

Columbia County Master Gardener™ Payback Options 2020



The purpose of the OSU Master Gardener™ program is education. Your focus on those volunteer activities that promote better public understanding of sustainable gardening best go a long way towards keeping our program viable and maintaining our presence as a significant partner in Columbia County's future.

The following list of volunteer opportunities reflects the interests and talents of currently active Master Gardeners. There are three types of activities that qualify as payback hours:

- ***Educational Outreach (direct and indirect)***
- ***Support Activities***
- ***Continuing Education.***

This list is only a snapshot in time. We have had other projects that have faded and numerous opportunities not yet explored. Please do not hesitate to think about new directions. Contact Chip if you have new ideas or hear of volunteer opportunities. Above all, enjoy your volunteer time!

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Educational Outreach: Educational activities involve direct public contact, but also include your **preparation time** for these events.

Public Information:

- Publicity - Newspapers and other venues are important in getting our educational messages to the public. There are many opportunities to expand this effort.
- Public Speaking - We get many requests for speakers from garden clubs and other groups. If you have a special gardening interest and wish to develop your speaking skills, your talents are needed. The OSU Extension Service office will provide help and guidance.
- Writing - There is always a need for people to write for the CCMGA newsletter, *The Grapevine*, and for the Columbia County/OSU Extension Service's newsletter, *Country Living*, to produce educational news releases, and to develop in-depth pieces for local or regional distribution (one of our Master Gardeners has written articles that were distributed statewide by OSU).

- Radio Show - For over 30 years, Darryl Boom and Chip have recorded a 10-minute gardening spot that broadcasts on KOHI every Saturday at 8:05 a.m. There are additional opportunities to do radio spots and public service announcements on gardening topics. Some skill with digital recording and access to suitable equipment required.
- On-Site Diagnostic Clinics – At the local farmers markets; one day at the Oregon State Fair in Salem; five days at the Demonstration Garden at the Columbia County Fair in July; a table at the Spring Fair in St. Helens, and one at the Vernonia Community Garden Plant sale. Other options are explored as they come up. Diagnostic clinics answer public questions regarding plant identification and care, pest identification and management, and other topics covered in class. Master Gardener Trainees become certified and gain invaluable experience in these clinics. Active Master Gardeners need to re-certify by taking a written test before participating (*maximum 6 hours continuing education credit upon completion of test*).
- Demonstration Garden - Located at the Columbia County Fairgrounds, this garden space is meant to educate the public about gardening techniques, design, new plant varieties, etc. Considerable time and effort is required to prepare, plant, and maintain the garden prior to, during, and for several months after the Fair. The public contact is mostly during County Fair in July though we want to promote public activities there at other times of the year. Demo Garden work parties are on Mondays, April through September from 10 to Noon, and selected other dates (times TBD). New Trainees are asked to complete a minimum of 6 hours of worktime in the Demo Garden in their first season. Contact the garden coordinator, LaVina Patterson (503) 397-4375 or by email lavanderlady@msn.com
- Community Gardens – There is an existing community/food bank garden in St. Helens, one in Scappoose, the HOPE garden in Rainier, and a garden in Clatskanie. In addition, several churches throughout the region are starting food bank gardens. These are very important efforts and help to improve both local food production for food banks and to increase gardening knowledge.
 - ❖ St. Helens Community Garden: Work Parties Tues/Thurs at 10am
 - Scott Bauska (503) 366-6793 scottbauska@gmail.com
 - Colleen DeLong (503) 367-5993 colleendelong@hotmail.com
 - ❖ Scappoose Community Garden (Garden of Weedin') – located at the Scappoose Community & Senior Center, 333 SW Meadow Drive, Scappoose. Volunteers meet Mon/Thur 10am-noon.
 - LeRoy Schmidt (503) 543-6875 leroy97056@centurylink.net
 - Judy Thompson (503) 543-2080 judy33241@centurytel.net
 - ❖ Rainier Community Garden (HOPE) – located next to the Rainier Food Pantry, 404 East “A” Street. Volunteers meet weekly to plant and tend 10 raised garden beds and donate produce directly to HOPE for distribution to clients.
 - Lynn Green (503) 728-4723 lynncgreen4@gmail.com

- Community Gardens – cont.
 - Clatskanie Community Garden: Becky White (503) 308-6715 clatskaniestonesoup@gmail.com
- Insect Collection: Several Master Gardeners from the 2011 class revived the insect collection. They have been attending curation get-togethers at the OSU Extension Experiment Station in Aurora. The collection travels in boxes to various clinic events, school talks, and the like. It is a great program with an interesting mission.
 - ❖ Deb Brimacombe, (503) 543-3294 debibrimacombe@msn.com
 - ❖ LaVina Patterson, (503) 397-4375 lavanderlady@msn.com.
- Youth Gardening Program - A number of Master Gardeners have been volunteering with an educational program in a Metro/Sauvie Island Farms partnership, teaching grade school children about farming and the ecology of the farm – this program is currently on hold for 2020 but may re-open soon. Some Master Gardeners in Clatskanie have been working on in-school programs there and a 4-H Gardening club is always a possibility. Please contact the Extension office about becoming a 4-H leader in gardening.
 - ❖ Clatskanie Middle High School (CMHS) – James Byrne, jbyrne@csd.k12.or.us
 - ❖ Clatskanie E.S. Learning Garden – Emily Bounds, emilyhervatin@msn.com
 - ❖ St. Helens H.S. Transitions Program Garden – Bill Dale, billd@sthelens.k12.or.us
 - ❖ Lewis & Clark E.S. Farm to School Grant Work – Jenny Rudolph, OSU Extension FCH Faculty, Jenny.Rudolph@oregonstate.edu, (503) 397-3462
- Seed to Supper is a set of vegetable gardening classes taught with hand-on experience where gardens are available and weather permits. Each class is held for two hours, one day a week for six weeks in Scappoose, St. Helens, Vernonia, Rainier, and Clatskanie. Classes and books are provided to students for free by the Oregon Food Bank, OSU Extension, and Master Gardeners. Instructors and Mentors are trained to teach and support students in class. Sonia Reagan, (503) 397-3462 Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu
- Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Native Plant Greenhouse: SBWC has an on-going project at Scappoose High School to raise native plants from seeds, cuttings and already started plants to be used for critical riparian area re-vegetation. (Projects with the Upper Nehalem and Lower Columbia Watershed Councils are also encouraged. Call the Office for details.) Volunteer work parties are Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 - ❖ Amber Kester, SBWC, (503) 369-8589, amber@scappoosebay-wc.org
- Special Projects: Periodically, there are special projects designed to respond to specific needs which can also satisfy payback hours or count as volunteer hours for Active Master Gardeners. These can be initiated by either Master Gardeners (call Chip for approval prior to participation) or by Chip.

- ❖ Nob Hill Nature Park, St. Helens, Caroline Skinner, caro4321@earthlink.net
 - ❖ Scappoose Public Library - Community Education, Gail Coughran 503-543-7123
 - ❖ St. Helens Community Meals, Kathy Bauska or Judy Johnson, with a produce coordinator, Paulette Lichatowich (website: www.cmeals.org)
 - ❖ Habitat for Humanity Vegetable Bed and Landscape, Gail Taylor, glpihlaja@gmail.com
 - ❖ Scappoose Farmers Market Demo Booth, Debi Brimacombe, (503) 543-3294 debibrimacombe@msn.com or Allen McMillan, (971) 226-4379 amcmillan1095@gmail.com
 - ❖ Clatskanie Farmers Market Demo Booth, Sonia Reagan, (503) 880-6263
- Citizen Science: Various Oregon (and National) Citizen Science projects are approved for indirect volunteer hours, and involve counting hours as the actual time spent collecting and submitting data. Eligible projects (such as Oregon Native Bee Atlas or Great Backyard Bird Count): <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardencitizenscience/osus-citizen-science-projects/>

Support Activities Volunteer hours that enhance or support the Master Gardener™ program but do not directly involve contact with the public are counted as support activities. *(for initial hours of payback, there is a limit of 20 hours in this area of opportunity)*

- Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association - The Association raises money to support the OSU Extension Master Gardener™ educational effort in Columbia County and provides educational programs for members and the public. The Association meets the fourth Thursday of the month with educational gardening programs (see the *Grapevine* newsletter each month for details). The Spring Fair is the major fundraiser for the Association. There is a lot of up-front planning and preparation time and then intense activity the day before and the day of the sale (May 2nd, 2020). Contact: Katherine Johnson, (503) 289-4894
- Business portion of Association Chapter meetings (1/2 hour max each meeting).

Continuing Education You can receive payback credit for continuing your education but only if you also participate in other educational outreach projects. *(for initial hours of payback, there is a limit of 9 hours in this area of opportunity)*

- Program (guest speakers) of Association Chapter meetings (1 hour max each meeting)
- Workshops, webinars, tours (*1 hour per*), or clinic orientations.
- Classes (leadership, personal development, repeat of Master Gardener classes or other related content classes). Contact: Sonia Reagan.

The form used to record volunteer hours contributed by new trainees in their first year with Columbia County Master Gardeners as payback for their class **and** by active Master Gardeners to support the Association and the educational purpose of the OSU Extension Service is found on our website: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/columbia/volunteer-resources>. The Extension staff compiles these hours and submits them to OSU in justification of our program. If you have any questions about filling out this form, please ask Sonia Reagan or Chip Bubl.