



THE TILLAMOOK THYMES

Tillamook County Master Gardeners Association
October 2020

Your 2021 TCMGA Officers

The 2021 slate of officers was elected at the September Board meeting via Zoom and email.

We hope some day to be able to get them all in one room for a group picture!

Until then, we'll make do with these.

Thank you to continuing officers and new officers who have signed up for a year of service.

And thank you to those 2020 officers who are leaving the board – we appreciate your time and efforts!



From left: Jake Lyons, Alternate OMGA Rep; Kristy Lund, President;
Betty Lyons, OMGA Rep; Neal Lemery, Past President



Lynda McClintock
Vice President



Cammy Hickman
Treasurer



Vickie Wight
Corresponding Secretary



Sarah Ostermiller
Historian

Not pictured

Lucy Vesterby, Recording Secretary; Claire Rouse, Class of 2019 Rep; Wendy Kunkel, Class of 2020 Rep.

President's Corner



My sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your expressions of sympathy and support following Bob's passing.

As I have told my family and friends, Tillamook Master Gardener Association members have kept me sane and relatively on track over the past two years.

We are operating under challenging conditions in 'Covid-19' times. The in-person contacts that formed the foundation of our educational programs, fund raising events and fellowship components of our mission have been cancelled and relegated to the internet, ZOOM meetings, emails, and telephone calls. Monthly ZOOM Board and Chapter meetings have seen a moderate member attendance. I encourage everyone to link or call in. I believe we will be operating in this manner for quite some time and would like everyone to participate when possible – no travelling necessary!

So – with a good portion of our service hour opportunities eliminated, the issue of meeting those requirements along with certification for both 2020 apprentices and re-certifying Master Gardeners is an issue. I have been in contact with Gail Langellotto, OSU Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator, who is drafting guidelines in a move toward implementation of Statewide guidance. They accompany this article. Please send your comments and suggestions as soon as possible to me.

I had the opportunity to participate in a ZOOM 'Meet and Greet' on September 28 with the top three candidates for the Tillamook/Clatsop County Master Gardener/Small Farms Position. The person selected will be splitting their time equally between both counties, but more importantly, the position description allocates 75% of the time to Master Gardener Coordinator and 25% Small Farms. Each candidate provided a brief introduction and summarized their relative work experience. Each was asked to respond to the question:

“While your future position will serve traditional audiences and use many time-honored approaches, more than ever we embrace the need to bring innovation, internal/external cooperation, and engagement with new communities in our programming. Please tell us how you will reach previously underserved audiences and historically marginalized communities, while increasing cooperative efforts with other Extension programs in Tillamook and Clatsop County in your role as the Small Farms and Master Gardener Program Coordinator.”

The responses were varied and on target. The last portion included questions from the call participants to the candidates. I believe OSU has a difficult decision to make among all three candidates. I personally look forward to working with whomever is selected.

During the September Board and Chapter meeting officers for 2021 were elected and will serve the Tillamook Chapter well. As noted above, we will be facing continued challenges to ensure our ability to adhere to our mission and continue our standing as a research-based authority for the home gardener. I am confident that both the 2021 Board and the person selected to serve as the Master Gardener/Small Farms Coordinator will be innovative, enthusiastic, and dedicated to that end.

**Cammy Hickman
TCMGA President**

Draft Guidelines for Master Gardener Service Hour and Certification Requirements

Gail Langellotto, Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator

The 2020 Master Gardener training year counts as a year of service for every continuing Master Gardener. This means that:

- Master Gardeners remain active in the program into 2021, no matter the number of educational or volunteer service hours accrued.
- Master Gardeners who were certified in 2019 or 2020 (meaning that they completed required educational and volunteer service hours) can carry over their certification to 2021. Current Master Gardener certification is required to work in the plant clinic, teach workshops, or write articles on behalf of OSU.
- Master Gardeners are eligible for the 2021 training program, which will be focused on skills building for current Master Gardeners (including 2020 trainees) and will be offered at no charge.
- Master Gardeners should report their 2020 volunteer service hours and continuing education hours in the Volunteer Reporting System (VRS). If you need assistance working in the online Volunteer Reporting System, your fellow Master Gardeners have offered to help.

The requirements for continuing as a Master Gardener in 2021 are:

- complete the OSU's 'Conditions of Volunteer Service' form required for all OSU volunteers
- complete 10 hours of continuing education and 20 hours of volunteer service, in order to be certified as a Master Gardener in 2022. Note that this requirement may be suspended, pending how 2021 unfolds. If limited volunteer activities are available in 2021, as a result of COVID or other factors, this requirement may be suspended.

For students who were in the Master Gardener training class of 2020, who were not able to complete the training classes:

- We look forward to connecting you with Tillamook County's – ***'soon to be selected'*** - new Master Gardener Program Coordinator. This person will provide options for access to the remaining classes that students may need, in order to complete the classroom portion of their Master Gardener training.
- The service hour requirement for Master Gardeners in their first year of service, is typically 40 hours. We recognize that restrictions on face-to-face volunteerism may make it difficult to fulfill this requirement. We may thus extend the time for completing volunteer service hours into 2022 or develop other options to make volunteerism and certification more accessible. Please keep lines of communication open with us, so that we understand how difficult, or easy, it is for you to complete volunteer service hours. We will keep lines of communication open with you, so that we can communicate options, as we get a better sense of the landscape for volunteering in 2021.

Tillamook Master Gardeners Virtual Garden Tours

Sarah Ostermiller

Every two years Tillamook Master Gardeners hold a garden tour to show off some of the amazing gardens in the county. We had a wonderful collection of gardens set up for the 2020 Wade and Spade Garden Tour. And then the pandemic halted all our plans. But partly due to the shutdown, our gardeners were hard at work growing beautiful gardens. We put out a call for help, and Laura Swanson came to the rescue.

You know Laura as a Master Gardener, class of 2004, editor of our quarterly publication, *The Tiller*, and editor of the Tillamook County *Pioneer*. If you aren't familiar with the *Pioneer*, it is a local online news service providing up-to-date news and information on what is happening in the county. It also hosts a YouTube channel, that airs videos of Tillamook County people, places and events. Laura offered the *Pioneer's* expertise in filming and editing videos, as well as the services of its terrific videographer, Drew Reid, for our virtual gardening tours.

We started with filming Tim Miller's garden in Wheeler and have now filmed a total of five unique and beautiful gardens in Tillamook County. They are all so different, but Drew and Laura have been able to capture the essence of each garden and its owners and to show them to us with style.



Tim Miller's driftwood salmon sculpture



Corinne and Dave Dumas's driveway display

Please take the time to see what we have put together. Go to YouTube from any computer, laptop or tablet. Search for Tillamook County *Pioneer*, and the library of its videos will come up.

I can't thank Laura, Drew and the Tillamook County *Pioneer* enough for all they have done for Master Gardeners and our tour. We will continue to work together and already have plans for future videos, so keep checking back to see what's there. And let me know if you have any ideas of videos we could produce or gardens we can show off. Enjoy!



Mark Kuestner's repurposed water meter cover

Tim Miller - Wheeler, OR:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPnhydgPo8o>

MG Mark Kuestner - Manzanita, OR:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVB2TtCRBk0>

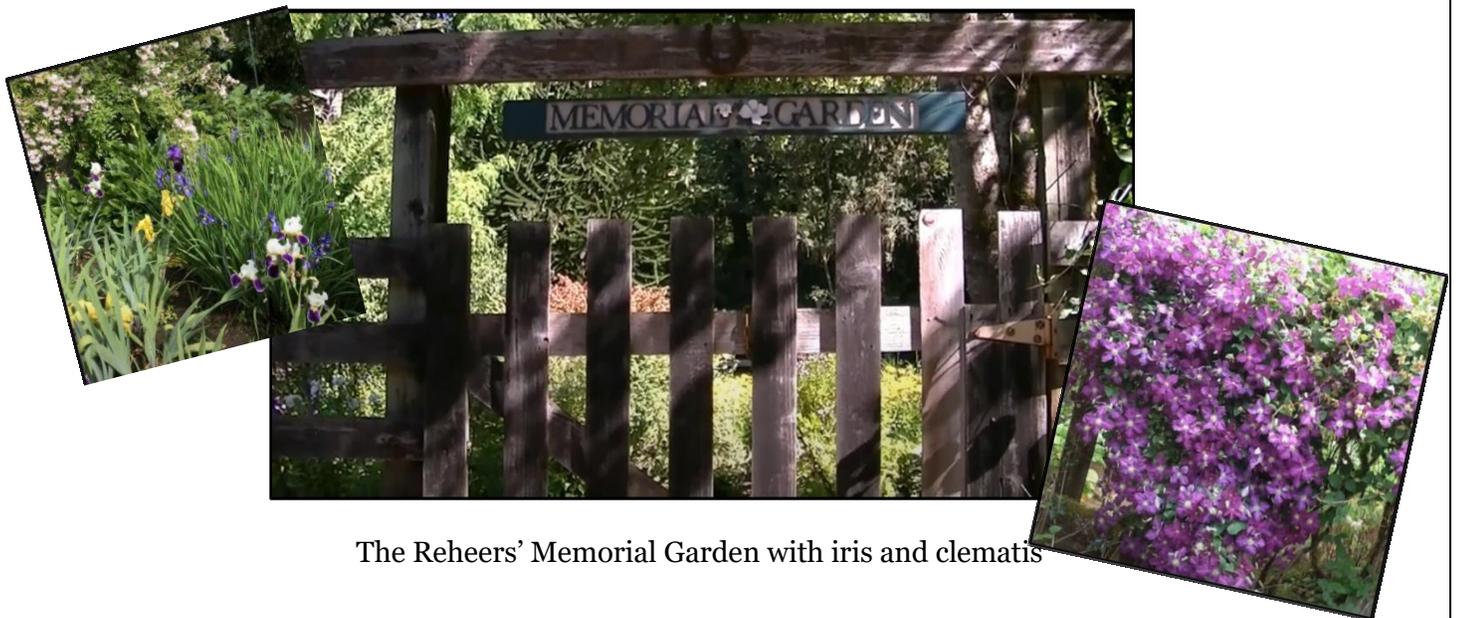
Corinne & Dave Dumas - Trask River:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5t4Je4bU2s>

Reheer Memorial Garden - Lees Camp:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Oo76>

[hae14A&fbclid=IwAR1h5gcMd888XUfURVqvJlI8SGOAK8KUzkw4WvC4rhWMph9z39X4gMgBBIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Oo76hae14A&fbclid=IwAR1h5gcMd888XUfURVqvJlI8SGOAK8KUzkw4WvC4rhWMph9z39X4gMgBBIU)



The Reheers' Memorial Garden with iris and clematis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID and Master Gardeners

Anyone who wants to engage in ANY Oregon State University Master Gardener activities MUST take the COVID training.

Find the training at

envisionextension.thinkific.com

Service Hours Opportunities

TCMGA Board Meeting

October 13, 2020, 10 am via Zoom

Be sure to log your hours in VRS:

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

Master Gardener Celebration Week

October 26 – 30, 2020

Includes:

- Mini-film festival (Oct. 26 – 28)
- State of the Statewide Master Gardener Program report (Oct. 29)
- Trivia contest focused on pollinators and beneficial insects (Oct. 30)

Watch the **Blast** for the official announcement and registration link

Kudos for August & September

Jake and Betty Lyons for installing soaker hoses in the Learning Garden

The Nominating Committee for coming up with an excellent slate of officers

Sarah Ostermiller and Laura Swanson for videotaping garden tours

All of Us! For hanging in there!



How Science Works: A Guide for Gardeners

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardencitizenscience/training-for-master-gardeners/>

Explore how science works and how it relates to your own garden. Learn about “scientific method,” what makes a valid scientific study, how data is collected and analyzed, and how study results are communicated. Learn how to analyze popular press and scientific articles and identify pseudoscience claims.

Sessions:

- [Why study gardens?](#) (available now)
- [How science works](#) (available now)
- What’s the difference between scientific theories and hypotheses? (coming soon)
- Understanding objectivity in science (coming soon)
- What types of scientific experiments are used to study gardens (coming soon)
- Too good to be true? How to evaluate scientific claims (coming soon)
- What is Citizen Science and why should gardeners get involved? (coming soon)



Oregon Season Tracker: Help Map the Weather of Oregon

Jody Einerson
Oregon State Extension Service

Volunteers across the state are helping increase our understanding of weather by collecting and sharing local data. Their work is important because vast areas of rural Oregon are not well represented in the weather data used for forecasts and for drought, fire threat or flood predictions. More volunteers are needed to help, and there is a special need for observers to collect data from coastal counties and rural areas of the Willamette Valley.

The Oregon Season Tracker (OST) program is a collaborative community science program formed by OSU Extension, the JH Andrews Experimental Forest and other partners. OST links natural resource managers, educators, researchers, volunteers and communities to the science they use. Consider joining.

As an Oregon Season Tracker volunteer, you gather scientific data on daily precipitation and seasonal plant changes (phenology) at your home, woodland, farm, ranch or school to share with other observers and research partners statewide. Enter data online on your computer or smartphone through two web platforms from our national partners (CoCoRaHS and National Phenology Network) where it is used by national and local research teams.

We all know “you cannot do anything about the weather,” but you *can* do something to improve the accuracy of the weather forecast. Sound interesting? Consider joining the OST movement and over 300 other volunteers and become an OST observer.

Fall is the start of a new water year and a great time to join!

- Take a free online training program (approx. two hours) at home at your own speed
- Order a CoCoRAHS-approved rain gauge (approx. \$35)
- Participate in an optional Zoom meeting to build skills and get your questions answered
- Start reporting data online from your computer or using free apps on your smartphone

Online Self-Paced Training

Open September through November

Optional Zoom Sessions (attend just one)

Thursday, October 29, 2020, 6 pm – 7 pm **or**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 2 pm – 3 pm

To register: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/ost>

For more information: jody.einerson@oregonstate.edu or call 541-713-5014

