

1,320.60

Total Checking/Savings

55,222.91

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable

-600.00

Total Accounts Receivable

-600.00

Other Current Assets

Undeposited Funds

-430.00

Total Other Current Assets

-430.00

Total Current Assets

54,192.91

Fixed Assets

Garden Inprov & Repair Reserve

428.73

Total Fixed Assets

428.73

TOTAL ASSETS

54,621.64

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Grants - Holding for Future Use	
Yaquina View Elementary - Renee	1.00

Total Grants - Holding for Future Use

1.00

Total Other Current Liabilities

1.00

Total Current Liabilities

1.00

Total Liabilities

1.00

Equity

Opening Balance Equity

17,932.97

Retained Earnings

30,901.38

Net Income

5,786.29

Total Equity

54,620.64

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

54,621.64

LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOC

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Contributions	205.00			
Dues	835.00	1,200.00	-365.00	69.6%
Interest Earned	1,115.91	1,000.00	115.91	111.6%
SE #1 SpringGardenSale Inc	17,002.50	19,496.00	-2,493.50	87.2%
SE #3 FundRaisers Inc	0.00			
Total Income	19,158.41	21,696.00	-2,537.59	88.3%
Expense				
SE #7 Seed Library				
Grant	100.00			
SE #7 Seed Library - Other	-100.00			
Total SE #7 Seed Library	0.00			
MG Volunteer Support				
Volunteer Appreciation	30.00	250.00	-220.00	12.0%
Field trips	699.66	1,600.00	-900.34	43.7%
Total MG Volunteer Support	729.66	1,850.00	-1,120.34	39.4%
Education and Outreach				
Spring Conference	55.28			
Education and Outreach - Other	217.80	2,456.00	-2,238.20	8.9%
Total Education and Outreach	273.08	2,456.00	-2,182.92	11.1%
Committees				
Hospitality	193.51	700.00	-506.49	27.6%
Total Committees	193.51	700.00	-506.49	27.6%
Awards	400.00	500.00	-100.00	80.0%
Banking Fees				
Pay Pal Fees	34.80			
Square Card Fees	322.03			
Total Banking Fees	356.83			
Dues OMGA	320.00	300.00	20.00	106.7%
Scholarships				
MG Class	250.00	400.00	-150.00	62.5%
Total Scholarships	250.00	400.00	-150.00	62.5%
Historian	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Insurance Liability	382.00	350.00	32.00	109.1%
LCMGA				
Equipment	0.00	340.00	-340.00	0.0%
Supplies	26.99			
Total LCMGA	26.99	340.00	-313.01	7.9%
Library	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
Newsletter & Website	727.09	475.00	252.09	153.1%
Postage-general	66.65	100.00	-33.35	66.7%
Printing-general	573.40	720.00	-146.60	79.6%
PSP #1 MG Class /Apprentice Exp	45.95	1,000.00	-954.05	4.6%
PSP #5 Waldport Garden	1,356.29	1,270.00	86.29	106.8%
PSP #6 SouthBeach	0.00	975.00	-975.00	0.0%

12:45 PM

09/04/25

Accrual Basis

LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOC

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
PSP #7 LincolnCity				
Materials	175.12			
Carlson Awd	147.50			
Soil, Bark, Plants and Supplies	408.05			
PSP #7 LincolnCity - Other	0.00	2,410.00	-2,410.00	0.0%
Total PSP #7 LincolnCity	730.67	2,410.00	-1,679.33	30.3%
PSP #10 Scholarship	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Roundtables	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
SE #1-SpringGardenSale				
Bank box	0.00			
Supplies	1,911.25			
Space Rent	860.00			
SE #1-SpringGardenSale - Other	125.52	3,500.00	-3,374.48	3.6%
Total SE #1-SpringGardenSale	2,896.77	3,500.00	-603.23	82.8%
Supplies, Bus	43.23			
Total Expense	13,372.12	21,696.00	-8,323.88	61.6%
Net Ordinary Income	5,786.29	0.00	5,786.29	100.0%
Net Income	5,786.29	0.00	5,786.29	100.0%

LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOC

Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison

January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Jan - Aug 24	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Contributions	205.00	110.00	95.00	86.4%
Dues	835.00	1,100.00	-265.00	-24.1%
Interest Earned	1,115.91	586.13	529.78	90.4%
SE #1 SpringGardenSale Inc	17,002.50	17,018.00	-15.50	-0.1%
SE #3 FundRaisers Inc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Income	19,158.41	18,814.13	344.28	1.8%
Expense				
SE #7 Seed Library				
Grant	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.0%
SE #7 Seed Library - Other	-100.00	0.00	-100.00	-100.0%
Total SE #7 Seed Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
MG Volunteer Support				
Volunteer Appreciation	30.00	0.00	30.00	100.0%
Field trips	699.66	0.00	699.66	100.0%
Total MG Volunteer Support	729.66	0.00	729.66	100.0%
Education and Outreach				
Spring Conference	55.28	0.00	55.28	100.0%
Education and Outreach - Other	217.80	161.06	56.74	35.2%
Total Education and Outreach	273.08	161.06	112.02	69.6%
Committees				
Hospitality	193.51	388.25	-194.74	-50.2%
Total Committees	193.51	388.25	-194.74	-50.2%
Reconciliation Discrepancies				
SE #5 Waldport Garden Setup	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Fence	0.00	1,950.95	-1,950.95	-100.0%
Hardware	0.00	142.56	-142.56	-100.0%
Soil	0.00	554.00	-554.00	-100.0%
Supplies	0.00	619.26	-619.26	-100.0%
SE #5 Waldport Garden Setup - Other	0.00	186.47	-186.47	-100.0%
Total SE #5 Waldport Garden Setup	0.00	3,453.24	-3,453.24	-100.0%
Awards				
Honorarium	0.00	-200.00	200.00	100.0%
Other Awards	0.00	157.95	-157.95	-100.0%
Awards - Other	400.00	0.00	400.00	100.0%
Total Awards	400.00	-42.05	442.05	1,051.3%
Banking Fees				
Pay Pal Fees	34.80	44.95	-10.15	-22.6%
Square Card Fees	322.03	286.01	36.02	12.6%
Banking Fees - Other	0.00	28.49	-28.49	-100.0%
Total Banking Fees	356.83	359.45	-2.62	-0.7%
Chapter Programs (Activ & Fd Tr				
Conferences & Meetings	0.00	495.00	-495.00	-100.0%
0.00	592.71	-592.71	-100.0%	
Dues OMGA				
Scholarships				
MG Class	320.00	427.00	-107.00	-25.1%
Other Grants & Scholarships	250.00	0.00	250.00	100.0%
0.00	100.00	-100.00	-100.0%	
Total Scholarships	250.00	100.00	150.00	150.0%
Insurance Liability	382.00	341.00	41.00	12.0%

LINCOLN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOC

Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison

January through August 2025

	Jan - Aug 25	Jan - Aug 24	\$ Change	% Change
LCMGA				
Supplies	26.99	40.50	-13.51	-33.4%
Total LCMGA	26.99	40.50	-13.51	-33.4%
Newsletter & Website	727.09	0.00	727.09	100.0%
Postage-general	66.65	68.00	-1.35	-2.0%
Printing-general	573.40	450.00	123.40	27.4%
PSP #1 MG Class /Apprentice Exp	45.95	32.97	12.98	39.4%
PSP #5 Waldport Garden				
Hospitality	0.00	161.86	-161.86	-100.0%
PSP #5 Waldport Garden - Other	1,356.29	229.45	1,126.84	491.1%
Total PSP #5 Waldport Garden	1,356.29	391.31	964.98	246.6%
PSP #6 SouthBeach				
Supplies	0.00	130.17	-130.17	-100.0%
Total PSP #6 SouthBeach	0.00	130.17	-130.17	-100.0%
PSP #7 LincolnCity				
Materials	175.12	78.57	96.55	122.9%
Carlson Awd	147.50	0.00	147.50	100.0%
Soil, Bark, Plants and Supplies	408.05	42.94	365.11	850.3%
Total PSP #7 LincolnCity	730.67	121.51	609.16	501.3%
PSP #10 Scholarship	4,000.00	5,000.00	-1,000.00	-20.0%
PSP #12 Youth Ed Exp				
SealRock GC	0.00	-159.96	159.96	100.0%
Total PSP #12 Youth Ed Exp	0.00	-159.96	159.96	100.0%
SE #1-SpringGardenSale				
Bank box	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Facility	0.00	1,162.50	-1,162.50	-100.0%
Supplies	1,911.25	1,740.23	171.02	9.8%
Space Rent	860.00	-250.00	1,110.00	444.0%
SE #1-SpringGardenSale - Other	125.52	0.00	125.52	100.0%
Total SE #1-SpringGardenSale	2,896.77	2,652.73	244.04	9.2%
Supplies, Bus	43.23	0.00	43.23	100.0%
Total Expense	13,372.12	15,002.89	-1,630.77	-10.9%
Net Ordinary Income	5,786.29	3,811.24	1,975.05	51.8%
Net Income	5,786.29	3,811.24	1,975.05	51.8%

Megan Heidt
Mheidt@communityservices.us

September 5th, 2025

Lincoln County Master Gardener Association
1211 SE Bay Blvd.
Newport, OR 97365

Re: Proposal for Partnership on a School Garden at CSC Head Start Lincoln City

Dear Members of the Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association,

I am writing to request your support in establishing a school garden for our classrooms at CSC Head Start in Lincoln City. Our goal is to create an outdoor learning space where children can engage in hands-on exploration of nature, nutrition, and science while fostering responsibility and teamwork.

Research shows that gardening and nature exploration in early childhood have lasting benefits. Children who participate in gardening build stronger connections to healthy foods, develop fine and gross motor skills, strengthen their problem-solving abilities, and experience reduced stress while nurturing curiosity and joy in learning. A school garden provides not only a foundation for lifelong healthy habits, but also a living classroom that supports social, emotional, and cognitive growth.

We believe that with support and guidance from community partners and programs, such as the Lincoln County Master Gardeners Association, our school garden can become a sustainable and thriving project that benefits children, families, and the community. To move forward, we are seeking assistance with materials, labor, and/or gardening expertise.

Proposed Materials List:

- Raised garden bed kits (or lumber and supplies to build them)
- Soil and compost
- Seeds and starter plants (vegetables, herbs, and pollinator-friendly flowers)
- Garden tools suitable for children (hand trowels, watering cans, gloves, rakes, shovels)

In addition to materials, volunteer labor and expert advice will be invaluable as we design, install, and maintain the garden. Guidance on plant selection for our climate, child-friendly

gardening practices, and long-term sustainability strategies will help ensure the success of this project.

We deeply appreciate the Master Gardeners' mission of education and community enrichment and hope you will consider partnering with us to bring this vision to life for our children. Please let me know if further details are needed for your board's consideration.

Thank you for your time and support. We look forward to the possibility of working together to grow something truly special for our students and families.

With gratitude,

Megan Heidt
Teacher/Advocate
Mheidt@communiyservices.us



Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

1211 S.E. Bay Blvd. Newport, Oregon 97365

In collaboration with
and support of



<https://www.orcoastmga.org>
info@orcoastmga.org

A Non-profit Association

This receipt acknowledges a charitable contribution in the amount of: _____

Received from: _____ Date: _____

Address _____

This receipt certifies that no goods or services were provided in return for the contribution. Your contribution will support the educational programs of the Association. thank you for your generosity!

EIN 20-0064568

Treasurer _____



OMGA 2025 Grant Awards

OMGA Extension Educator Grant Awardees

1. Coos County Master Gardeners
MG Coordinator: Samantha Clayburn
Purpose: To update the Plant Clinic microscope.
Amount: \$840

2. Clatsop County Master Gardeners
MG Coordinator: Shannon Rauter
Purpose: Fund four-part class series for the public on Composting.
Amount: \$500

3. Tillamook County Master Gardeners
MG Coordinator: Samikshya Budhathoki
Purpose: Fund guest speakers for community centered classes on sustainable Gardening.
Amount: \$1160.

4. Central Oregon Master Gardeners
MG Coordinator: Amy Jo Detweiler
Purpose: Funding to update the Extension Client Contact Online (ECCO). This is a database tool used by Master gardener volunteers throughout state in Plant Clinics and Helplines.
Amount: \$1000.

5. Central Gorge Master Gardeners
MG Coordinator: Megan Wickersham
Purpose: Funding to enhance the Seed to Supper Program.
Amount: \$500.

Carl Carlson Grant Award winners

1. Jackson County

Purpose: Jackson County must rebuild a workshop place and is asking for money to build ADA walkways.

Amount: \$1000

2. Marion County

Purpose: Provide signage for their Demonstration Garden.

Amount: \$1000

3. Central Gorge

Purpose: Re-do their entire garden due to infrastructure failing. Their request is to hire a professional landscaper to translate their planned sketch into something they can put out to bid so that it meets ADA guidelines, etc. Well documented history of their garden and other projects.

Amount: \$1000

4. Curry County

Purpose: Provide a garden to bridge elementary school programs to the middle school. It shows great vision and is well planned. They have even run it through the SMART evaluation program!

Amount: \$1000.

OMGA Search for Excellence Award

Curry County \$1000

For the partnership they made with the local community to obtain space for an educational greenhouse and demonstration garden in Gold Beach.

LCMGA DropBox Discontinued -- PLEASE READ

Larry King <larry@alseariviera.com>

8 September 2025 at 13:03

To: LCMGA <cop.lcmga@gmail.com>, Julie Roth-Carter <rothcarterjulie@gmail.com>, Laura Strom <laura.lcstrom@gmail.com>, Emilia Lacy <emiliajlacy@gmail.com>, Janice Smith <jan112449@gmail.com>, Trish Riley <triley1952@gmail.com>, Mary Jane Bonelitz <mjgardener1@gmail.com>, Joan Crall <jpicy@bitterroot.com>, Herb Fredricksen <herbfredricksen@gmail.com>, Kristi Kind <kkindgardens@gmail.com>, Diane Primont <dfprimont@hotmail.com>, Lindsay Clark <lins@peak.org>, Kathy Burke Last_Name <kab123123@comcast.net>, Terry DeJongh <dejongherry@gmail.com>, Steve Vogel <steverbogel@gmail.com>, Carita Edson <oceanmt.girl@gmail.com>, Sandy Mathis <mountaintopantiques@gmail.com>, Shereen Rowland <rowland465@gmail.com>, Stormi R Dykes <stormi.dykes@oregonstate.edu>

Cc: Ann Geyer <anngeyer@gmail.com>, Gary Dorris <garyd@garhunt.com>

Hi Everyone,

To help us save on DropBox fees, I've moved all of our files into our free Google Drive folder. The good news is, we have plenty of space there—currently, we're only using 1.03 GB out of the 15 GB available.

Here are the folders now stored in Google Drive:

- Administration
- Demo Gardens
- Grants
- Historian Files
- Mentoring
- Newsletter Files
- Plant Sale
- Presentations
- Publicity

One small drawback with this move is that the access permissions didn't transfer with the files. If you'd like access to any of these folders, just reply to this email with your preferred email address. I'll add you to the group, and you'll receive an invitation to view and use the files.

Much of this material is already available on our new website under **Member Resources** (check the **Board/Committee** sub-page if needed), but the Google Drive will give us a shared working space.

Gary, Ann—everything has been copied over, so the DropBox account can now be safely discontinued.

Thank you all, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like access.

Warmly,
Larry

Lawrence (Larry) King
<76 E Alsea Riviera Dr.>
PO Box 236
Tidewater, OR 97390
larry@alseariviera.com

Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

September 2025 Report to the

OMGA Board of Directors

(NOTE: LCMGA has 58 Certified members and 15 Associate [non-certified] members. Total Membership: 73)

LCMGA DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

LCMGA has formed a Demonstration Garden Steering Committee that meets regularly to create a three-to-five-year master plan to increase the sustainability of each of the three demonstration gardens and to showcase them as educational hubs for the community. Committee member(s) are Carita Edson, Sandy Mathis, Shereen Rowland, Joan Crall, Steve Vogel, Terry DeJongh, Kathy Burke, Anne Irving, Julie Roth-Carter, Ann Geyer, and Mary Jane Bonelitz. The Committee hopes to present its plan to the LCMGA Board of Directors in October.

Lincoln City Demonstration Garden (Co-Leads = Kathy Burke & Terry DeJongh)



Pictured (left to right): Terry DeJongh, Ron Woard II, Debbie Poland, and Dave Hall. Photo credit: Stormi Dykes



Photo credit: Terry DeJongh



Photo credit: Terry DeJongh

July and August have been very busy in the Lincoln City Demonstration Garden. Members held Garden Days every two weeks with 6-8 people working in the garden on those days, visits those times by a number of drop-in visitors due to the garden's advertised presence, and several drop-in visitors asking questions about the garden because they were walking in the neighborhood. Members have hosted three additional garden tours provided by request for garden clubs from Depoe Bay, Coronado Shores and Otis. The biggest project for Lincoln City Demonstration Garden has been educational signage which has been developed by Member Dave Hall and is being translated into Spanish by MG Coordinator Evie Smith. The new signage has been posted and includes maps and directions for a self-guided Sensory Garden tour. The August 29, 2025 edition of *Oregon Coast Today* featured the Sensory Garden and LCMGA. Here is a link to the article:

<https://www.oregoncoasttoday.com/home/heaven-scent> Members will be reaching out to Taft Elementary School and a day care in Depot Bay to offer a Sensory Garden tours.



Pictured: Kathy Burke, Terry DeJongh Photo of newspaper cover: Trish Riley

Members continue to harvest vegetables and herbs for the food bank including zucchini, yellow squash, patty pan squash, cucumbers, cabbage, green beans, peppers, cilantro, parsley, rosemary and sage. They replanted radishes, parsnips, broccoli, onions, and carrots. They are also planning and starting seeds for their fall/winter vegetable garden. Lincoln City Demonstration Garden Workdays are Wednesdays from 4PM to around 6PM.

South Beach Demonstration Garden (Co-Leads = Joan Crall & Steve Vogel)



(Photos Credit: Steve Vogel)

Members planted a bed with snap peas and green beans for Food Share. Members also took ten pounds of garlic and five pounds of radish and cilantro to Food Share.

The greenhouse portion of the garden's building was cleaned out in preparation for staining the building and the arbor again this year. The garden is full of pollinators and flowers, hummingbirds and dragon flies. Some of the beds against the college building were cleaned up a bit. The garden has one compost bin full of beautiful looking compost, that will be spread on the beds surrounding the garden. South Beach Demo Garden Workdays are Fridays from approximately 10:30AM-12:30PM.

Waldport Demonstration Garden (Co-Leads = Carita Edson, Sandy Mathis & Shereen Rowland)



Photo Credit: Sandy Mathis)



Pictured Sandy Mathis, Tom Green, and Carita Edson Photo credit: Trish Riley



Pictured (left to right) Julie Erickson, Tom Green, Carita Edson, Cathi Block, Jill Johnson. Photo credit: Sandy Mathis

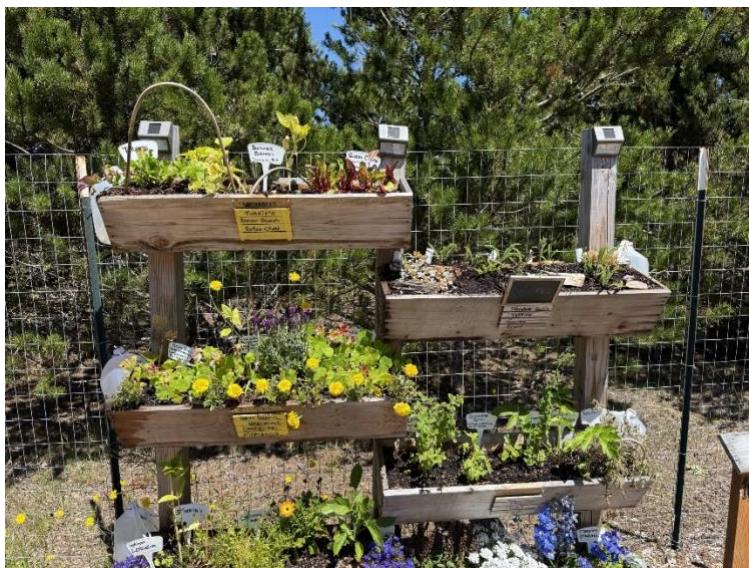


Photo credit: Stormi Dykes

The garden will soon be inundated with cherry tomatoes, beans, zucchini and other summer squash. The strawberries are about done. The Seaside variety has wonderful flavor. The herb bed was pruned and now has nice fresh growth. Members planted four cherry tomato types using two different planting methods. Two using the traditional deep planting method and two extra tall plants using a horizontal trench method. They are all about the same height now and just starting to ripen fruits.

Member Tom Green reworked the big gate to keep it from sagging. The clematis vines have new growth on the arbor that he built. The regular Garden Workday is Wednesdays 11am - 1pm.

NEW LCMGA WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED

Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Association

Our Mission:
Serve Lincoln County by promoting research-based sustainable gardening practices.

How We Serve

Education
Sharing our expertise is a top priority. We host live classes and workshops to the public throughout the year. We also have archives of past presentations in case you would like to download or view them.
[Learn about our education programs and how to schedule a presentation.](#)

Master Gardener™ Program
OSU Extension Master Gardeners are volunteer educators, neighbors, and on-the-ground researchers who serve their community with solid training in science-based, sustainable gardening and a love of lifelong learning.
[Find out how to become a Master Gardener.](#)

Plant Clinic Help
Have a gardening question? Visit the Master Gardener™ Plant Clinic, call us, or send us an email with your questions or problems.
[Contact us for gardening help.](#)

Events and Calendar
Lincoln County Master Gardeners host a variety of community events including apprentice presentations, demonstration garden open houses, symposiums and more.
[See our event and gardening calendars.](#)

Coming Events

Apple Talk & Tasting: Which Apples to Grow on the Oregon Coast?
400 SE College Way, South Beach, Oregon, USA
September 26, 2025

Screen Shot by Larry King

LCMGA is excited to announce that the new website has officially gone live! While our familiar URL will stay the same — <https://www.orcoastmga.org> — just about everything else has been refreshed, reimagined, and rebuilt. Per LCMGA Member, Webmaster, and Web Designer Larry King, “The new website is packed with great features designed to make things easier, more engaging, and with a community focus.:

Better Event Management

We've integrated with **Eventn**, a top-notch event and ticketing system. This means you'll be able to RSVP or get tickets to our events in just a few clicks. Plus, we now have a shiny new calendar with both public and private views — super helpful for planning and staying in the loop.

Smarter Email Communication

Thanks to our new connection with **MailerLite**, we can send email updates that are faster, more reliable, and look great on any device. It also allows us to grow our reach while keeping things simple behind the scenes.

Fresh Content from OSU

Our site will soon pull in selected **OSU news articles and blog posts** via RSS feed. That means fresh, relevant content will appear automatically — no need to go hunting for it! OSU will begin providing this content service shortly after the website launch.

Easier Member Blogging

Want to share your gardening adventures or insights? You can now write and submit blog posts directly on the website. If you can type, you can blog — no tech skills required.

For the Public and for Us

The site has two faces: one public-facing, with easy access to information about our classes, workshops, demonstration gardens, and the Master Gardener™ program itself — and one private area (password-protected) with resources just for Master Gardeners, including licensing info, a private calendar, and more.

And we haven't even mentioned the look and feel! The whole site has a **"green and casual" vibe** — modern, fresh, and easy on the eyes. It proudly features our beautiful LCMGA logo and includes inspiring gardening quotes on every page.”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Pictured: Julie Roth-Carter and Mary Jane Bonelitz Photo credit: Stormi Dykes



Pictured: Stormi Dykes and Kristi Kind Photo credit: Mary Jane Bonelitz



Pictured (left to right) Janice Smith, Sharon Busby, Cheri Rice, Julie Eagleson, and Carla Clark Photo credit: Julie Roth-Carter

LCMGA MGs/Apprentices participated in the following community events since 06/19/25:

- June 19/Central Coast Beekeepers of Oregon Presentation: Tom Green & Trish Riley
- June 21/Pollinator Day @ Seaside Joy Garden: Joan Crall, Carita Edson, Jill Johnson, Julie Roth-Carter (third photo above)
- June 28/Newport Farmers Market: Sharon Busby, Carla Clark, Julie Eagleson, Ross McCann, Cheri Rice, Janice Smith
- July 12/Newport Farmers Market: Trish Anderson, Carla Clark, Jill Johnson, Mary Lumley, Ross McCann, Marlenee Shapiro
- July 26/Newport Farmers Market: Pam Crobar, Carrie Davis, Gary Dorris, Linda Mallinoff, Renee Patton, Janice Smith
- July 26/Tel-tvm' Volunteer Day: Mary Jane Bonelitz, Stormi Dykes, Kristi Kind, Julie Roth-Carter (first and second photos above)
- August 1/Garden Tour: Gary Dorris (host), Julie Roth-Carter & Laura Strom (organizers)
- August 9/Newport Farmers Market: Kathy Burke, Sharon Busby, Carrie Davis, Gary Dorris, Jill Johnson, Ross McCann

Total community face to face contacts for June, July, and August 2025 are approximately 300.

NEW The Newport Public Library has requested a partnership with LCMGA for the purpose of providing quarterly gardening education to adult community members. Member Natasha Knight is the project lead and has been working with library staff to bring this to fruition. So far, she has planned three classes. Fall quarter, Cathi Block will be presenting Cloche Building and Usage. Julie Roth-Carter will be presenting Gardening with Native Plants in the winter quarter and in the spring, Janice will dazzle the audience with Pests in the Garden, Friends or Foe. Presentations will be 45 minutes with a 15-minute Q and A. This partnership with the library will provide us with another great opportunity to share our knowledge about sustainable gardening with our community!

NEW The LCMGA Education and Outreach Committee, in partnership with the Publicity Committee, has been hard at work on a radio show that airs on KYAQ Newport 91.7 on Fridays around both noon and 4PM, after the news hours. Each episode is an interview focusing on a particular topic as well as seasonal gardening tips and any current event promotions. Past broadcasts will also be uploaded to the newly renovated website.

ECCO- Based Plant Clinic

Plant Clinic moved to its regular season on April 1! Regular season is 9AM-Noon, Tuesdays & Thursdays, at the OSU Extension Service office. This schedule will continue through October.

Summer staffing has been good. LCMGA received an ok from Mary Jo Detwiler to use pre-recorded ECCO training videos. Terry DeJongh and Stormi Dykes developed a use of pesticide/herbicide statement to include in Plant Clinic correspondence: "OSU Extension Service advocates a least toxic approach to horticultural control that will result in safe, effective

management. If you do opt to use a pesticide/herbicide, please make sure that it is registered and can be legally used in Oregon for the specific purpose being considered. You should also carefully follow the directions on the pesticide/herbicide label as well as published OSU recommendations.”

Launch of the Lincoln County Master Gardener™ Fall 2025 OCCC Education Series as Promoted through the Fall 2025 Catch the Wave Catalog

The LCMGA classes are listed below. Here's a link to the catalog. See pages 14 and 15
https://issuu.com/occc/docs/catch_the_wave_fall_2025

Apple Talk & Tasting Instructors: MGs Joan Crall & Steve Vogel

Friday, September 26, 3:00 – 5:00 pm OSU Extension Service Demo Garden, South Beach OCCC campus.

Winter Cover Crops for the Home Garden Instructors: MGs Carita Edson, Sandy Mathis & Shereen Rowland

Saturday, September 27, Noon – 2:00 pm Location: OSU Extension Service Demo Garden, Waldport OCCC campus

Challenges of Coastal Gardening Instructors: MGs Cathi Block and friends

Saturday, October 4, 10:00 – Noon Location: OCCC Lincoln City Community Room

Growing Vegetables at the Coast Instructors: MGs Carita Edson and Marlene Shapiro

Friday October 10, 1:00 – 2:30 pm Location: Waldport Community Room & OSU Extension Service Demo Garden Date:

The Return of the Attack of the Killer Invasives Instructor: MG Larry King

Saturday, October 11, 1:00 – 3:00 pm Location: OSU Extension Service Office, 1211 SE Bay Blvd., Newport, OR

Growing Garlic on the Oregon Coast Instructor: MG Joan Crall Friday,

Friday October 17, 2:00 – 4:00 pm South Beach OCCC Campus

Creepy Crawlies - Friends or Foes? Instructor: MG Janice Smith

Friday, October 24, 2:00 – 3:30 pm South Beach OCCC Campus

Universal Design in the Home Garden Instructor: MGs Julie Roth-Carter & Martha Mills

Samaritan Health Education Center, 740 SW 9th Street, Newport, Oregon November 7 from 10:00 – 11:30

Invasive Pests: Threats to Oregon Forests, Native Trees and Native Plants Instructor: Dan Stark, Assistant Professor of Practice for the OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension

Friday, November 7, 1:00 – 2:30 pm North Campus, Lincoln City

LCMGA MEMBER GARDEN TOUR

On August 1st LCMGA member Gary Dorris hosted an Open House Tour of his garden in Toledo. The tour was a great success with 22 MGs and 2 Apprentices in attendance. Gary was applauded for his beautiful, productive garden and thanked for his inspiring innovations and creative garden design. Going forward, several LCMGA members will hopefully open their home gardens for LCMGA tours.



Pictured (left to right): Julie Roth-Carter, Cathi Block, Shereen Rowland, Julie Eagleson, Anne Irving, Janice Smith Jill Johnson, and Ann Geyer. Photo Credit: Stormi Dykes



Pictured (left to right): Trish Riley, Julie Roth-Carter, Gary Dorris, Tom Green, Janice Smith. Photo credit: Stormi Dykes



Pictured (left to right): Apprentice Julie Ericksen, and MGs Sandy Mathis, and Stormi Dykes with Julie Roth-Carter and Tom Green in the background. Photo credit: Janice Smith

Polk County Master Gardener Association Inspiration Garden Tour

On June 14 LCMGA members toured the Polk County Inspiration Garden. The Inspiration Garden is “a seven-acre demonstration garden developed and maintained by the OSU Polk County Master Gardeners and operated in cooperation with the City of Independence, Inspiration Garden is among the city’s most successful urban renewal projects, and it’s most inspirational!” PCMGA <https://polkmga.org/inspiration-garden/> <https://www.ci.independence.or.us/mt-fir-park-inspiration-garden/>



Pictured (left to right): LCMGA Members Carita Edson, Sharon Busby, Gary Dorris, PCMGA Tour Guide, and Cathi Block. Photo credit: Janice Smith

OSU Extension Service Master Gardener™ Training Program | Lincoln County - 2025 Apprentice Projects

The Apprentice Training Program is well under way at this point, with eleven apprentices who have completed their 40+ hours of foundational education, passed their Final Exam, and are now moving into the Volunteer Service Hours components of their graduation requirements.

Each Apprentice is assigned to one of the three Lincoln County Demonstration Gardens and is responsible for a project that will help them learn about a particular horticultural area of their choosing - while providing the opportunity to educate the community about their process/results. A description of their projects follows.

Lincoln City

- Stephanie Matthews: "Worm Poo - Do Your Plants Love It?"
- Meredith Meyer: "Sensory Garden for Accessibility"
- Cheri Rice: "Value vs. Cost of Dwarf Vegetables in Small Spaces"

South Beach

- Daniel Alvarez: "Elevated Vertical Gardening"
- Donna Cressy: "Beautiful Gardens Can Be Edible"
- Pam Crobar: "Carnivorous Plant Bog"
- Derek Robinson: "You Shell Not Pass - aka Using Native Plants to Deter Slugs from Native Edibles"
- Ray Springer: "Solar-Powered Automated Drip Irrigation"

Waldport

- Julie Erickson: "Carbs vs. Caffeine: Slug Reduction Strategies"
- Amy Shoulders: "Do Marigolds Help Prevent Slugs & Snails from Eating the Veggies? A theory we can (?) Put to Bed."

The Apprentices will present information of about their demonstration projects as follows.

- Lincoln City Demo Garden (OCCC North Campus, 3788 SE High School Drive, Lincoln City): Thursday, 09/04, 2025; 5-6:30PM
- South Beach Demo Garden (OCCC Main Campus, 400 SE College Way, South Beach): Friday, 09/19, 2025: 3:30-5:30PM
- Waldport Demo Garden (OCCC South Campus 3120 S. Crestline Dr., Waldport Saturday 8/30, 2025 11:00 to 1:00 PM

LCMGA looks forward to welcoming these apprentices as new LCMGA members in November!



2025 Apprentices (left to right) Amy Shoulders and Julie Ericksen presenting their Demonstration Projects at the Waldport Demonstration Garden. Photo credit: Trish Riley

2025 OSU Extension Master Gardener™ Volunteer Awards

STATEWIDE AWARDS

STATEWIDE MASTER GARDENERS OF THE YEAR

Richard Bertram, Umatilla County



Richard Bertram exemplifies the spirit of the Master Gardener Program. A gifted teacher and generous mentor, he shares his knowledge of propagation and hydroponics through volunteer trainings, webinars, and hands-on tours of his garden and systems. Richard has taught for the Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up series, Clackamas County's 10-Minute University, and the Joy of Gardening conference.

He serves as a steady, thoughtful leader—stepping in as Umatilla County president during a difficult transition and contributing to projects like the bylaws committee, the South Hill demonstration garden, and the Pendleton Farmers' Market tasting booth. He's currently leading efforts to launch a new Pendleton Community Garden.

Richard gives freely of his time and resources, offering plant starts for educational events, donating fig trees to community gardens, and mentoring new trainees. When the Pendleton Library needed advice on a new garden space, he toured the site and shared expert guidance. His home has hosted educational meetings and even helped welcome new staff and volunteers.

Despite his deep expertise, Richard remains humble and encouraging. When others hesitate to try something new, he shares his own failures and reminds them that's how learning happens.

Always ready to teach, always ready to serve—Richard makes everyone around him feel supported and inspired. Our county, our state, and our program are better because of him.

Linda Brim, Clatsop County



Since joining the first Clatsop County Master Gardener class in 1987, Linda Brim has been a cornerstone of the Master Gardener Program. With nearly four decades of leadership, education, and mentorship, she has consistently demonstrated her passion for horticulture and community service.

Linda has taught public classes on everything from ornamental plant care to slug management, and she led the Annuals and Perennials module for Master Gardener training for over 20 years. Her dedication extends beyond teaching—she's held every leadership role in the Clatsop County Master Gardener Association and has been instrumental in shaping programs like the Spring Garden Seminar, our demonstration garden, and the county scholarship program.

Her vision and guidance were vital in transforming the fairgrounds demonstration garden into a vibrant, inclusive, educational space. Even during COVID-19, Linda rallied fellow Master Gardeners to reimagine the space, helping implement accessible pathways, thematic plantings, and outdoor learning areas.

Linda generously mentors new volunteers, mediates with care, and shares her vast knowledge of ornamental plants and sustainable gardening. From trialing new techniques like soil solarization to advising plant clinic volunteers and presenting on local radio, she meets every opportunity to educate with enthusiasm.

A tireless advocate for youth education and community gardening, Linda is a true trailblazer whose impact is felt in every corner of Clatsop County's Master Gardener Program—and beyond.

STATEWIDE MASTER GARDENERS OF THE YEAR

Barbara Low, Jackson County



Barbara Low exemplifies what it means to be a Master Gardener leader, educator, and advocate. Since 2020, she has served as President-Elect and President of the Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA), bringing extraordinary dedication and vision to her role.

Barbara has chaired or co-chaired multiple working groups, including Member Services, Marketing & Technology, Fundraising, Winter Dreams Summer Gardens, and the Spring Garden Fair. She co-directs the Practicum education program, serves as a speaker for the JCMGA Speakers Bureau, writes for and edits the Garden Beet newsletter, and mentors at the Plant Clinic every week.

She's a tireless ambassador for the Master Gardener Program, staffing the JCMGA booth at numerous community events and supporting efforts like Plant A Row, which donates fresh produce to local food pantries. Her educational leadership extends to speaking at the Joy of Gardening conference and guiding Master Gardener trainees through practicum classes.

Barbara's leadership style is marked by integrity, humility, and grace. She joined multiple working groups during her leadership journey to better understand the inner workings of the organization and foster collaboration. Her support during the dissolution of the Josephine County Master Gardener Association was critical, demonstrating her compassion and commitment to the broader MG community.

Barbara's impact is wide-reaching and deeply felt. Her energy, kindness, and service to the Master Gardener mission continue to inspire her fellow volunteers and strengthen the program across southern Oregon.

Julie Stanbery, Douglas County



Julie Stanbery has been a cornerstone of the Douglas County Master Gardener Program since 1992, shaping its growth through more than three decades of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication.

Julie has served in nearly every major role within the county's association, including President, Plant Clinic Coordinator, and longtime manager of the Horticultural Learning Center (HLC)—a unique and standout project among Oregon's Master Gardener initiatives. Under her leadership, the HLC has flourished into a thriving hub for education and community service.

Julie is a trusted mentor, helping new trainees gain confidence and find their place within the program. She teaches five pruning classes annually and plays a key role in developing training opportunities and educational programs. She is also instrumental in guiding the Discovery Garden in Douglas County, working closely with Extension faculty to plan and facilitate impactful programming.

Beyond her practical knowledge and organizational talent, Julie has worked to align the association's mission with that of OSU Extension, ensuring lasting, mission-driven success. Her ability to lead with consistency and care has made her a role model across the state.

Julie's decades of service reflect a deep commitment not only to gardening but to growing a strong, supportive community. Her impact is felt in every corner of the Douglas County program and far beyond. As former Extension faculty Steve Renquist notes, "Few have led their county and state programs with such commitment and dedication as Julie."

STATEWIDE GROWING AND BELONGING AWARDS

Carole Hardy, Multnomah County



Carole Hardy brings deep knowledge, gentle leadership, and a commitment to community to her work with the Multnomah County Master Gardener Program. A forest ecologist and environmental science educator, Carole has developed inclusive, research-based educational programming that expands the Master Gardener mission in meaningful ways.

Carole partnered with Title I schools like Arleta and Marysville Elementary to create a series of family workshops at the Multnomah County Demonstration Garden. These hands-on sessions, reaching over 250 students and parents annually, connect gardening with ecology, food systems, and environmental stewardship.

She also launched the free “Learn in the Garden” workshop series, opening the Demo Garden to the public on Sundays, offering practical, seasonal classes on pollinators, native plants, climate resilience, food gardening, and more. Carole has grown community partnerships with nonprofits like Feed the Mass, All Saints Episcopal Food Pantry, and Wisdom of the Elders.

To increase belonging among volunteers, Carole extended Demo Garden hours to evenings and weekends, making participation more accessible. She’s cultivated a space where newer and seasoned volunteers collaborate, learn, and lead together.

Carole’s impact continues through her work on the Garden Future initiative and new curriculum for 10-Minute University™, supporting education for all levels of gardeners. Her efforts exemplify what it means to foster a sense of place, purpose, and belonging—planting seeds of knowledge that grow strong community roots.

Kristie Kalb & Stephen Kalb, Marion County



Kristie and Stephen Kalb are champions of inclusive, community-rooted garden education. After completing the Seed to Supper program in 2016, they launched local classes throughout Marion and Polk Counties—sharing food-growing skills with individuals facing food insecurity. In response to growing community needs, they expanded the curriculum into Grow Your Own on a Budget, offering broader access to affordable gardening education.

Their classes are delivered evenings and weekends, directly within neighborhoods—eliminating barriers like transportation and meeting people where they are. From churches to apartment complexes to schools, the Kalbs continually cultivate community partnerships, including with Marion-Polk Food Share.

Both Kristie, a former nurse, and Stephen, a healthcare administrator, bring deep listening, humility, and teaching expertise to every interaction. They foster trust and belonging—especially among underrepresented communities. Their inclusive mindset led them to recruit Tomas, a trilingual community member who now reaches new audiences through Spanish-language outreach and even Reddit.

Kristie and Stephen regularly speak at Master Gardener trainings, recruit new volunteers, and mentor trainees. Their presence is welcoming, their approach adaptive, and their reach ever-expanding.

According to faculty, “Kristie and Stephen are the embodiment of this award. They are passionate about inclusivity and work hard to include everyone in their teaching. They have taught dozens of residents how to grow vegetables—and they generously mentor the next generation of gardeners.”

With compassion and commitment, the Kalbs are growing not just gardens—but community.

STATEWIDE BEHIND THE SCENES AWARDS

Colleta (Colet) Allen, Jackson County



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2012, Colet Allen has been a quiet powerhouse behind nearly every major effort of the Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA). A long-time board member and dedicated volunteer, Colet's contributions often happen behind the scenes—but their impact is felt across the region.

She is deeply involved in key working groups including Spring Garden Fair, Winter Dreams Summer Gardens, Membership, Community Outreach, and Events. She coordinates speakers for the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau, organizing presentations for clubs, nonprofits, and libraries throughout the valley. Her leadership has brought Master Gardener education to wider audiences through OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and local library systems.

Colet was instrumental in starting Friends of the Gardens, helping to organize public garden tours and grow community awareness. During Master Gardener training, she volunteers weekly as a Garden Bud, mentoring new students. She also plays a key role in coordinating graduation ceremonies, picnics, and other special events.

Colet doesn't seek the spotlight, but she ensures the stage is set—every time. Whether she's managing schedules, coordinating speakers, or developing new outreach opportunities, she is helping the Master Gardener mission grow strong roots in the community.

Thanks to Colet's vision and dedication, thousands of residents across Jackson County have access to quality gardening education. Her tireless work, positive attitude, and behind-the-scenes brilliance make her an ideal recipient of this statewide recognition.

Stephanie Hazen, Marion County



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2018, Stephanie Hazen has poured her time, talent, and passion into public education and outreach—especially around pollinators, native plants, and wildlife. A retired veterinarian and Master Mellitologist, Stephanie is a tireless behind-the-scenes force in Marion County and across the state.

Stephanie creates and maintains displays used by other Master Gardeners, trains volunteers in public speaking, and coordinates materials for plant clinics and tabling events. Her hands-on “Bee vs. Fly vs. Wasp” display is a hit at the Oregon State Fair, Ag Fest, and the Englewood Forest Festival, captivating children and families alike. In 2023, she led the county's first Pollinator Symposium in partnership with Marion Soil & Water Conservation District—an event that drew hundreds—and is already planning future events.

She photographs, writes, and curates educational slide shows used statewide and shares seed packets, made and assembled by hand, complete with custom plant photos and growing instructions. She and her husband, Ray Temple, raise Monarchs, grow milkweed, and design pollinator gardens.

In 2024 alone, Stephanie logged over 370 volunteer hours, reached 1,900 contacts, and traveled more than 1,600 miles in service to the Master Gardener Program. She also helps coordinate educational programs with Salem Audubon, Ankeny Wildlife Refuge, and Heritage Seedlings—netting donations of native seeds and seedlings to support outreach and plant sales.

Stephanie's dedication, generosity, and relentless commitment to science-based outreach make her a model behind-the-scenes contributor and a true ambassador for the Master Gardener mission.

STATEWIDE BEHIND THE SCENES AWARDS

Dan McDonald, Washington County



Dan McDonald is the driving force behind the Washington County Master Gardener Association's Grow 1 Give 1 (G1G1) project—an outreach initiative that connects food pantry clients with resources to grow their own food. Under Dan's leadership, the program has flourished: in 2024, Master Gardeners grew and distributed 753 plants, 407 grow bags with soil, and 1,700 seed packets. Volunteers connected with 200 community members and provided garden education to 915 participants across seven food pantries. For 2025, the program is expanding to serve nine sites and will give away more than 1,100 plants.

Dan coordinates more than two dozen volunteer growers, developed a class to train them in vegetable propagation, and leads the WCMGA Learning Garden's vegetable team. His behind-the-scenes efforts build confidence in volunteers and expand access to fresh food and garden knowledge throughout the community.

In addition to G1G1, Dan has served two years on the WCMGA board as Business Manager, teaches classes for the public and fellow Master Gardeners, and is a core leader of Gardenfest, the chapter's annual fundraising event. Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2020, he has contributed over 1,100 volunteer hours—nearly 500 of them in 2024 alone.

Dan exemplifies the mission of the Master Gardener Program through his dedication, leadership, and commitment to community food access. His steady behind-the-scenes work has created meaningful change for both volunteers and the communities they serve. Congratulations, Dan!

COUNTY AWARDS

BAKER COUNTY

Melinda (Mindy) Sherrieb: Baker County Master Gardener of the Year



We honor Melinda “Mindy” Sherrieb with the County Master Gardener of the Year Award in recognition of her 17 years of devoted service. Mindy became a Master Gardener in 2008 and stepped into the role of Volunteer Master Gardener Coordinator in 2012. Her leadership, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the program shaped generations of volunteers in Baker County.

During the challenges of COVID-19, Mindy’s creativity and determination kept the program going—shifting coursework and presentations online so learning could continue. She nurtured and mentored every new volunteer, helping each person grow into their role with confidence and connection.

Mindy’s dedication extended well beyond gardening. She was a community builder, volunteering with CASA, the museum, the Chamber of Commerce, and countless local events. She had a remarkable ability to connect people and organizations in quiet, effective ways. One project with Mindy often turned into three more—because she saw opportunities for collaboration everywhere, and made them happen.

As Extension staff, we saw how her reach extended far beyond our office. Her efforts also supported youth through 4-H, where her example and guidance helped shape the next generation.

Mindy passed away in March, and her absence is deeply felt. But her impact remains—in the gardens she helped grow, the lives she touched, and the connections she made. This award honors her lasting legacy, her generous heart, and the way she wove so many people together through her work.

Thank you, Mindy.

BENTON COUNTY

Susan Hoffman: Benton County Master Gardener of the Year



Susan Hoffman has been a cornerstone of the Benton County Master Gardener Program since 2012. As a long-standing member of the Insights Into Gardening Committee, she has expertly coordinated volunteers for the annual event, managing last-minute changes with grace and a calm presence. Her people-first approach ensures that everyone feels valued, creating a positive environment that brings out the best in the team.

Susan’s passion extends into youth education through her leadership at the Mountain View School garden. She has revitalized the garden program by partnering with teachers to plan lessons and engage students in hands-on gardening. From indoor winter sessions growing microgreens and sprouting beans, to organizing outdoor garden events in the spring, Susan brings creativity, dedication, and joy to the classroom. She ensures that all materials are provided and volunteers are supported.

Susan’s energetic spirit and kindness are felt by everyone she works with. Her commitment has transformed the school garden into a vibrant community project that connects children and families with the joys of growing food. Her contributions reflect the very best of what it means to be a Master Gardener.

Deb Kern: Benton County Behind the Scenes Award



Deb Kern embodies the spirit of quiet dedication that keeps the Benton County Master Gardener Program thriving. With over a decade of service, Deb is the kind of volunteer who steps in without fanfare and gets things done. Her reliability, consistency, and humility make her an invaluable presence across all areas of the program.

Whether she's staffing the Plant Clinic Desk or supporting the annual Plant Sale, Deb shows up ready to help and always delivers. Her steady presence behind the scenes ensures that key operations run smoothly and successfully, often without others realizing just how much she has contributed. She doesn't seek the spotlight—she simply sees what needs to be done and does it with care and grace.

Deb's quiet leadership and steadfast support exemplify the core values of the Master Gardener mission. Her work may not always be front and center, but its impact is far-reaching, helping to build trust with the community and strength within the program itself. Benton County Master Gardeners are better because of Deb Kern, and this award is a heartfelt recognition of her dedication and impact.

CENTRAL GORGE HOOD RIVER COUNTY

Jennifer Harty: Central Gorge Master Gardener of the Year



Jennifer Harty has been the heart of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association (CGMGA), where her leadership, collaboration, and vision have profoundly shaped the program's direction and outreach. A Master Gardener since 2006, Jen currently serves her second term as chapter president, after previously holding roles as President-Elect and President. Her thoughtful leadership has guided CGMGA to expand its community education and deepen its connections across the region.

Jennifer spearheaded the expansion of Garden Gathering Workshops—now held twice monthly at local libraries and the Extension Office—ensuring that educational gardening content reaches diverse audiences across both sides of the Gorge. She also led the development of CGMGA's new website and formed the Educational Outreach Committee, coordinating community event participation, monthly articles in the Columbia Gorge News, and Spanish-language outreach.

From co-leading pollinator garden development to teaching in local schools, mentoring new trainees, and creating a MailChimp newsletter to keep the community informed, Jennifer touches nearly every CGMGA initiative. Her ability to bring vision and intentionality to each effort—while remaining warm, curious, and collaborative—makes her an exceptional leader.

Jennifer's contributions reflect a deep commitment to equity, education, and engagement. She embodies what it means to serve both the community and the Master Gardener mission, and her impact will be felt for years to come. She is a truly deserving recipient of the 2025 Central Gorge Master Gardener of the Year award.

Carol Brown: Central Gorge Behind the Scenes Award



Carol Brown joined the Central Gorge Master Gardeners in 2023 and immediately made a lasting impact through her drive, creativity, and behind-the-scenes leadership. She became an integral member of the FISH Food Bank Garden steering committee, drawn to the garden's mission of growing produce for food-insecure community members. From the start, Carol brought a spirit of curiosity and determination, quickly identifying an opportunity to enhance the garden's small composting area.

She threw herself into research, even experimenting with worm composting systems at home over the winter. Her vision resulted in a large-scale composting and vermicomposting system at the garden, transforming food waste into nutrient-rich soil and educational value. Carol recruited new Master Gardener trainees to the project and created interpretive signage so garden visitors could learn about sustainable composting practices.

Carol is a natural educator whose energy inspires others. She shares her knowledge freely with fellow Master Gardeners, community members, and visitors of all ages. She's not only hands-on in the dirt—leading Saturday work parties and mentoring new volunteers—but she's also constantly asking how the garden can improve and where her help is most needed.

Though Carol often works behind the scenes, the ripple effects of her work are felt throughout the garden, the program, and the wider community. Her enthusiasm, generosity, and impact make her a truly deserving recipient of the 2025 Central Gorge Behind the Scenes Award.

CENTRAL OREGON—CROOK, DESCHUTES AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

Tim Schindele: Central Oregon Master Gardener of the Year



Tim Schindele has been a deeply engaged and respected Master Gardener volunteer since 2016. Known for his reliability, thoughtfulness, and collaborative spirit, Tim has played a key role in the strength and success of the Central Oregon chapter. He has served in a wide range of leadership roles, including Treasurer, Vice President, Events Coordinator, mentor, and trainer.

Tim's monthly newsletter column on advanced education opportunities is a valued resource for fellow volunteers, and his guidance during Master Gardener training makes a lasting impression on new trainees. He leads the highly anticipated June Garden Fair with precision and care, ensuring each detail is thoughtfully executed and each volunteer feels confident and supported. He also coordinates the chapter's annual summer picnic and field trips, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and connection among members and their families.

Beyond his formal roles, Tim is a kind and steady presence who models how to lead with humility and effectiveness. He's not only generous with his time—he's also generous with ideas, frequently suggesting ways to improve the volunteer experience for others. His warmth and dedication make him an anchor in the program and a trusted voice among peers.

Tim's many contributions have created lasting impact in both the garden and the community. The Central Oregon Master Gardener program is stronger because of his commitment and care.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

John and Amelia Wilbur: Clackamas County Master Gardeners of the Year



John and Amelia Wilbur have been pillars of the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA) for nearly two decades. Their enduring commitment to education, service, and leadership has helped shape the organization's success—especially during a time of immense change.

During the pandemic, John and Amelia provided steady and visionary leadership, serving consecutively as CCMGA Presidents. John guided the chapter through the crisis with calm adaptability, helping to shift programming online and maintain meaningful engagement through projects like Grow an Extra Row and 10-Minute University. When Amelia assumed the presidency, she prioritized inclusivity, revitalizing community education events like Garden Discovery Day and Fall into Gardening while supporting hybrid access for members.

Together, the Wilburs have built and sustained CCMGA's pH testing service, providing free soil testing and educational materials at public events for more than 15 years. Amelia, affectionately known as the "Tomato Lady," has contributed countless educational hours through the 10-Minute University team and continues to reach new audiences via science-based gardening webinars. Each year, she and John grow and donate over 60 tomato plants, providing hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to local food banks.

More than just program leaders, the Wilburs are thoughtful mentors and community stewards. They've inspired a generation of volunteers, cultivated partnerships, and strengthened CCMGA's mission at every turn. Their dedication has left an indelible mark on the organization—and the greater Clackamas community.

Nancy Muir: Clackamas County Growing and Belonging Award



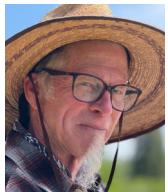
Nancy Muir has dedicated more than a decade of her service as a Master Gardener to ensuring that education, healthy food, and opportunity are available to all—especially those experiencing food insecurity. Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2011, Nancy has led with compassion, community spirit, and a deep commitment to equity.

For 11 years, Nancy led the Grow an Extra Row Learning and Giving Garden in Clackamas County. Under her guidance, the garden became a powerful community hub—producing over 5,000 pounds of fresh vegetables annually for local food pantries. She expanded garden space, welcomed every volunteer with her signature "come when you can, stay as long as you want" invitation, and mentored dozens of new interns with science-based gardening methods and genuine warmth.

Nancy was also a foundational volunteer for the Seed to Supper program, helping families in underserved communities gain the skills and confidence to grow their own food. She built trust as an educator and recently re-engaged with the program as it relaunched under OSU Extension, mentoring fellow Master Gardeners and reconnecting with past community partners.

Nancy's steadfast belief in "works of mercy" has shaped every aspect of her service. Whether leading harvests, delivering curriculum, or simply listening to someone's story, she meets people where they are—and helps them grow. Her legacy is one of nourishment, belonging, and empowerment.

Kirk Pearson: Clackamas County Behind the Scenes Award



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2018, Kirk Pearson has quietly become one of the most dependable and impactful contributors to the Clackamas County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA). With a sharp eye for what's needed and a willingness to act, Kirk supports CCMGA's efforts not for recognition, but out of genuine commitment to the mission.

Kirk has been a dedicated volunteer with the Spring Garden Fair committee, helping to ensure the success of one of CCMGA's most important annual fundraisers. His calm presence, thoughtful observations, and consistent follow-through make him a steady and valued member of any team.

Most notably, Kirk has stepped up to lead the Grow an Extra Row (GAER) Giving and Learning Garden. Under his guidance, the garden has continued to thrive—providing hands-on learning opportunities for Master Gardeners and community volunteers, and producing thousands of pounds of fresh food for neighbors facing hunger and food insecurity. His leadership style is inclusive and kind, creating a garden culture that welcomes everyone and fosters confidence and collaboration.

Kirk's work is often done quietly and without fanfare—but its impact is unmistakable. He models what it means to serve with humility, consistency, and care. In every sense, he embodies the spirit of the Behind the Scenes Award, and his efforts have helped grow both the garden and the greater Master Gardener community.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Stephanie Young: Clatsop County Master Gardener of the Year



Stephanie Young is a driving force behind the recent success of the Clatsop County Master Gardener Association's South County efforts. A 2023 graduate of the Master Gardener program, Stephanie brought warmth, creativity, and strong organizational skills to every project she touched, logging an impressive 117 volunteer hours in her first year.

She co-led the Seaside Wednesday Market outreach, where her eye for detail and welcoming demeanor created a polished, approachable booth that invited community members to engage and learn. At the heart of her impact is her leadership in the Seaside Railroad Learning Garden. Stephanie's design contributions—including beautiful archways, trellises, and a cold frame—serve as inspiring examples of creative, resourceful gardening techniques. Her transformation of the garden's supply storage from cluttered to streamlined has made it easier for volunteers to access what they need.

Stephanie also played a major role in managing the seed libraries in Seaside and Warrenton, helping bring free seeds and garden knowledge to the broader community. Her thoughtful displays and clear educational signage extended Master Gardener resources beyond the garden, reaching new audiences and expanding access.

Whether hosting meetings, mentoring new volunteers, or watering the garden midweek, Stephanie always shows up with a smile and a readiness to contribute. Her leadership and generosity have helped grow not just gardens, but a sense of belonging. Clatsop County Master Gardeners are fortunate to have her.

Janet Willoughby: Clatsop County Growing and Belonging Award



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2018, Janet Willoughby has been a tireless advocate for expanding horticultural access in Seaside, a community often underserved in Clatsop County programming. In 2024, she helped launch the Seaside Railroad Learning Garden—an accessible, public-facing demonstration space located in downtown Seaside in partnership with the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. Janet has led the garden's team with energy and inclusion, hosting a ribbon-cutting educational event, building a compost bin for community gardeners, and installing engaging, educational signage throughout the beds.

Janet's work has had an extraordinary impact on volunteer engagement and community connection in South County. She has personally recruited and retained many new volunteers, creating a dedicated South County mentor group to help trainees feel supported and welcomed. Always attuned to the needs of others, Janet coordinates phone trees, gives rides to volunteers with transportation challenges, and ensures that no one is left out—whether from distance or unfamiliarity.

Through her 300+ volunteer hours, Janet has promoted Master Gardener programs at the Seaside Farmers Market and helped the public access relevant gardening information tailored to the North Coast's unique climate. Her warmth, outreach, and personal invitations have made a lasting difference. Janet is not only a key leader in our programming but also a vital connector who exemplifies what it means to grow community. We are lucky to have her.

Carla Lumbra: Clatsop County Behind the Scenes Award



Since joining the Master Gardener Program in 2020, Carla Lumbra has brought an incredible blend of commitment, positivity, and can-do spirit to her volunteer work. In 2024 alone, she logged over 100 hours, much of it in quiet, essential roles that keep our program thriving.

When a leadership gap emerged for the annual Plant Sale—a major event for the program—Carla stepped up to coordinate the facilities team, a task few were willing to take on. She worked closely with the fairgrounds, developed the site layout, and oversaw the massive logistics of setup and teardown. Her calm leadership under pressure ensured a smooth and successful event.

Carla's behind-the-scenes magic doesn't stop there. She's also a regular at the Alderbrook Learning Garden and the Demonstration Garden at the fairgrounds. Whether it's heavy lifting, soil work, or just the muddy details of keeping gardens flourishing, Carla is always the first to jump in—no complaints, just a smile.

She's the kind of volunteer every program dreams of: dependable, humble, and hardworking. Carla brings heart and joy to every task, embodying the spirit of service that makes the Master Gardener Program so special.

COOS COUNTY

Howard Wilson and Eric Sydnes: Coos County Master Gardeners of the Year



Howard Wilson (left, top) and Eric Sydnes (left, bottom) have each brought exceptional energy, knowledge, and dedication to the Master Gardener program. Both are generous with their time and always willing to jump in to teach, mentor, and support their fellow volunteers and the broader community.



Howard has taught multiple classes in local schools and shared his gardening expertise at this year's Earth Day event, inspiring the next generation of gardeners. He also partnered with an elementary school teacher to expand greenhouse use and launch a salad and herb garden, helping bring hands-on gardening into the classroom. Eric taught two well-received classes at the annual "Fertilize Your Mind" seminar and volunteered across three different community gardens to help prepare for educational events.

Both Howard and Eric served as mentors to the 2025 Master Gardener trainees, offering encouragement, expertise, and a welcoming presence that helped keep new volunteers engaged and on track to certification. Their leadership is especially meaningful in a program where male representation has historically been low—they model inclusive, approachable leadership and help foster a sense of belonging for all.

Whether supporting a plant clinic, helping at a special event, or digging into the dirt at a school or community garden, Howard and Eric are always there with enthusiasm and purpose. Their impact has been wide-reaching and deeply appreciated, making them both outstanding choices for County Master Gardeners of the Year.

Lorna Schilling: Coos County Growing and Belonging Award



Lorna Schilling brought a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to service when she joined the Coos County Master Gardener Program after many years of volunteering in Multnomah County. With over 25 years of involvement as a Master Gardener, Lorna's dedication to growing and belonging has had a lasting impact across communities.

Since relocating to Coos County, Lorna has worked to create a more welcoming and inclusive space for all. She draws on her experience serving diverse, underrepresented communities in a large urban area and thoughtfully shares ideas for adapting those approaches in a smaller, more rural setting. Her insights help bridge perspectives and open doors for new ways of thinking about community engagement and volunteer recruitment.

Lorna is a tireless advocate for the Master Gardener Program and continues to stay active in statewide efforts, maintaining strong ties to OMGA and her former Multnomah County cohort. Locally, she is known for warmly encouraging new members and for helping them feel seen and supported. She brings a generous spirit, a strong sense of purpose, and a genuine belief in the value of community service.

Her voice and presence have been a gift to Coos County, and her commitment to inclusive gardening education continues to shape our local program for the better. We are so grateful Lorna chose to bring her knowledge, heart, and passion to our corner of Oregon.

Ed Powers: Coos County Behind the Scenes Award



Ed Powers exemplifies the quiet strength and steady dedication that are the heart of the Master Gardener Program. While he may not seek the spotlight, his behind-the-scenes contributions are essential to the success of nearly every aspect of the Coos County program.

Year after year, Ed can be found supporting plant sales by growing high-quality plants, mentoring new trainees with patience and encouragement, and staffing outreach booths at the farmers market, county fair, and plant clinic. His commitment is unwavering and consistent—he shows up, lends a hand, and helps others succeed.

Ed also serves with other volunteer organizations, embodying a spirit of service that reaches beyond the Master Gardener community. His willingness to step up, lend his expertise, and promote the program wherever he goes has made him a respected and valued member of the team.

Those who work alongside Ed are continually inspired by his generosity, work ethic, and good humor. He doesn't just show up—he makes a difference.

We are proud to honor Ed Powers with the County Behind the Scenes Award in recognition of his tireless support and quiet leadership.

CURRY COUNTY

Frank Furtaw: County Master Gardener of the Year



Frank Furtaw has been a pillar of our plant propagation efforts since his earliest days as a Master Gardener. This year, he stepped up to lead the vegetable team for our annual plant sale—and thanks to his dedication and leadership, the effort flourished. From portioning out seeds and supplies to mentoring fellow growers and tracking every planting detail, Frank ensured that each step of the process was seamless. He even made multiple trips to check on plants, deliver materials, and monitor progress, all leading to one of our most successful plant sales yet.

But Frank's contributions go well beyond the greenhouse. With his woodworking skills, he created a vegetable wash station and a student workspace for the Little Bear Patch school garden—just one example of how he's always ready to jump in and build what's needed.

Frank doesn't wait to be asked—he notices what needs doing and gets it done. Whether helping the public troubleshoot vegetable issues or training fellow volunteers in safe tool use, Frank is generous with his time and knowledge. His reliability, attention to detail, and calm, helpful demeanor make him a deeply valued member of our Master Gardener community.

Frank's dedication embodies the heart of the program, and we're proud to recognize him as Master Gardener of the Year.

Kim Foster: Curry County Growing and Belonging Award



Kim Foster is a shining example of how Master Gardener volunteers can foster equity and belonging through hands-on education. Shortly after completing her Master Gardener training, Kim led a Seed to Supper course in Port Orford—specifically designed for low-income and food-insecure community members. With compassion and drive, she recruited 29 participants, making it the most attended class in the state.

Kim thoughtfully tailored the course to local needs, enriching the curriculum with hands-on demonstrations and inviting local Master Gardeners and community members to serve as guest educators. She went even further, securing grants and gift cards so that participants could access the tools and supplies needed to grow their own food. Her efforts broke down economic and cultural barriers to gardening education, helping people feel seen, supported, and empowered.

Kim's leadership also created meaningful roles for fellow Master Gardeners. By engaging volunteers as collaborators and co-teachers, she fostered a sense of shared mission, expanded the program's reach, and encouraged a culture of inclusive service.

Her work has brought new energy and visibility to an often-underserved region of the county and has inspired both new and longtime volunteers alike. Kim's service is horticulturally impactful, socially inclusive, and deeply rooted in community.

David Denney, Steve Myers: Curry County Behind the Scenes Award



David Denney and Steve Myers are honored with the Behind the Scenes Award for their exceptional work constructing the new greenhouse for Curry County Master Gardeners.

Faced with high contractor costs and limited availability, David and Steve put their personal home projects on hold and stepped up to lead the build themselves—saving the program over \$25,000. Working through difficult weather conditions, they contributed countless hours of direct labor, managed contractors, and tackled unexpected problems with skill, creativity, and determination.

As members of the Greenhouse and Garden Committee, their original plan was to hire out the work. But when that proved difficult and costly, they rolled up their sleeves and made it happen. They didn't just follow the plan—they improved it, strengthening the greenhouse structure and adding thoughtful upgrades along the way. Their commitment, craftsmanship, and teamwork are an inspiration to all. This greenhouse will serve generations of gardeners to come—and it wouldn't exist without David and Steve's hard work behind the scenes.

Thank you, David and Steve, for your extraordinary dedication!

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Geoff Puryear: Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year



Geoff Puryear has been a powerhouse volunteer since 2012, contributing over 1,335 hours to the Douglas County Master Gardener Program. His tireless dedication, creative energy, and deep expertise have made a lasting impact on nearly every aspect of our work.

Geoff designed and continues to maintain the beautiful xeriscape garden at the Discovery Garden, a beloved and educational example of low-water landscaping. He's also played a key role in developing and teaching public workshops, helping us share science-based gardening knowledge with our community.

A natural problem solver, Geoff used his design skills to create our Master Gardener logo and leads our signage committee. His meticulous work includes researching materials, plant names, and fabrication techniques to ensure every plant in our garden eventually has an informative and durable sign.

Most recently, Geoff built and manages our chapter's website—a major undertaking that reflects both his technical abilities and his passion for gardening education. The site has become an essential tool for outreach, program visibility, and internal communications.

Whether he's mentoring new volunteers, developing educational resources, or offering his steady leadership, Geoff brings heart, skill, and innovation to all he does. His contributions have elevated our program and inspired everyone around him.

We are grateful for Geoff's service and proud to honor him as the Douglas County Master Gardener of the Year.

Ed Barrett: Douglas County Behind the Scenes Award



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2021, Ed Barrett has become an essential contributor to the Douglas County Master Gardener program, offering both technical know-how and generous mentorship.

Ed played a key role in redesigning and launching our new composting system—a major undertaking that has significantly reduced our reliance on store-bought compost for plant sales. His expertise in welding and mechanics helped bring the project to life. He not only built the compost sifter but also designed shaker boards and operated the tractor to run the hydraulic system. Thanks to Ed's efforts, the system is now a core part of our sustainability practices and educational programming.

In addition to his behind-the-scenes technical work, Ed has been a dedicated mentor for new trainees, helping them feel welcomed, capable, and connected to the program. His calm, kind demeanor and thoughtful approach to teaching have made a lasting impression on those lucky enough to learn from him.

Ed never seeks the spotlight, but his impact is deeply felt. His willingness to step up, solve problems, and quietly support both people and projects makes him an ideal recipient of the Behind the Scenes Award.

JACKSON COUNTY

Barbara Low: Jackson County Master Gardener of the Year



Barbara Low exemplifies what it means to be a Master Gardener, combining leadership, service, and a deep commitment to education. Since 2020, she has served as President Elect and President of the Jackson County Master Gardener Association (JCMGA), all while actively participating in numerous working groups to better understand and support every part of the organization.

Barbara co-leads the Practicum Education Program and serves as a mentor in the Plant Clinic, providing hands-on support for new trainees. She plays key roles in Member Services, Marketing & Technology, Fundraising, and both the Winter Dreams Summer Gardens and Spring Garden Fair planning groups. She's also a speaker for the JCMGA Speakers Bureau and regularly staffs public events to promote the Master Gardener Program. As editor and contributor to the Garden Beet newsletter, Barbara helps connect and inform our community. She's also been instrumental in supporting regional partners, including assisting the Josephine County Master Gardener Association during their recent transition.

Barbara's leadership is grounded in kindness, integrity, humility, and grace. Her ability to guide, organize, and inspire others is unmatched, and her impact is felt across every layer of our program—from public outreach to internal mentorship.

We are proud to recognize Barbara Low as the Jackson County Master Gardener of the Year for her exceptional contributions and tireless dedication.

Lindsey McNab: Jackson County Growing and Belonging Award



Lindsey McNab, a Master Gardener student in the Class of 2025, is already making an incredible impact. Despite being new to the program, Lindsey has stepped into leadership and service roles with passion and purpose—demonstrating the true spirit of Growing and Belonging.

She has been instrumental in delivering Seed to Supper programming alongside our coordinator, Grace, working directly with Rogue Retreat shelter residents. Lindsey also volunteers at Rogue Food Unites' mobile pantries, where she shares bilingual gardening resources and leads microgreens activities for food-insecure community members. Her inclusive outreach ensures that people often overlooked in traditional programming feel welcomed and empowered to grow their own food.

Within JCMGA, Lindsey is active on the Marketing & Technology and Outreach committees, and contributes to YouTube content creation. She's already committed to becoming the GEM for the Herb Garden upon graduation, and plans to attend the Joy of Gardening conference this year to deepen her learning and connections.

Lindsey brings both heart and hustle to everything she does. Her initiative, creativity, and inclusive mindset make her a standout contributor—even before graduating. We are excited for what's ahead and deeply grateful she has chosen to be part of our community.

Nicole Smith: Jackson County Behind the Scenes Award



Nicole Smith is the kind of volunteer whose quiet dedication powers everything behind the scenes—and this past year, her efforts have truly shined. Stepping into a leadership role with the Practicum, Nicole took on the monumental task of training mentors, organizing planting schedules, reviewing lesson plans, and teaching new Master Gardener students—all while serving as a Practicum Mentor herself.

In addition to her work with trainees, Nicole plays a vital role in the Marketing and Technology Working Group. She helps ensure that the JCMGA website and internal communications run smoothly—a task that may go unseen, but never unnoticed. Her behind-the-scenes work keeps our systems functioning and our members informed and connected.

Nicole brings her characteristic warmth and positivity to every project, showing up with a smile and a steady hand. Her thoughtful leadership and behind-the-scenes support have been essential to the success of our educational programs and the smooth operation of our chapter as a whole.

We are deeply grateful for all Nicole contributes—her impact is felt in every corner of our organization.

Coletta (Colet) Allen: Jackson County Behind the Scenes Award



Coletta “Colet” Allen has been a steadfast and creative force behind the scenes of both JCMGA and OMGA since her graduation in 2012. As the OMGA representative on the JCMGA board, Colet brings fresh ideas and consistent dedication to every role she takes on.

She is deeply involved in numerous working groups, including Spring Garden Fair, Winter Dreams Summer Gardens, Membership, and Community Outreach. As the lead for the Speakers Bureau, Colet organizes and coordinates Master Gardener presentations throughout the Rogue Valley, ensuring our educational mission reaches far and wide—from local libraries to community events.

Colet also volunteers as a Garden Bud mentor for trainees, supports the annual Master Gardener Graduation, picnic, and special events, and helped found Friends of the Gardens. She works to build bridges with other educational efforts as well, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Though she may not always be center stage, Colet is always in motion—scheduling, organizing, guiding, and ensuring the success of our programs and events. Her thoughtful, tireless service uplifts our entire community, making her more than deserving of this Behind the Scenes Award.

KLAMATH COUNTY

Bernie Wood: Klamath County Master Gardener of the Year



Bernie Wood jumped into the Klamath County Master Gardener Program with both feet and has been an energetic and dedicated volunteer ever since. She is a cheerleader for the program, regularly promoting Master Gardener classes and events to help expand our reach and impact. Bernie is a familiar face at the local plant clinic, an active participant at the Farmers’ Market education booth, and attends nearly every educational opportunity offered.

Bernie’s positive spirit and welcoming nature help new Master Gardener trainees feel at ease. She supports trainees by attending classes and labs, explaining what to expect from the program, and demystifying acronyms and terminology during association meetings. Her thoughtful support has helped recruit several new Master Gardeners and has guided many community members through their gardening questions.

Bernie continually goes the extra mile to support Extension staff and the program. She shows up early to help with setup, brings the pizza, passes out reminders, and always lends a hand where needed. Her support is expressed in countless thoughtful actions that make the Master Gardener Program run more smoothly for everyone.

Congratulations to Bernie on this well-deserved recognition as Klamath County Master Gardener of the Year!

Michelle Hobson: Klamath County Behind the Scenes Award



Michelle Hobson has quickly become one of the most active and dependable newer Master Gardeners in Klamath County. Whether it's picking up the Farmers' Market booth kit on a Friday afternoon, stepping up to facilitate Seed to Supper classes, or bringing a delicious dish to the monthly Association potlucks—Michelle is always there.

Despite the full demands of work and family life, Michelle has found her place in the Master Gardener Program and continues to thrive. She has supported our Farmers' Market presence, delivered multiple educational programs, and taken on a leadership role within the Association. When the need arose to offer Seed to Supper classes at different times to reach more participants, Michelle helped make it happen. In fact, for the first time in years, the program is now being offered at two different times to meet the needs of a wider audience—thanks in large part to her dedication.

Michelle also leads by example. After successfully completing a DIY drip irrigation class and installing her own system, she stepped up to teach the class herself. She doesn't wait to be asked—she sees what's needed and takes initiative. A recent example: upon noticing a donation of garden supplies in the Extension office, Michelle immediately asked if any could be used for Seed to Supper participants. Thanks to her, those supplies were put to great use.

Michelle's thoughtfulness, initiative, and commitment have made a meaningful impact behind the scenes, and her contributions are deeply appreciated. Congratulations, Michelle, on this well-earned recognition!

LANE COUNTY

Robbin Spraitz: Lane County Master Gardener of the Year



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2012, Robbin Spraitz has been an invaluable leader, educator, and mentor in Lane County. Her tireless service in the Plant Clinic has improved both the volunteer experience and the quality of public outreach. During the COVID pandemic, she coordinated remote Plant Clinic efforts, ensuring the public continued to receive trusted gardening advice.

Robbin has served in multiple leadership roles, including Chair of the Plant Clinic Coordination Committee (PCCC), where she updated protocols, developed training materials, and implemented orientation and re-orientation sessions. Her attention to detail and collaborative spirit have helped create a welcoming and efficient learning environment for trainees and volunteers alike.

She co-designed and maintains the Demonstration Garden's "Four Seasons" entrance garden, leads public Plant Prowls, and has co-chaired the LCMGA Plant Sale Silent Auction for several years. Robbin's behind-the-scenes excellence was previously recognized in 2016, and her ongoing work continues to reflect the highest standards of the Master Gardener Program.

Robbin embodies the spirit of service, mentorship, and community outreach. Her thoughtful leadership and steadfast dedication make her truly deserving of the County Master Gardener of the Year Award.

Rose Ahearn: County Behind the Scenes Award



Since joining the Lane County Master Gardener Program in 2022, Rose Ahearn has become a generous, dedicated volunteer—quietly working behind the scenes to strengthen the program and support others.

Rose serves on the Plant Clinic Coordination Committee, volunteers regularly, and trains new participants. As a member of the Plant Diagnostic Master Gardeners committee, she has led case studies and helped deliver advanced training. She also supports the soil pH group with essential behind-the-scenes work, including lab training and analysis.

In the Edible Gardening group, Rose co-designed and taught a popular seed-starting class and helps maintain the edible beds in the demonstration garden. She has extended her outreach to the broader community, teaching gardening workshops for the Siletz Native American Society and a public seminar on gardening ergonomics, drawing on her background as a physical therapist. Rose also served as a Mentor during the 2024 Master Gardener training, offering encouragement and guidance to new trainees. She grows edible plant starts for the annual sale and is a frequent volunteer at work parties.

With quiet leadership and tireless energy, Rose has become a vital force in our program. Her dedication, skill, and spirit of service make her a perfect recipient of this award.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Julie Roth-Carter: Lincoln County Master Gardener of the Year



Julie Roth-Carter is a dynamic force behind the Lincoln County Master Gardener Program. Since joining in 2023, she has brought fresh energy, focus, and unwavering dedication to the role. As the founding leader of the new Education & Outreach Committee, Julie has transformed the chapter's efforts to share OSU's science-based gardening information with the public—through farmers markets, tabling events, community classes, and local fairs.

In 2025, Julie's leadership shone through with the launch of the Spring Into Sustainable Gardening conference. Partnering with Samaritan Health and the chapter's Grants Committee, she secured funding to offer this event free to the public. From recruiting speakers to managing volunteers, Julie coordinated every detail with care and professionalism.

Those who work alongside her describe Julie as an excellent and devoted leader who uplifts everyone around her. Her ability to empower others while advancing the mission of the Master Gardener Program is unmatched. One nominator put it simply: "I can't think of anyone who is better qualified to be named Master Gardener of the Year." We couldn't agree more. Congratulations, Julie!

Janice Smith: Lincoln County Behind the Scenes Award



Janice Smith embodies the spirit of behind-the-scenes leadership in the Lane County Master Gardener Program. After re-certifying to active status, she jumped in with enthusiasm, contributing across multiple areas with dedication and warmth. She co-leads the "Veteran Refresher" series, making topics like IPM and insect ID both fun and informative. Janice's growth as a public speaker has inspired others, and her support for new educational efforts is deeply valued.

In late 2023 and early 2024, Janice played a key role in the adopt-a-week Plant Clinic, quickly becoming a go-to resource for apprentices. Now a respected Plant Clinic "guru," she's mentoring the 2025 trainee class.

Janice also leads tabling efforts for the Education & Outreach Committee, represents Master Gardeners at community events, serves as LCMGA Historian, and contributes generously to the plant sale through her own growing efforts.

Janice consistently takes on vital responsibilities without seeking recognition. Her cheerful, can-do attitude and quiet leadership have made a lasting impact on both the program and her fellow volunteers. We are so fortunate to have her.

LINN COUNTY

Mandy Scott: Linn County Master Gardener of the Year



Mandy Scott has quickly become a cornerstone of the Linn County Master Gardener Program. Since becoming a certified Master Gardener in 2023, her energy, leadership, and collaborative spirit have made a profound impact on our community.

Mandy plays a key role in the Pollinator Project, organizing volunteers and teaching cocoon harvesting workshops. She also brought enthusiasm and organization to the 2023 Tomato Fest, helping to engage the public and fellow volunteers alike.

What sets Mandy apart is her natural ability to bring people together. She leads with thoughtfulness and empathy, creating inclusive spaces where others feel supported and inspired. Whether she's coordinating educational projects on pollinators, tomatoes, or garden design, Mandy approaches each opportunity with care and dedication.

She's also committed to mentoring new Master Gardeners, helping them feel welcomed and confident. Her leadership style—rooted in kindness, clear communication, and a strong work ethic—has earned her the respect and admiration of her peers.

Linn County is stronger because of Mandy's contributions, and we are proud to recognize her as our 2024 Master Gardener of the Year.

Betty Goergen: Linn County Master Gardener of the Year

Betty Goergen exemplifies the spirit of the Master Gardener Program. Tireless, thoughtful, and deeply committed, Betty has led with heart and integrity through times of both celebration and challenge.

A long-standing leader, Betty has served more terms as President of the Linn County Master Gardener Association than anyone in recent memory. For 19 consecutive years, she has played a central role in the Garden Tour, organizing volunteers and ensuring every event runs smoothly. She's also a regular contributor to the Bee Event and Demo Garden and keeps members connected through her monthly newsletter.

Betty is more than a dedicated volunteer—she's a guiding force. In moments of organizational transition, she has led with grace, putting the needs of the program first. Her steady leadership has helped shape the evolution of the Linn County Demonstration Garden, ensuring it continues to be a thriving and welcoming space for education and community.

Her commitment, humility, and example inspire others to step up and serve. For all she's done—and continues to do—we are proud to honor Betty Goergen as our 2024 Master Gardener of the Year.

Lisa Hilquist: Linn County Growing and Belonging Award and County Behind the Scenes Award



Lisa Hilquist brings a wealth of technical knowledge and computer savvy that are so important in communicating with members, news outlets, selling tickets online and keeping all programs updated and abreast with new technology. She works with all committees, such as Beevent, Garden Tour, general meetings, press releases and postings. She helps work with folks who previously did not feel comfortable with the internet.

Lisa has gone out of her way to build the technological capacity and skill of Master Gardener volunteers in Linn County. When folks want to help but don't know how, she will train them on the skill. To date, she has trained two volunteers. She took the initiative to rebuild the LCMGA website to better serve our audiences. The increased digital presence of Linn County Master Gardener program has allowed us to reach more rural residents. The Linn County Master Gardener program is grateful to have Lisa as a Master Gardener.

MALHEUR COUNTY

MacKay Stephens: Malheur County Master Gardener of the Year



MacKay Stephens has demonstrated exceptional commitment to community horticulture and education in Malheur County. Her efforts have made a meaningful impact across multiple community-focused projects.

MacKay played a key role in maintaining the pumpkin section of the community garden, providing hands-on care and leadership. She participated in the Destination Dream Job career showcase, where she introduced sustainable gardening practices to incoming 9th graders, sparking curiosity and engagement in the next generation of gardeners. She also supported a community tree planting event at Rotary Laxson Park and co-led three educational workshops on composting, biochar, and garden planning at The Gift Intergenerational Garden.

In addition, MacKay facilitated seed-starting workshops and developed the “Botany Basics” lesson plan for the 2025 Master Gardener class. Her passion for horticultural education, paired with her willingness to step into leadership and teaching roles, has had a lasting impact on both her fellow Master Gardeners and the wider community.

Thank you, MacKay, for your dedication, creativity, and service. Congratulations on being named Malheur County Master Gardener of the Year!

Emerald Lewis: Malheur County Behind the Scenes Award



Emerald Lewis has quietly become a pillar of support in Malheur County’s Master Gardener Program through her steadfast dedication and behind-the-scenes contributions.

Emerald has actively participated in numerous community events, including the tree planting at Rotary Laxson Park and regularly staffing the Ontario Saturday Market to offer gardening guidance to patrons. She played a vital role in maintaining and harvesting pumpkins at the community garden, helping distribute the harvest to organizations throughout Malheur County.

Emerald also helped deliver hands-on education at the Destination Dream Job career showcase, where she engaged with over 50 incoming 9th graders, demonstrating industry tools and sharing sustainable gardening practices. Her enthusiasm for native plants shines through in the educational slide deck she created and presented to the 2025 Malheur County Master Gardener class, focusing on her favorite topic: Native Plants of Eastern Oregon. Emerald’s consistency, creativity, and quiet leadership embody the spirit of the Behind the Scenes Award. Congratulations, Emerald!

MARION COUNTY

Susan Nelson: Marion County Master Gardener of the Year



Susan exemplifies what it means to be a lifelong learner and dedicated educator. A four-time attendee of Insights Into Gardening, she continuously seeks knowledge to share through Plant Clinics, the Help Desk, the Speakers Bureau, and custom workshops at Salem's Center 50+. Her outreach especially shines in community spaces like senior centers, care homes, and churches.

In 2024, Susan transformed the Master Gardener presence at the Oregon State Fair. She envisioned a more engaging and educational Ag/Hort building—and brought it to life. She led a team to develop hands-on, interactive displays and live demos, creating a space that drew thousands of Oregonians into the world of gardening.

At home in the Marion County Demonstration Garden, Susan manages both the dahlia and rose plots and is an active member of the Garden Committee. She plays a critical role in ensuring the garden's beauty, organization, and educational value.

As Mentor Coordinator since 2019, Susan welcomes each new class of trainees, recruiting and guiding veteran volunteers to support them. She also connects trainees with speaking opportunities and helps them build confidence and skills.

Whether behind the scenes or at center stage, Susan is a connector, leader, and tireless advocate for gardening education. We are proud to recognize her as Master Gardener of the Year.

Stephen and Kristi Kalb: Marion County Growing and Belonging Award



Stephen and Kristi Kalb are true champions of food gardening education and community inclusion. After taking the Seed to Supper course in 2016, they launched the program in Marion County with Kristi's sister, a Polk County Master Gardener. Their mission was simple and profound: teach beginning gardeners how to grow their own food, especially those facing food insecurity.

Since then, they've expanded their work across Marion and Polk Counties and developed a new, more inclusive spinoff: Grow Your Own on a Budget. Their approach welcomes and uplifts new voices—like Tomas, a multilingual volunteer who uses Reddit to reach younger audiences and Spanish-language outreach to connect with churches and community groups.

The Kalbs are always looking to bring others to the table. They share their knowledge generously, mentor new trainees every year, and speak at every Master Gardener training class to recruit and inspire. Their welcoming spirit, listening ear, and commitment to inclusivity have created countless webs of connection throughout the community.

Stephen and Kristi Kalb embody the spirit of Growing and Belonging. Through their warmth, leadership, and vision, they've helped dozens of community members grow gardens—and a sense of belonging. Congratulations, Kristi and Stephen, on this well-deserved honor!

Stephanie Hazen: Marion County Behind the Scenes Award



Stephanie Hazen has been a steadfast force behind the scenes of the Marion County Master Gardener Program. Whether mentoring new trainees or leading educational outreach, she brings thoughtfulness, efficiency, and heart to everything she does.

Stephanie has a deep passion for native plants and pollinators, and she shares this with the public through workshops, tabling events, and garden outreach. She has played a key role in building our community's knowledge of pollinator-friendly gardening practices, and she's always ready to pitch in to make an event run smoothly.

One of her most impactful contributions has been helping launch the Fall Pollinator Symposium. From securing speakers to organizing vendors and logistics, Stephanie was instrumental in bringing this event to life and expanding public awareness around pollinator conservation.

Highly organized and endlessly committed, Stephanie embodies the spirit of service and education. She works quietly but powerfully to support the success of the Master Gardener Program—and our community is stronger because of her dedication. Congratulations, Stephanie, on this well-earned recognition!

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Cynthia Chase: Multnomah County Master Gardener of the Year



Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2016, Cynthia Chase has been a driving force in the Multnomah County Master Gardener community. She has served in multiple leadership roles, including Chapter Secretary (2019–2020), Vice President (2022–2023), and currently serves as President—a role she is continuing in 2025.

Cynthia is a thoughtful, collaborative leader who inspires others with her kindness, dedication, and “can-do” attitude. She works to ensure that all volunteers—whether brand new or long-standing—feel welcome, included, and valued.

She has supported key fundraising efforts, including launching an online merchandise store that features the new MCMGA logo. Cynthia also helped lead successful volunteer advocacy efforts to restore public funding for OSU Extension and the Master Gardener Program in Multnomah County. She remains committed to this work and continues to guide advocacy efforts into the coming year.

As a partner to OSU Extension, Cynthia brings vision, steadiness, and innovation to the program. Whether supporting the Demonstration Garden or board initiatives, she encourages collaboration and always leads with a smile.

Cynthia's contributions reflect the very best of what it means to be a Master Gardener: generous, dedicated, and deeply community-minded. Congratulations, Cynthia!

Bob Duetgen: Multnomah County Behind the Scenes Award



For more than 25 years, Bob Duetgen has quietly and consistently embodied the spirit of service that defines the Master Gardener Program. From pruning cane berries in the Demonstration Garden to reviewing Chapter by-laws, Bob is always there—offering his expertise and time without seeking recognition.

Bob is a go-to volunteer for outreach events across the region. Whether staffing the OSU Extension table at the Oregon State Fair, tabling at a local Fix-It Fair, or stepping in at the last minute for a farmers market shift, Bob shows up. He often delivers and picks up clinic supplies and has saved the day more times than we can count.

Bob is also a beloved educator, generously sharing his deep knowledge of cane berries with both new and experienced Master Gardeners. His hands-on trainings are a favorite in the metro program, and he's always ready to lend a hand or fill in when needed.

He exemplifies the mission of the Master Gardener Program through quiet leadership, humble generosity, and a steadfast commitment to community education.

Thank you, Bob, for your many years of behind-the-scenes dedication and heart.

Mike Rutherford: Multnomah County Behind the Scenes Award



Mike brings boundless energy, positivity, and a generous spirit to everything he does as a Master Gardener volunteer. Over the past year, he has become a truly indispensable member of the team, stepping up time and again to support others and move projects forward—always with a smile.

Whether serving as the go-to tech support, capturing moments as the Demonstration Garden event photographer, or jumping in to understand the needs of new Seed to Supper participants, Mike approaches every task with thoughtfulness and heart. He is known for saying yes—eager to help, offer ideas, or lend a hand wherever needed.

Mike's enthusiasm for gardening is contagious, and his willingness to engage deeply with the program shines through in meetings, community outreach, and volunteer gatherings. He's the kind of teammate everyone wants in their corner: dedicated, kind, and always ready to help. Thank you, Mike, for all the ways—big and small—you make our program stronger, more welcoming, and more joyful. This recognition is well deserved!

Christine Semeniuk: Multnomah County Behind the Scenes Award



Christine Semeniuk has quietly and steadily made a lasting impact on the Master Gardener Program in Multnomah County. For over a decade, she has been a dedicated and reliable presence—volunteering at local farmers markets like Lents and King, supporting community education through Seed to Supper, and contributing her time and talents to countless efforts behind the scenes.

Christine's sharp eye for detail, steady focus, and warm, can-do attitude have made her an exceptional Treasurer and Bookkeeper for the Multnomah County Master Gardener Association. She has also played key roles in fundraising and planning, always showing up with grace, care, and a friendly smile.

Her years of service reflect a deep commitment to the mission and heart of the Master Gardener Program. Christine exemplifies what it means to lead with consistency, kindness, and quiet dedication. We are grateful for her many contributions and proud to honor her with this well-deserved Behind the Scenes Award.

POLK COUNTY

Christina Palmer: Polk County Master Gardener of the Year



Since completing her Master Gardener training in 2022, Tina Palmer has been a dynamo of dedication, energy, and leadership. She jumped into the heart of the program by leading the Polk County Plant Sale, one of the chapter's most important fundraisers. With her trademark mix of expertise and enthusiasm, Tina works year-round to coordinate volunteers, organize logistics, and ensure the event's continued success. She leads by example, offering support and encouragement to all who work alongside her.

Tina is also an outstanding educator and mentor. She freely shares her knowledge of sustainable gardening, seed saving, and seed starting through community classes. This year, she developed a special project for trainees focused on seed starting and transplanting vegetables—demonstrating her commitment to hands-on, accessible learning.

Children adore her flower planting station at the plant sale, while adults benefit from her garden wisdom and thoughtful guidance. Tina regularly volunteers at the Inspiration Garden, offering her time and ideas wherever they're needed. Her kind heart, collaborative spirit, and strong leadership have made her a trusted partner to volunteers and staff alike.

Tina embodies the very best of the Master Gardener Program—she connects easily with others, mentors with care, and serves with joy. Congratulations, Tina, on this well-earned recognition!

Tomás Lin: Polk County Growing and Belonging Award



Tomás Lin became a Master Gardener trainee in 2024 and has already made an extraordinary impact on our program. His commitment to building an inclusive gardening community is evident in everything he does. As a bilingual English-Spanish educator, Tomás supports Seed to Supper and Grow Your Own on a Budget courses across both Polk and Marion Counties, bringing sustainable gardening education to low-income housing communities and connecting with Spanish-speaking gardeners with warmth and skill.

Tomás leads and interprets workshops on topics like composting and vegetable gardening. When needed, he thoughtfully recruits other Master Gardeners with expertise and serves as an interpreter, ensuring presentations are culturally relevant and accessible. He mentors new trainees with generosity and approachability, strengthening the foundation of our program.

Always looking for ways to remove barriers, Tomás built a centralized resource hub on the PCMGA website and developed an AI-powered garden support tool—Cultivating Knowledge, One Garden at a Time—tailored to our local climate and grounded in OSU Extension resources.

Tomás is a connector, innovator, and teacher who leads with inclusion at every turn. His contributions have expanded our program's reach, relevance, and heart. Congratulations, Tomás, on this well-deserved honor!

Laurie DeLapp: Polk County Behind the Scenes Award



Laurie DeLapp is a quiet powerhouse whose behind-the-scenes contributions have made a lasting impact on the Inspiration Garden and beyond. Whether she's helping organize the plant sale fundraiser or leading work in the vegetable plot, Laurie is always ready to lend a hand and elevate the experience for others.

Visitors to the Inspiration Garden may not know it, but Laurie's creative touch is everywhere. She's designed beautiful, educational signs that enhance learning throughout the space and took on the tremendous task of inventorying all the garden's plants. She also created clear, engaging plant ID signs and redesigned the garden's trifold brochure—making the garden more accessible and inviting to the public.

As a core member of the garden steering committee, Laurie contributes to key decisions and helps lead with thoughtfulness and creativity. She is constantly experimenting with new growing techniques and interactive features that spark curiosity and connection for visitors of all ages.

Laurie's work may often happen quietly behind the scenes, but her influence is seen—and felt—everywhere. Congratulations, Laurie, on this well-deserved recognition!

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Edna Holt: Tillamook County Master Gardener of the Year



Edna Holt has been a dedicated Tillamook County Master Gardener since 2011, working tirelessly to maintain the OSU Learning Garden and supporting the organization through our Plant Sale and educational efforts. Edna is one of those invaluable volunteers who expects no recognition—making her all the more deserving of this award.

She donates abundant produce from her personal garden to the Food Bank and contributes countless hours to the Learning Garden. Edna's knowledge is vast, and she shares it generously with fellow Master Gardeners and the public, both in the garden and at farmers market plant clinics. She's unafraid of hard work and sets an inspiring example for both Apprentices and "Hardy Perennials." Her calm and steady demeanor, paired with a ready laugh, make her a joy to work with. Time spent with Edna is not only fun—it's a learning experience.

A fellow volunteer adds: "She is always giving away the fresh produce from her garden—she even sent me home with some last year! She's very dedicated to the Learning Garden and shares a wealth of knowledge about gardening and everything plants." Thank you, Edna, for your ongoing commitment and joyful spirit. Congratulations!

Christine Inglis: Tillamook County Behind the Scenes Award



Christine Inglis is one of those remarkable volunteers who quietly and consistently steps up to get things done. Personable yet humble, Christine brings care and dedication to every role she takes on within the Tillamook County Master Gardener Association.

She served on the Hospitality Committee in 2023 and 2024 and now oversees Vendor Tables for our annual Plant Sale. Christine also reaches out to local businesses to solicit donations that support TCMGA events and activities. Known for her strong attention to detail, she helped compile a comprehensive Services Directory for Tillamook County alongside other Master Gardeners.

Christine has also volunteered to take on the significant role of Treasurer for 2025—a task that requires patience, organization, and a steady hand. Thankfully, Christine brings all of that and more. She's a joy to work with, making everything run smoothly behind the scenes and lifting the spirits of those around her with her positive energy. Thank you, Christine, for everything you do!

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Robin Burnham: Washington County Master Gardener of the Year



Robin Burnham is a dedicated leader and educator whose work exemplifies the heart of the Master Gardener Program. Since becoming certified in 2015, Robin has contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours—more than 430 of them in 2024 alone!

Robin has been instrumental in launching and leading the HomePlate project, where she organizes hands-on gardening sessions for housing-insecure youth. Through multiple sessions each year, youth learn to grow vegetables, fruits, and berries in raised beds and edible landscaping at the drop-in center.

Robin coordinates volunteers, secures supplies, provides Food Hero recipes, and even encourages youth to take container plants and harvests home—seeding future food security and possibility.

As co-lead of the WCMGA Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate, Robin supports a core team of 20–25 volunteers, fostering teamwork and mentorship. She keeps the team energized with thoughtful communication and recognition, and she helps plan the popular “In the Garden” class series and intern workshops. Fresh produce grown in the garden is donated to the Oregon Food Bank, reinforcing her commitment to community impact.

Robin is also a longtime member of the Gardenfest steering committee and a consistent voice for inclusive, engaging education. Her thoughtful leadership, generosity, and dedication make her an inspiration to all. Congratulations, Robin, on this well-deserved honor!

Karen Anderson: Washington County Behind the Scenes Award



Karen Anderson has been a certified OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer since 2020 and is a deeply valued member of the Washington County team. Her leadership and dedication have been essential to both the WCMGA and the metro area Master Gardener Program.

Karen leads the Propagation Team with excellence, contributing to the success of the annual Gardenfest Plant Sale and supporting educational goals across the program. When a special need arises, Karen is quick to lend a hand. A recent example includes her coordination of extra plant donations from Gardenfest to support the 2025 Washington County Seed to Supper course.

In her time as a Master Gardener, Karen has contributed nearly 500 volunteer hours—more than 200 in 2024 alone! She has also donated over 184 pounds of fresh produce. Beyond the numbers, Karen brings kindness, follow-through, and a passion for teaching that uplifts both interns and veteran volunteers alike.

Thank you, Karen, for all you do behind the scenes to make our gardening community grow. Congratulations!

YAMHILL COUNTY

Carolyn Nyquist: Yamhill County Master Gardener of the Year



Carolyn Nyquist is an exceptional Master Gardener whose leadership of the Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) has made a profound impact on the Yamhill County program. Since becoming certified in 2019, Carolyn has chaired the EOC—the county's largest and busiest committee, which oversees nearly seven subcommittees and a wide range of educational activities.

Carolyn brings strong organizational skills, a collaborative spirit, and deep dedication to public education. Under her leadership, the EOC has successfully coordinated farmers markets, community clinics, Spring into Gardening, Garden to Table programs, and more. She keeps the entire team aligned and moving forward, ensuring no effort is duplicated and every event runs smoothly.

In addition to her committee work, Carolyn volunteers at plant sales, supports outreach events, and plays a key role in registration for Spring into Gardening. Her efforts have also launched a promising collaboration with McMinnville High School's horticulture program—expanding educational opportunities for youth.

Carolyn is a clear communicator, a thoughtful leader, and an essential part of the Yamhill County Master Gardener team. We're proud to recognize her many contributions with this well-deserved award. Congratulations, Carolyn!

Nancy Woodworth: Yamhill County Behind the Scenes Award



Nancy Woodworth has been an essential part of the Yamhill County Master Gardener program since joining in 2015. Over the years, she's contributed in quiet yet powerful ways—ensuring the program runs smoothly and fellow volunteers feel seen and valued.

Nancy has served in a variety of roles, including OMGA representative, Chair of the Awards Committee, and Chair of the Memorial Committee. She brings attention to detail, thoughtfulness, and a strong commitment to honoring others. As Awards Chair, Nancy made it a priority to recognize the dedication of her fellow Master Gardeners. As Memorial Committee Chair, she helped preserve the memory of past members and their contributions.

She has also played a valuable role in organizing educational displays for Spring into Gardening. Nancy curated engaging, visually appealing poster presentations tied to the year's theme—enhancing the overall learning environment for participants and providing additional educational opportunities during breaks and lunch.

As an OMGA representative, Nancy was organized and thorough, consistently delivering accurate and helpful updates to the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association.

Nancy's behind-the-scenes efforts have strengthened the heart of our program. Her humility, reliability, and deep appreciation for the community make her a truly deserving recipient of this award. Thank you, Nancy!

Website Report for August, 2025

The website “refresh” project was completed on August 20, with only minor kerfuffles. I will begin reporting monthly on its statistics and maintenance.

Website Stats for orcoastmga.org

Month	Unique Visitors	Nbr of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth (GB)
December					
November					
September					
August (partial)	1581	2,107	25,334	58,728	2.77
Total:	1581	2,107	25,334	58,728	2.77

Besides the conversion, itself, here are items completed in August

- Negotiated 3 years and 3 months of website hosting for \$322.20 (\$8.26/month)
- Negotiated 9 years of domain usage for \$145.71 (\$1.35/month)
- Purchased lifetime license of Event Management for \$139.30.
- Total costs for website conversion and future hosting/domain usage: **\$607.21**
- We will get approximately \$100 back from Wix.
- Set up Google maps to display our locations.
- Set up automatic weekly backups.

Things I'm currently working on:

- Changing underlying SMTP email to orcoastmga@gmail (to take advantage of Google authentication)
- Setting up free Google Workspace for non-profits so we can discontinue DropBox (and stop paying our annual contract).

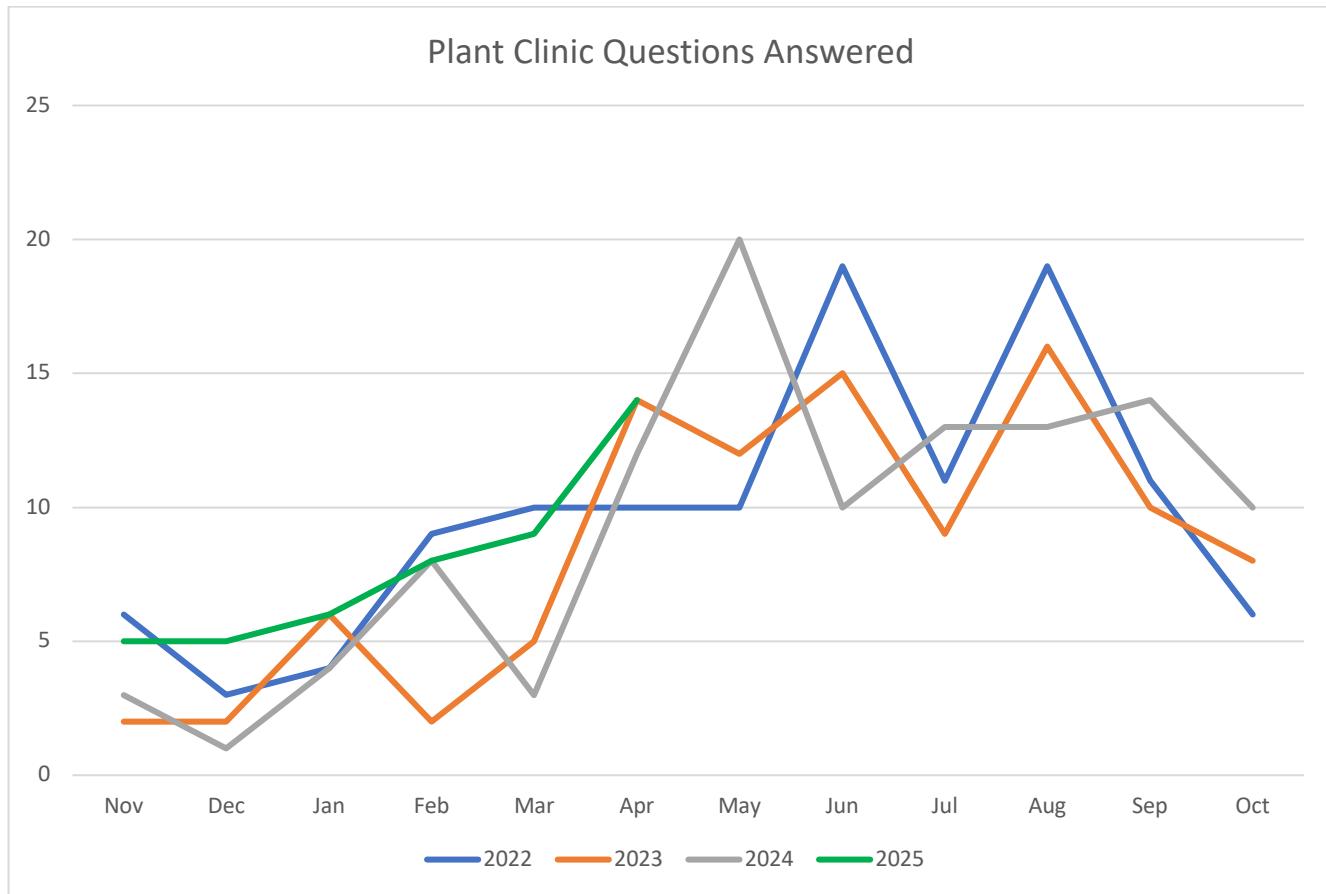
Best Regards,



Larry King
LCMGA Webmaster

Plant Clinic Report for April 2025

At the start of April, we began the regular plant clinic, including drop-ins. The workload increases as clients begin working outside. April, 2025, matched the high for 2024. 2025 is illustrated on the green line.



Besides the numbers, here's the work we did in April:

- Developed and provided ECCO training for the Apprentices (April 8th)
- Worked with Herb Fredricksen and Terry DeJongh to develop a better webpage for clients to self-report their problems (this will be incorporated into the new website).
- Researched how to better-utilize the computers in the clinic for visually challenged staff.

Things we're currently working on:

- Planning to post some best practices on the Clinic walls.
- Developing more information on the Clinic for inclusion on the new website.

Best Regards,

Larry King / Daniel Hutchison
Plant Clinic Coordinators