

Master Gardener™ Demonstration, ‘Sponsored’, and ‘Associated’ Gardens

(revised September 2012)

With the loss of the MG Demo Garden at the Fairgrounds changes needed to be made to what gardens qualified for apprentice service hours. Currently, apprentices may choose to serve at one of the Demonstration or Sponsored garden specified below. Over time various Master Gardeners or community members have requested our support and/or involvement. The Board determined what gardens are LCMGA supported, what level of support is offered to each, and why. A system was then devised to define levels of support LCMGA will offer and what criteria will be used to determine eligibility of individual gardens.

We believe that from the standpoint of our organization there are 3 major types of gardens, each of which should receive differing levels of recognition and support.

Demonstration Gardens *(Yachats, Newport, & Lincoln City)*

Mainly due to the geographical distances in our county, one demonstration garden has not always been easy to promote to new students or to sustain. Driving to Newport to work the Demo Garden was difficult for both students and veterans living outside Newport. This problem was solved with the creation of new Demo Gardens in Yachats, Newport and Lincoln City, making them convenient to all apprentices and veterans. Moreover, they further our educational mission by being convenient to clients throughout the coastal area.

These Demonstration Gardens, unique in their educational role, deserve our highest level of support. Both the OSU/LC MG Program™ and the LCMGA should focus their money, grant monies and supplies and may get allocation of funds from plant and bulb sales, etc., grant writing efforts and financial planning and development. Further, some number of service hours should be required of apprentices specifically in these gardens, and veterans should be strongly encouraged to lend their support. Board approved committees have been created to manage and provide recommendations to the Board on management and future growth of these gardens.

Sponsored Gardens *(Yaquina Bay Lighthouse)*

Sponsored or supported gardens and projects have flourished throughout the county mainly due to individual MG Coordinators accepting and fostering them. It was agreed upon by the LCMGA Board that in addition to meeting our mission statement of education a Sponsored Garden would only be approved if there was a MG who volunteered to spearhead it. This decision has worked well. To date, we have had 5 gardens, which have been ‘Sponsored’ in various ways, some monetarily, some only through MG volunteer service hours. The key elements that have been required of these or any further gardens, is that they first unequivocally meet our mission statement, and secondly have an active MG Garden /Project Coordinator with responsibility for all or a significant portion of the project. They have then

been able to solicit LCMGA for monetary or grant support (within the association's capability). Of these 5, the Board recommended that only Yaquina Bay Lighthouse Garden remain to be called a sponsored garden. The YBLG is eligible for Apprentice service volunteer hours. This garden has a different status as it serves a diverse social and cultural need of LCMGA to the community. We recommend that the coordinator(s) for this garden continue to seek monies for operating expense and capital improvements from the local community through business and private donations, grant writing and other sources. It is recommended that a Sponsored Garden if applicable have annual registrations and signed agreements of Garden rules and General rules. These simple agreements provide protection to the landowners, e.g. State Parks and Recreation Departments and LCMGA from damage, loss, and liability.

Associated Gardens

This final category of MG affiliated gardens is comprised of those which, while they may enjoy limited MG involvement, operate wholly or largely without a formal MG Coordinator. A Master Gardener may or may not be directly in control of such aspects as garden design or personnel and event scheduling. They may serve a desirable social goal, but their focus is not necessarily MG controlled. LCMGA may provide educational support. Financial support may only be provided if grant money is available that has been written specifically for associated gardens but the association is not responsible for management.

We recommend that associated gardens strive to be self sustaining through various avenues like collection of annual fees to cover the cost of water, soil, and amendments, etc. Arrangements can be made to accommodate those unable to pay fees, e.g. additional garden duties or additional hours donated to the general well being of the garden. Associated gardens are encouraged to seek monies for capital expenditures from their local communities through business and private donations, grant writing, and other sources. Associated gardens will independently decide on the administration of their garden