

Hi,

You're receiving this message because you're volunteering as a mentor for new Master Gardeners. Thank you for taking the time to help new volunteers grow!

Before you connect with your mentee, it's important that you become familiar with important updates to the 2020 program.

As you may know, some things that have been the same for a long time may be a little different this year. The board has been regularly updated as this program for 2020 was developed. We hope it will align with evolving statewide standards for volunteer service, offer students a more flexible schedule and enrich their experience with more garden-based instruction. And we're excited to bring mentors along.

In the mentor update packet that follows, you'll find:

- An executive summary of program updates for mentors.
- An infographic summarizing learning and volunteering for new students.
- The syllabus that new students receive.

(You can also find this mentor packet on the intro page to the Volunteering Guide, located [HERE](#).)

Brooke and I are here to check in if you have questions.

Best—
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Records (*she/hers*) Master Gardener Program Assistant
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Linn & Benton County
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2020 OSU Extension Master Gardener Program Updates & Key Dates

For Association Board Members & Mentors

2020 MG Training Class Updates

- Volunteer hours: The requirement to graduate has been reduced to 45 hours by October 31 (25 hours at plant clinics and 20 hours on MG projects). This aligns our county programs with the national standards for MG Programs.
- Training program structure and dates: We are offering the class in a new format this year (content is the same). We will be using a combination of in-class teaching & online modules (March 5-April 2) and Garden Labs (May-June). These changes align our program with the statewide move towards more interactive and inclusive Master Gardener trainings. Please see the attached 'Syllabus for Students' for details.
- Quick Start volunteering: We are sensitive to the fact that trainees contribute to the success of spring MG events. We have developed an option to allow early volunteering (prior to start of class). Please see attachment 'Master Gardener Journey 2020' for how this works. This will also be promoted to trainees.

Opportunities to get to know the class of 2020

Event	Details & who should attend	When & where
Meet & Greets	Q&A with applicants prior to official admission into the program - <i>Mentors, Board</i>	<u>Benton Extension Office</u> 12/9, 5:30-6:30p 12/11, 12-1pm <u>Linn Extension Office</u> 12/12, 5:30-6:30pm 12/13, 12-1pm
Quick Start Meetings	Optional meetings for trainees to sign OSU paperwork & review what is available to volunteer for prior to completing class - <i>Reps from Insights, Beevent, Plant Sale; mentors</i>	1/22, 12-1pm 1/23, 3-4pm Central Electric-Tangent
Potluck Welcome Lunch	Welcome potluck on first day of class - <i>All MGs welcome; especially mentors & board</i>	3/5, 12-1pm Central Electric-Tangent
Brown Bag Lunches	Informal networking during class - <i>Mentors</i>	3/12, 3/19, 3/26, and 4/2, 12-12:30pm Central Electric-Tangent
Committee Fair	Trainees will learn about each committee and share contact info - <i>Committee Reps & Board</i>	4/2, 3-4pm At each Extension Office
Garden Labs	No formal break time but mentors are welcome to attend	See class syllabus for dates, times, & locations

OSU MG Program updates

- The Volunteering Guide: has been updated for 2019-2020 program year available on our volunteer resource website and will be shared in weekly eNews: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/activebentonlinnmg/> This is a good starting point for answering MG Program questions
- Master Gardener classification name change: We are discontinuing use of the title 'Veteran Master Gardener' and instead will using the title 'Continuing Master Gardeners'. Statewide, the Master Gardener program is moving away from the use of the term 'veteran' to be more inclusive and respectful of our military veterans.
- Association Membership Directory: will be compiled by each Association this year. Please contact your county Association membership secretary with questions.
- Plant Clinic Database: A new statewide, web-based, plant clinic database will likely be rolled out in summer 2020. This will eventually replace the desktop database on the Extension office computer and allow easier management of questions coming in from community plant clinics (Farmers Market, mobile clinics, etc.) Training in the new system will be provided to all mentors, trainees, and other plant clinic volunteers.
- New option for Continuing Education: In addition to approved classes and webinars, the statewide program has shared new guidelines for receiving credit for reading research-based publications. The specific details on how to report into VRS are available in our Volunteering Guide: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/activebentonlinnmg/>

Attachments:

- Master Gardener Journey 2020
- Syllabus for Students
- 2019-2020 Volunteer Guide

Volunteering



Learning

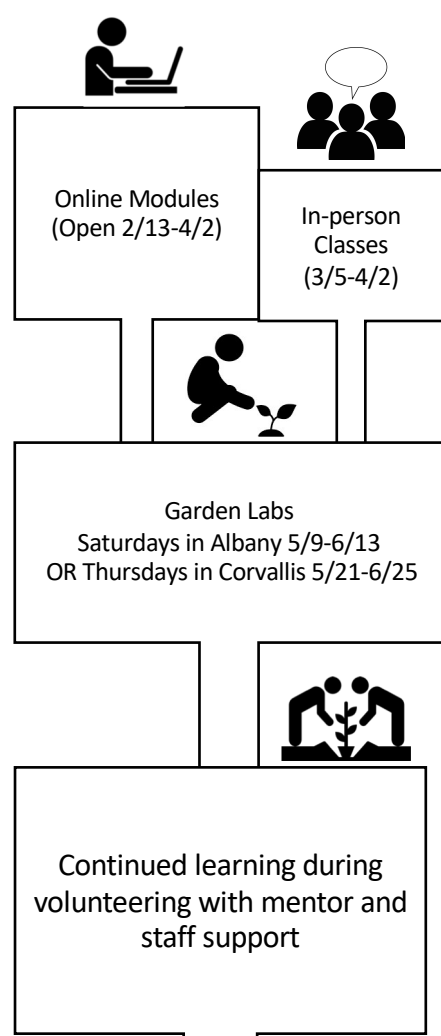
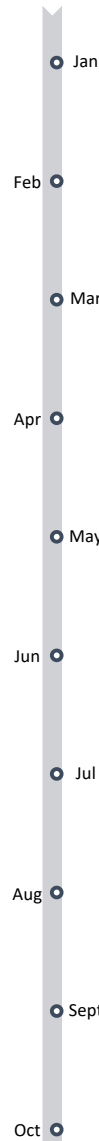
Quick Start Volunteering 1/23-4/2

Limited to support and hands-on tasks for:

1. Plant Sale (Benton)
2. Beevent (Linn)
3. Insights into Gardening (Benton)
4. Demonstration gardens
5. Through the Garden Gate Tour (Linn)

OPTIONAL
Quick Start
meeting
1/22 @12-1pm
OR
1/23 @3-4pm

OPTIONAL
volunteering for
Quick Start
attendees
Open 1/23-4/2



Mentors and staff are here to help you get started and answer questions.

Volunteering 4/3-10/31



Plant Clinics

Help answer gardening questions at plant clinics in the extension office or the community



Master Gardener Projects

See the Volunteering Guide for the complete list. Includes all volunteer hours from the Quick Start list.

All volunteer opportunities open 4/3-10/31

By 10/31 please complete at least 45 hours of volunteering including:

1. At least 25 hours at Plant Clinics.
2. At least 20 hours on Master Gardener project(s).

Graduate with Master Gardener Volunteer Certification



We hope you'll join us next year!





Oregon State University
 Extension Service
 Master Gardener

2020 Linn & Benton Program

Part 1) Classroom-based training & online modules

Online modules open Feb 13th. Each module prepares you for an activity during class. Starting with Week 1, please do the assigned module on your own before that week's class.

Date	Time	Topic <i>Instructor(s)</i>	Reading in Sustainable Gardening	Required online module or reading
March 5	9am-12pm	Introduction & Orientation <i>Brooke Edmunds, Elizabeth Records</i>		Read online: 'Guide to Volunteering – Linn & Benton Master Gardeners'
	1pm-4pm	Plant Problem Scenarios Volunteer Skills: MG Resources Online Module review & activity <i>Plant Problem Scenario (PPS) Committee, Brooke Edmunds & Elizabeth Records</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Master Gardener Program • Plant Problem Diagnosis
March 12	9am-12pm	Soils & Compost <i>Teresa Matteson (Benton Soil & Water Conservation District)</i>	Chapter 2	
	12:30pm-4pm	Plant Problem Scenarios Volunteer Skills: Logging service Online Module review & activity <i>Plant Problem Scenario (PPS) Committee, Brooke Edmunds & Elizabeth Records</i>	Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardening with PNW Natives OR • Herbaceous Ornamentals

Continued

Date	Time	Topic	Instructor	Reading in Sustainable Gardening	Required Online module or reading
March 19	9am-12pm	Sustainable Landscape Design <i>Signe Danler (OSU)</i>		Chapter 9 Chapter 21	
	12:30pm-4pm	Plant Problem Scenarios Volunteer Skills: Connecting with the community Online Module review & activity <i>PPS Committees. Brooke Edmunds & Elizabeth Records</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
March 26	9am-12pm	Entomology <i>Rich Little (Linn County Master Gardener Association)</i>		Chapter 14	
	12:30pm-4pm	Plant Problem Scenarios Volunteer Skills: OMGA & Chapter Associations Online Module review & activity <i>PPS Committee. Brooke Edmunds & Elizabeth Records</i>		Chapter 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Pesticides
April 2	9am-12pm	Botany <i>Patrick Di Bello (OSU)</i>		Chapter 1	
	12:30pm-4pm	Plant Problem Scenarios Online Module review & activity Volunteer skills: Project Fair at Extension Office <i>PPS Committee</i> <i>Brooke Edmunds & Elizabeth Records</i>		Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetable Gardening Container Gardening

Continued

Part 2) Garden Labs

Please sign up here: <https://beav.es/Z9Z> Attend a minimum of five (5) classes on different topics. Most topics repeat once in each County. Attend the location or time which is convenient for you. Feel free to mix and match days and locations but please sign up so we have enough supplies prepared.

Lab Topic	Benton County Demonstration Garden	Linn County Demonstration Garden	Taught by
Plant Problem Identification (Diseases, Insects & Weeds)	Thursday, June 11, 10am-12pm	Saturday, May 16, 10am-12pm	<i>Neil Bell & Brooke Edmunds (OSU)</i>
Plant Identification	Thursday, June 18, 10am-12pm	Saturday, June 13, 10am-12pm	<i>Heather Stoven (OSU) 6/18; TBA 6/13</i>
Edible Gardening	Thursday, May 28, 10am-12pm	Saturday, June 6, 10am-12pm	<i>Community Garden Education Team - BCMGA</i>
Soils and Composting	Thursday, May 14, 10am-12pm	Saturday, May 9, 10am-12pm	<i>Erica Chernoh (OSU)</i>
Pollinators & the Landscape	-----	Saturday, May 23, 10am-12pm	<i>Andony Melathopoulos (OSU)</i>
Container Gardening	Thursday, June 4, 10am-12pm	Saturday, May 30, 10am-12pm	<i>Community Garden Education Team - BCMGA 6/4; Brooke Edmunds 5/30</i>
Plant Propagation	Thursday, June 25 10am-12pm	-----	<i>Plant Sale Committee - BCMGA</i>

Garden Labs are being held in the County Master Gardener demonstration gardens, which are in the fairgrounds of both Linn and Benton Counties.

- Linn County Fair and Expo Center- access from Holiday Inn, 105 Opal Ct Ne, Albany, OR. Map: <https://tinyurl.com/wkmv6mh> (park and enter garden behind the hotels)
- Benton County Event Center and Fairgrounds - 110 SW 53rd St, Corvallis, OR. Map: <https://tinyurl.com/yysldmz2>

2020 Graduation Requirements Checklist

This is a worksheet to help you keep track of the program requirements.

Please reach out to Elizabeth Records (OSU) with any questions.

- Attend classroom training (March 5- April 2)
- Complete the required online modules by the date listed in the schedule
- Pass all online quizzes (score >70%)
- Attend *at least* five (5) Garden Labs (May-June)
 - Garden Lab #1 _____
 - Garden Lab #2 _____
 - Garden Lab #3 _____
 - Garden Lab #4 _____
 - Garden Lab #5 _____
- Complete these volunteer hours by October 31:
 - 25 hours of Plant Clinic (at the Extension office, Farmers Market, or mobile clinic)
 - 20 hours on a Master Gardener project
- Enter your volunteer hours into the online system by October 31
 - <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs/>

Notes – my personal garden learning goals

Essential Websites & Resources Checklist

- Guide to Volunteering with the Linn & Benton Master Gardener Program**
<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/activebentonlinnmg/>
- Handouts & presentations from class and online modules:**
<https://apps.ideal-logic.com/osuextension> (*create and login with your own profile*) <specific login instructions coming in February>
- Find volunteer opportunities and updates in our eNewsletter.** Add elizabeth.records@oregonstate.edu to your email contacts to make sure you get eNewsletters, and/or review newsletters online.
 - Benton e archive: <https://tinyurl.com/yaydkw3c>
 - Linn archive: <https://tinyurl.com/ydhm9r7s>
- Enter your volunteer hours:**
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/vrs/> (*create and login with your own profile*)
- OSU gardening publications:** <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Pacific Northwest Handbooks:

- Plant Disease Management: <http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/>
 - Weed Management: <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>
 - Insect Management: <http://pnwhandbooks.org/insect/>
- Search online for research based information:**
 - Type “site:.edu” after your search term:
Example: type “*blueberry pruning site:.edu*” into Google

Notes – my favorite research-based gardening links