

October 2025



THE GRAPEVINE

OSU - Columbia County Master Gardener™ Program

505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051

Phone: 503-397-3462

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program>

OMGA Newsletter: <https://omga.org/newsletter/>



Monthly Meetings

Executive Board Meeting

1st Thursday each month, 10:30am
via Zoom. For link to join, contact
colcmg.secretary@gmail.com

Chapter Meeting

4th Thursday each month, 6:30pm
Extension Office

BugNutz Meeting

2nd Wednesday each month, 2:00 PM
Extension Office

Seed Saving Group

2nd Thursday each month, 5:30 PM
St. Helens Public Library

Link to the OSU Online Resources and
Publications - Searchable Directory:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/>



2025 Executive Board

- Katherine Johnson, President
- Larry Byrum, Past-President
- Dennis Snyder, Vice President
- Gail Martyn, Secretary/ Treasurer
- LaVina Patterson, Historian
- Karen Harte, OMGA Rep.
- Peggy Crisp, OMGA Alt. Rep.

It has been decided to have a newsletter dedicated to just our membership and local organizations. This newsletter will be published once a month and will be edited by the President of the Columbia County Master Gardener's Association (CCMGA) and the Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Please send any news items, events, articles, pictures, etc. to Gail Martyn by the 25th of every month at colcmg.secretary@gmail.com

The President's Corner

October in the Garden

October gardening is equal parts trick and treat. Squirrels throw pumpkin parties but my squirrels bury nuts in every pot I own, they leave post its but they do not come back later to collect them, leaves fall faster than you can rake, and bulbs get tucked in like little surprises for spring. Think of it as nature's Halloween—you never know what mischief (or magic) you'll uncover in the yard. Just watch out for that rake hiding in the grass—it's scarier than any ghost!

Have a Great October!

Katherine Johnson, President

October 23 Chapter Meeting

Presentation:

Rock Gardening 101 with Chris Ebrahimi

Christine is a botanist and rock gardener. She has lived and gardened in Oregon for most of her life and is particularly interested in trying to grow difficult alpine





plants in the impossibly wet Oregon weather. She is also the former president of the Columbia-Willamette and Siskiyou Chapters of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS). After receiving a BS in taxonomy at OSU and an MS in Forest Ecology at University of Idaho, she spent 10 years



with the USFS and BLM on rare and endangered plant surveys.

Business meeting: We will be electing officers and because there is only one candidate per office, elections will be held in-person at this meeting. We will also be discussing/approving the 2026 budget. This is the last Chapter meeting of the year.

Refreshments: No one volunteered to bring refreshments for this meeting. Sign up with the Secretary or just bring something.



From your Treasurer

Reimbursements: If you make approved purchases and expect reimbursement, get your dated receipts to the Treasurer within 90 days of purchase and prior to December 31 as Board Policy requires. If you have the ability to scan your receipts or take a picture of them, that's even better. Just send the PDF or picture file as an attachment to colcmg.treasurer@gmail.com.

Joy of Gardening Conference report by Cassie Hall, 2024 Master Gardener of the Year

My first time to get to attend the Oregon Master Gardener Association's Joy of Gardening Conference was this past July. It was also my first time ever on a major College campus and staying in a dorm.

I liked staying in a dorm. I didn't like listening to door slamming all evening (especially the first night)...but you take the good with the bad, right?

Dr. Leslie Madson gave the keynote speech. The Master Gardener Association was started in 1976 and turns 50 next year!

She had 5 points that our association should strive for.

1. Physical Access- The garden should be able to meet everyone's physical needs. This could include signage with large print, ADA, Shade structures, Inclusivity programs. We should plan on being able to meet every physical need before it's needed.

2. Financial Access-Look at our county on Census.gov to see the need demographic...we can see where the areas of need are for Seed to Supper classes, demo gardens & possibly donation of tools to the local libraries for check out.
3. Accessible Communication- Example: Make documents available in Spanish or using new technology to reach a younger demographic.
4. Cultural Access- Serve all Spanish, Youth & Elderly.
5. Social & Emotional Access- We need to help people feel...SAFE, WELCOMED and to encourage BELONGING & STAYING. We are to use kindness, patience & encouragement.

(NO GATE KEEPING!) We are here to help people to succeed.

She challenged us to give opportunity to grow community access by doing things like "Garden Future", "Seed to Supper", Seed libraries. We should step up our food donations by gleaning as well as growing. Our goal as an Association for 2026 is to donate 50 tons of food in celebration of our Anniversary!

The first day of the conference I went on the Arboretum Tour of the campus. There were some huge & amazing trees there and some great stories about them and the campus. That is when I saw the little delivery robots that run around campus delivering food to the dorms. So cool!

One session featured several Demo Gardens throughout Oregon. Let me tell you...they have some amazing ones & I think we need to do some road trips!

I took the session on social media, and I got some of our questions answered about some problems we had with hackers. For social media there are a lot of great things that we could be doing and should do in the future. We need people that have tech skills to step up...there are some fun ways you can help our chapter grow just by doing videos.

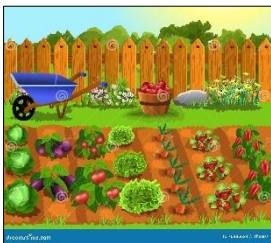
80% of what we see we remember. 20% of what we read we remember.

The Seed to Supper course gave me some good ideas on how we can grow that and reach some in need & not thought of demographics.

There was a course on herbology that I took. That is my current growing interest.

One of the main talks at the conference was "Garden Future". It is addressing climate change. We now have a simple 3 question survey for home gardeners, asking them what things or changes they have noticed in their own gardens. The survey offers them a place to sign up for a climate change newsletter where they can see what others are doing to help their gardens to continue to grow.

I really enjoyed the conference & the book store that they had set up for us & the food! It was great and I want to go again! Especially for next year's big celebration! Will you think about going too?



Garden to Table

The Choy of Asian Greens – The Brassicas

If you have ever visited an Asian market, it can be a bit unnerving to stroll through the produce aisles and witness the bounty of unusual vegetables, both strange and marvelous for the uninitiated Westerner. Numerous types of Asian greens make up the bulwark of the produce sections. The majority of these leafy greens belong to the

beloved workhorses of the vegetable garden – the Brassicas.

Global cuisine has now introduced these piquant greens to cooks worldwide. Easy to grow, these greens are both delicious and adaptable to a myriad of preparations.

In the western style of cooking young greens may be used raw in a simple salad. Try steaming them lightly and then drizzle with a vinaigrette dressing or simply sauté in good olive oil with garlic and a little hot pepper. Following Asian culinary traditions these greens may be stir fried, used in soups, braised or salt pickled as westerners would prepare cabbage for sauerkraut. (An interesting note here is that the technique of salt pickling cabbage was introduced to Eastern Europe with the invasion of the Mongol Hordes. This however is another story.

Culture

Asian *Brassicas* are relatively easy crops to grow if planted in early spring or late summer.

Since the majority of them prefer cooler weather, mid-summer plantings may lead to premature bolting. This is particularly true of some Chinese cabbages which respond well to decreasing temperatures and day length making this a good crop for fall.

These greens may either be sown directly into a fertile, well cultivated, smooth seedbed or started as transplants. Although some varieties have proven to be heat resistant (refer to your seed sources), most of these crops grow best in a cool environment in moist, airy soil that provides high nutrient levels. Look for information on the specific greens that you are growing.

Flea beetles and cucumber beetles tend to be the main insect pests. The use of floating row covers provides a good physical barrier from insects. Slugs can play havoc on these lovely greens especially in the cool wet seasons of spring and fall. For any prevention or pesticide recommendations confer with your county extension office. Follow general guidelines for garden sanitation and crop rotation as best practice for reducing the chance of disease.

To direct sow plant the seed $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep planting seed about every inch. The optimum soil temperature is 40° to 75° F. Keep the bed uniformly moist. Thin the plants to a distance of 6 to 12 inches, 12 to 18 inches for Chinese cabbage. Spring crops may be sown as soon as danger of frost has passed and fall crops may be sown from July to mid-August.

For transplants start the plants 4 to 5 weeks after the danger of frost for spring planting and early June to mid-July for fall crops. Set out transplants when there are 4 to 5 true leaves to a depth of the first pair of leaves following the same spacing guidelines as with direct sowing.

Here's a quick description of the different types of Asian Brassicas: **Chinese cabbage** *Brassica rapa*, Pekinensis Group Pei Tsai: small loose leaf type; fast growing, ready for harvest 3-4 weeks after sewing; more heat tolerant than other Chinese cabbages Semi-heading: several varieties, upright plant generally with long leaves forming a tapering head while growing upwards; slow growing taking more than 70 days; grows best in mild and slightly cold climates; suitable for fall crops Napa (Wombok, Wongbok, celery cabbage): heading type; most popular family of Chinese cabbages; forms a head with leaves and petioles when mature; tender and delicious; many varieties developed for various climates and areas.

Pak Choy (Pac Choi, Bok Choy) *Brassica rapa*, Chinensis Group Small loose leaf, green petiole type: most popular vegetable grown and sold in markets on the West Coast; also called baby Bok Choy, Shanghai Bok Choy, Ching-Chiang Choy, or Ching-Kung Choy; fast growing with tender green leaves and crisp petioles; many varieties available adapted to different climates and seasons Large leaf, white petiole type: Glossy dark green leaves with long, large white petioles; grows best in mild and slightly cold climates; suitable for early spring and fall crops; may bolt in heat conditions.

Tah Tsai (Tat soi) *Brassica rapa* var. *rosularis*, Perviridis Group Very resistant to cold weather; spoon shaped dark green leaves arranged in a rosette of concentric circles, plants are short and rather slow growing.

Gai Lan (Chinese broccoli, Chinese kale) *Brassica oleracea*: Glossy blue-green leaves, crisp thick stems; adapts well to cold and hot climates; after the first cutting of the main stem plant will grow many branches for succulent harvest.

Chinese Mustard (Mustard cabbage, Gai Choy) *Brassica juncea*: Resistant to low temperatures the mustards grow best in temperate cool climates but not good in warm conditions; numerous varieties some being leafy on some forming heads or semi-heads in cold climates; has a mild flavor that increases in pungency as the plant matures.

Heading: such as Bau-Siu, San-Ho Gent Leafy: such as Broad leaf, Miiki Purple Giant, Japanese Red Giant

Komatsuna (Japanese Mustard Spinach) *Brassica rapa* Neither a mustard or a spinach; young leaves, stalks and flower shoots used; fast growing this plant may be grown year-round; ready for harvest in 35 days when sown in warm climate.

Yu Choy (Edible Rape, Green Choy Sum) *Brassica rapa* var. *parachensis*: Different from the oil seed rape grown in the West; mainly grown for harvesting young leaves and flowering stalks; plant picked when bolting; fast growing best for spring and fall

White Choy Sum *Brassica chinensis* or *Brassica campestris* Very similar to the large white petiole type of Pak Choy but features more tender and delicious stems and flower buds; dwarf varieties often called baby Bok Choy

Minzuna *Brassica rapa* nipposinca group: Long slender white stalks and feathery dark green leaves; tolerant to both hot and cold weather conditions and can be grown year-round; very vigorous and can be harvested as cut and come again

Mibuna *Brassica rapa* var. *japonica* This typical Japanese green is very similar to Mizuna but with a stronger flavor; dark green narrow strap leaves; very vigorous and easy to grow, withstands cold very well so suited for fall and winter

Chinese Flower Cabbage (Naban) *Brassica rapa* parachensis group A flowering Chinese cabbage with Savoy leaves; young stalks and flower buds used; grows well in mild climates and can be harvested 40 days after sowing.

Leaf Radish (Lo Bok, Daikon) *Raphanus sativus* Specific varieties of radishes are grown exclusively for the greens; fast growing preferring cool weather. Experimentation will be the best teacher as to which greens you ultimately prefer to grow or how you prepare them. Be a little daring and adventurous. Try something new and different. Enjoy the Choy of growing, cooking and eating Asian greens.

Robert Hammond, Class 2007

Sources:

Seed Savers Exchange; <http://seedsavers.org>

Slow Food USA: <https://slowfoodusa.org/>

Native Seed/Search: <https://www.nativeseeds.org/>

Renewing America's Food Traditions (Gary Paul Nabhan and Ashley Road,

Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University on behalf of the RAFT Coalition)

Let's Stay Certified and Keep Growing Together

Thank you so much for the time, care, and heart you bring to your work as OSU Master Gardener™ Volunteers. The impact you make whether through answering questions, teaching others, or simply sharing your passion, ripples out in ways that truly matter. We're so grateful to have you as part of this community. As we look ahead, we'd love for all of you to stay connected and continue sharing your gifts through the OSU Master Gardener™ Program.

To do that, a quick reminder: in order to stay active in public-facing volunteer roles, it's important to maintain your Certified Master Gardener status. Certification is renewed each calendar year and helps ensure you're eligible to proudly wear the badge and represent OSU Extension Master Gardener™ program in outreach programs.

Recertification is also our way of recognizing your commitment and celebrating everything you contribute. We want to be sure you get the appreciation and recognition you've more than earned! To stay certified, all you need to do annually is:

- Complete the required forms
- Contribute at least 20 hours of volunteer service
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education

This helps ensure we're all staying current and continuing to grow in our knowledge—so we can keep offering reliable, research-based support to gardeners and communities.

Once you're up to date, you'll receive a sticker for your badge to show that you're certified for the current year. Please log your hours in the VRS system here: https://vrs.osumg.org/sec_Login/

If you run into any hiccups logging hours or accessing your account, please don't hesitate to reach out. I would be more than happy to help. Just be sure to submit everything by October 31st.

Thanks again for being such a valuable part of the program. Your dedication, generosity, and spirit are what make the Master Gardener community so special—and we're lucky to have you with us. Please reach out to Janhvi Pandey for any questions or concerns.

Janhvi Pandey

Assistant Professor (Practice) -Extension Horticulture

Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service - Columbia County

505 N Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR-97051

Office: 503-397-3462

janhvi.pandey@oregonstate.edu

Help OSU Extension Columbia County Improve Gardening & Small Farm Support!

OSU Extension Columbia County is working to better support gardeners and small farm growers, and we need your input!

We're conducting a needs assessment survey to understand what resources, education, and assistance would be most helpful to you.

Why Your Input Matters:

OSU Extension provides research-based gardening and farming support through workshops, technical assistance, and community programs. To ensure we're focusing on what truly benefits community, we need to hear from you—whether you're a backyard or indoor gardener or running a small farm. If you grow food, flowers, or houseplants—indoors or outdoors—we want to know what challenges you face and what support would help you succeed. And if you own or work on a small farm, your insights will help us develop better resources for local producers and growers.

How to Participate:

We have two separate surveys—one for gardeners and one for small farm growers/producers. Each is only two pages and takes about two minutes to complete. If you do both, that's great, please don't hesitate to fill out both surveys for us!

Gardeners Survey Link- <https://beav.es/Nqs> or scan



Small Farm Survey Link- <https://beav.es/Nqe> or scan



Your feedback will directly shape and update the programs and support we offer. Thank you for taking the time to share your inputs—we appreciate your help in strengthening our gardening and farming community!

Please reach out if you have any questions/concerns to-

Janhvi Pandey

Assistant Professor (Practice) -Extension Horticulture

Oregon State University

OSU Extension Service - Columbia County

505 N Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR-97051

Office: 503-397-3462

janhvi.pandey@oregonstate.edu

[Gardening, Landscape & Small Farms Resources](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



- **Board meetings:** 10:30 AM, 1st Thursday every month, via Zoom
- **Chapter meetings:** 6:30 PM, 4th Thursday, January-June, September & October, Extension office
- **BugNutz meetings:** 2:00 PM, 2nd Wednesday, Extension office
- **Seed Saving Group:** 5:30 PM, 2nd Thursday, St. Helens Public Library
- **Demo Garden work parties:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 10 AM – noon, Fairgrounds
- **Bottle drive:** Monday-Thursday, 9 AM – 1 PM, Columbia Pacific Food Bank, donation door
- **Bottle drive:** Saturdays, 10 AM – 1 PM, St. Helens High School parking lot, next to the mural;
November 22, December 13, January 3, February 21, March 14, April 24, May 16, June 13
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule:** [details](#)
 - **St. Helens:** 8 AM – 2 PM, November 1
- **Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Fall Native Plant Sale:**
 - Saturday, October 11, 2025, 9 AM -2 PM, behind Scappoose High School
- **Full list of OSU events:** <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/events?page=0>

Useful Links

- **Garden Future:** click [here](#)
- **2025 Level Up Series:** click [here](#)
- **Guide to Being a Master Gardener Volunteer:** click [here](#).
- **Electronic Volunteer Hour reporting system:** mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu Report by October 31
- **Oregon Master Gardener Association (OMGA):** <https://omga.org>
- **The Gardener's Pen newsletter:** <https://omga.org/newsletter/>
- **Facebook page:** [Columbia County Master Gardeners](#) (1,400 Followers)
- **Columbia County OSU Extension Newsletter:** [here](#)
- **Executive Board email accounts to date:** copy and paste these links into your To: box
 - President: colcmg.president@gmail.com
 - Past President: colcmg.pastpresident@gmail.com
 - Vice President: colcmg.vicepresident@gmail.com
 - Secretary: colcmg.secretary@gmail.com
 - Treasurer: colcmg.treasurer@gmail.com
 - OMGA Rep: colcmg.omgarep@gmail.com



Extension office hours

Mon-Thu: 8:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00 pm-4:30 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am-12:00 pm
 503-397-3462

Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association

Board Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2025

President Kathy Johnson Presiding

A virtual board meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM on Thursday, September 4, 2025, via Zoom conference call. The president was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present: Dennis, Larry and Karen making a quorum. Cassie joined as a guest.

Housekeeping

- **Secretary's Report:** The August 7 Board minutes were emailed to all Board members. Larry's motion to approve as presented was seconded by Karen. Motion passed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** InRoads is still working on getting bank statements available online. The 08-31-25 Account Balances and Cash Flow reports, as well as the 09-03-25 InRoads screen shot, were emailed to all Board members. Karen's motion to approve as presented was seconded by Dennis. Motion approved.
- **Correspondence:** Longevity Awards will arrive shortly. Kathy updated the officer list with OMGA.

Committee Reports

- **OMGA Rep:** Karen is attending the OMGA 3rd Quarter meeting tomorrow. She will ask about 2026 OMGA dues. Karen will email new state list to Board members.
- **Speakers:** The September presentation will be Community Garden coordinators and members giving a recap of the season. October will be Christine Ebrahimi talking about rock gardening.
- **Fairgrounds Garden:** This week 400 pounds of grapes and tomatoes were donated to the Food Bank. More than 600 pounds have been donated so far this season.
- **Community Gardens:** No report.
- **BugNutz:** No report.
- **Seed to Supper:** No report.
- **Spring Fair:** Next year's budget has been submitted to the Treasurer. The fair has 80 tables but Karen thinks will need 90. Have more vendors outside to alleviate crowding inside.

Old Business

- **Picnic:** 22 members signed up, 13 showed up. Next year have the Secretary send reminders to those folks. Suggest they contact coordinator if not attending. Receipts will be turned in at the Chapter meeting.
- **Board elections:** Zelda will call members regarding their willingness to hold office.
- **Plant Clinic:** Held Tuesdays and Saturdays at the Extension office.

New Business

- **TechSoup/Zoom renewal:** Can no longer get Zoom through TechSoup. Must apply to GoodStack to get non-profit status for a Zoom discount.

For the good of the order

- **Volunteer hours:** Report hours, continuing education credits and pounds of donated food via the on-line Volunteer Reporting System. All instructions are available on the site.

[https://vrs.osumg.org/sec Login/](https://vrs.osumg.org/sec_Login/) Reporting year: November 1-October 31.

Motion to Adjourn

At 11:20 AM a motion to adjourn was made by Dennis and seconded by Gail. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Gail Martyn, Secretary/Treasurer