

# Default Report

MG Volunteer Hours - Volunteer Survey

March 14, 2018 6:32 PM PDT

## Q2 - Where did you take your Master Gardener training?

County	Your Name
lane	oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Lane	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	OR
Clackamas	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Curry	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Lane	Oregon
linn	oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Coos	OR
Clackamas	Oregon
Clark	Wa
Multnomah	Oregon
Lane	Oregon

lane	oregon
Lane	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Lane	Oregon
Clackamas	OR
Columbia	Oregon
Lane	Or
Multnomah	Or
Deschutes	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Washington County	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
multnomah	or
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah-county	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
washington	oregon
WAshton	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	OR
Multnomah	Oregon

multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Frederick County	Virginia 40
Clackamas	Oregon
Lane	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Berrien	Michigan
Multnomah	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Klamath	OR
Clackamas	Oregon
Yamhill	OR
Multnomah	OR
clackamas	oregon
multnomah	or
washington	or
clackamas	oregon

Washington	or
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	OR
Washington	OR
multnomah	oregon
Multnomah	OR
Clackamas county	OR
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Washington	OR
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Washington	OR
washington	OR
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon op
Clackamas	OR
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon

Clackamas	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	OR
Washington	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Lancaster	Nebraska
Alexandria	VA
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Clackamas	OR
Washington County	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Tillamook	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Jackson	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon (OR)
Multnomah	Oregon (OR)
Washington - on line	Oregon
Clackamas	OR

Clackamas	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Mult/Clack/Wash	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Clackamas County	OR
Washington	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Washington	OR
Douglas	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon
Curry	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
yamhill	OR
Coos	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Hamilton	Ohio

Benton	OR
Coos	Oregon
Colmbia	Ore
Yamhill	Oregon
Clatsop	Oregon
coos	or
Deschutes	OR
Columbia	Oregon
Deschutes	Or
Deschutes	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Deschutes	OR
Deschutes	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Wasco	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
coos Bay	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon

Clackamas	Oregon
Curry	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
coos county	oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
San Joaquin	California
Klamath	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Douglas	Oregon
Clackamas	Oregon
Klamath Falls	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Deschutes	OR
Columbia	OR
Yamhill	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Douglas	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Coos	Oregon

Wasco	Or
Yamhill	Or
Deschutes	Oregon
Polk	Oregon
Curry	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Curry	OR
Yamhill	Oregon
coos	oregon
Marion	Oregon
Douglas	OR
Coos	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Multnomah	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Lincoln	OR
Coos	Oregon
Wasco County	Oregon
Dechsutes	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Wasco	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Coos	Oregon

Columbia	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Deschutes	OR
Clatsop	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Curry	OR
Deschutes	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon
columbia	ore
Columbia	Oregon
clatsop	oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Yamhill	OR
Coos	Oregon
multnomah	oregon
columbia	oregon
Curry	Oregon
Coos	OR
Columbia	Oregon
Curry	Oregon

Klamath	Oregon
San Joaquin	CA
Clackamas	Oregon
Deschutes/Central Oregon	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Lincoln	OR
Coos	Oregon
Curry	Oregon
Coos	Oregon
Coos	OR
Yamhill	Oregon
Josephine	OR
Deschutes	Or
Lincoln	Oregon
Marion	Oregon
curry	oregon
Hood River	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Klamath	Oregon
Wasco	Oregon
Polk	Oregon
yamhill	oregon
Klamath County	Oregon
Yamhill	OR

curry and contra costa

oregon and california

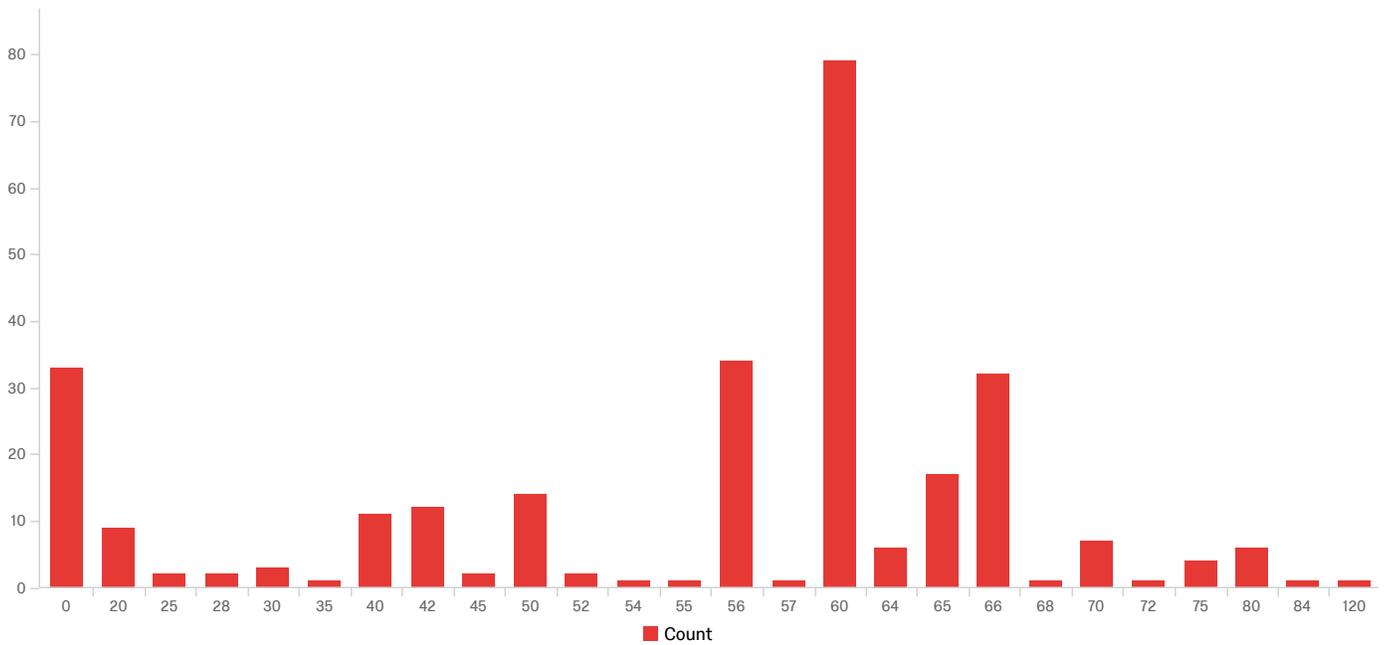
Klamath	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
klamath	oregon
Curry	OR
Yamhill	Oregon
Benton	OR
Oregon	Curry
Wasco	ORegon
Wasco	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Washington	Oregon
Deschutes	Oregon
Curry County	Oregon
Yamhill	Oregon
Columbia	Oregon
Lane	Oregon
Wasco	OR
Wasco	Oregon
Washington	Oregon

Q3 - Do you remember the volunteer service hour requirement to become a certified

Master Gardener from your training? If so, please list the number of volunteer service

hours you needed to complete, in order to earn a Master Gardener badge.

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Volunteer Service Hour Requirement (# of hours)	0.00	120.00	50.44	21.93	480.87	283



Q4 - How difficult or easy was it for you to complete your volunteer service hour requirement?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Extremely easy	16.61% 45
2	Somewhat easy	27.68% 75
3	Neither easy nor difficult	27.68% 75
4	Somewhat difficult	26.57% 72
5	Extremely difficult	1.48% 4
		271

Showing Rows: 1 - 6 Of 6

## Q5 - What do you think were the benefits of your volunteer service hour requirement?

What do you anticipate might be some of the POSITIVE outcomes of reducing v...

was exposed to other people who were interested in growing vegetables and flowers.

The main benefit is, quite frankly, a personal one: deepening my understanding of gardening and horticulture through researching and answering client questions. Of course, the clients also benefited by improving their own knowledge of gardening and IPM where the question related to a pest.

The volunteer service gave me confidence and practice to use my new knowledge. Getting to know new/old MGs made was a wonderful bonus. Working with others who have the passion to "save" our precious planet was a encouraging.

Got to know a few of my classmates a little better.

Experiencing a wide variety of different volunteer opportunities.

It more fully insured my training would stick and I would be a more effective gardener. It also gave me a way to serve that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Came to learn about Gardening. Stayed for the new Friends.

Help the community, and learn more

I got to try out a lot of different things, meeting many nice people on the way.

A chance to shop around to figure out what I liked to do and do not like to do.

It is capitalizing on free work, instead of paying those who should be doing it themselves. The amount of required hours to renew each year is ridiculous compared to what a Dr or RN need for renewal.

We learn by doing and teaching.

Helps to translate theory to practice. Hours give one a chance to see what they really know, what they want to spend more time on, and how they're doing.

learn a standard protocol with hands-on experience to represent the state organization to the public --especially science based information.

Ongoing education; developing connections with other Master Gardeners, which then strengthened my desire to volunteer; the knowledge that the volunteer hours were an indication that I had achieved a certain level of competency.

Learning more about how to research

It forced me outside my comfort zone and made me try the phone clinic and farmers markets.

It really got me involved and feeling comfortable with the program. It also brought gave me tons of learning experience.

Tried a variety of venues, with some repeats, gained enough experience to know where I wanted to give my time

Staffing the master gardener hot line was very educational. I learned much more than I did at the training by doing the research needed to answer questions from callers.

keeps me on my horticultural toes, serves the community, advocates for earth stewardship and healthy eating

Using the information helped me actually know it better and looking things up was also very helpful.

It allowed me the opportunity to test different options to see what fit my interests the best.

Helped me get more involved early on.

I am a current 2018 trainee and at about 75% of course completion. I have been volunteering for the Oregon Gardener and a couple other horticultural sites but wanted to increase my opportunities & MG offers a lot that interests me. I also like the fact that it is a county based program which allows me to do more local volunteering.

You get to make friends.

It is where the learning starts to stick

Haven't done any yet

The volunteer service hour requirement gave us a specific opportunity to go out into the community and share what we learned. Then I learned that people really wanted to know about whatever I was teaching. I usually find it fun and very interesting.

Learned about the resources available in the YCMGA office by using them, gained practical knowledge in working with clients and answering their questions, learned about the many different YCMGA activities by trying them and thus, I was better able to decide where I would like to spend my time, realized that I couldn't participate in all the activities (unfortunately), met many wonderful people and learned so much. I'm still learning!!

I don't know yet. I am an intern halfway through my training.

Reinforced the training and introduced you to other Master Gardeners.

I am currently part of the 2018 interns and am halfway through the program. I cannot address this question based on my own experience but I firmly believe it will reinforce and expand my knowledge. Great way to give back to the program and community.

Getting to try out a variety of different things (phone clinic, plants sales, etc.)

Really learning the concepts discussed in class.

So far, I have done 3 partner hours, trimming apple trees at the Oregon Food Bank. It was a good experience, learning new skills, putting into practice some ideas and techniques described in our MG classroom lectures, and working well with other trainees and veteran MG's. I also attended a Master Gardener event in Milwaukie, as an attendee, sat and listened to a few presentations and spoke with a few Master Gardener leaders from class. It was a well organized, clean, and a helpful session in the community, based on attendance and comments while speaking with other attendees. It looks like a nice event to to volunteer for in the future.

Please note that I am a 2018 trainee, just halfway through my training. I have not started volunteering yet, but I am so excited about it! The instructors and Veteran Master Gardeners are positive and enthusiastic. They tell me that the volunteer opportunities are many and varied, and I believe them. I'm looking forward to volunteering.!

I learned a lot from the veterans.

It was all a learning opportunity. Whether it was the farmers markets, classes, learning garden or whatever...

Learning through talking to other master gardeners and teaching at the phone clinic, rose garden and washington county fairgrounds garden

NA - I am half way with the training and have not completed the coursework.

When I took the MG training (1992), many more house of volunteer hours were required. I was able to complete them in the time allotted. The benefits were: meeting veteran and new MGs, a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer, and learning to listen to the client. It also helped me hone my passions: composting, garden design and slugs and snails.

There was a large variety of things to do.

Using the knowledge gained from the classes and acting as citizen garden educators in our communities. Meeting people around the metro area and being of service.

There's no substitute for real-life, in person, experience, whether it's answering people's questions at a farmers' market, or mentoring a new gardener, or just weeding at a demonstration garden. Having a big chunk of hours this first year seems crucial.

Currently an intern this year

It put me in contact with other MGs that I learned a lot from. It helped me feel invested in the program.

Training at the elbow of a veteran

Learned more each time I did something. Met other Master Gardeners. Got to know OSU Extension staff better.

Haven't done it yet

Working with other more experienced MG to learn how to help public.

Human interaction - meeting fellow gardeners. Experience in problem solving. And always learning something new. Learning where to find the answers.

Hands-on learning in the Plant Clinic to help solidify training.

Learned to work with the clients. Asked many questions to define the problem. Found how to find information that you can trust.

It was good to let the community know the role of the Master Gardeners was.

Helps with applying what you learn in class

The hands on work is a valuable learning experience for new Master Gardeners and does help the community by providing gardening expertise and labor.

Learning more about the various aspects and service provided for being a Master Gardener

Experiential learning, with great support, to deliver services at Farmer's Market, phone clinic, the garden, and plant sale. Side benefit, but not my focus, was meeting more great people, some much easier to work with than others - a microcosm of the rest of the world.

It pushes new master gardeners to get involved and introduces us to new people and information. I think it's an important extension of the classroom learning.

continued learning

Being exposed to current research information and the camaraderie of like minded people.

A well rounded experience

You had a chance to try a variety events and venues that you might not do with less hours. Just so you know I am taking an educated guess on my hours, I know it was a lot more than they need to do now.

Got to know some of the vets. Got practice in using the reference materials. Was able to determine which type of volunteer hours most fit my abilities.

learn to do outreach

Deepening learning, experience with explaining what I learned, personal satisfaction

Exposure to the many ways I could support the gardening community through my new volunteer interest and training.

Forced me to get out and try a lot of different things in different areas. Met lots of new people who are still my friends today. It made me get out of my "comfort zone" and into the larger gardening world in order to get my hours. I think that's a good thing.

Learning more from working the phones and farmers markets

Excellent hands on learning to cement in class learning; searching to find answers to public questions in the phone clinic, learning the tools to find answers and giving back to the public at farmers markets, with gardening knowledge, meeting and working with new people.

to a variety of events/programs, Confidence builder.

Solidified my commitment, required I really work for it which made it more important, allowed me to meet other MGs and feel part of the program.

I learned a lot from talking to the public. Both from answering the public's questions and their life knowledge.

It made me do lots of different types of activities. This exposed me to more than what I may have done if the hours had less. I really enjoy some types of events I did not think I would have.

gaining knowledge of different aspects of gardening and problems encountered

Experience, experience, experience - to learn how to function in the office & off-site clinics with other MGs and with clients

I loved the opportunity to put my training to work and return what I had learned to the community. I especially enjoyed tabling at farmer's markets.

It was beneficial to shadow & learn from veteran MG. Personally, don't feel that you learn much from the phone lines. I like to be more hands on- in the garden or farmers market.

Getting immersed in many different aspects of MG activity.

Exposure to a range of activities and people

Learned so much, great group of people who work well together

It kept me actively involved

Work groups with other MG's at demo gardens, etc. Phone duty was not very beneficial and basically boring.

Made me get the required hours even though it wasn't easy. Good exposure to volunteer opportunities.

Exposure to a lot of different venues, meeting other MGs and developing friendships, networking and learning...

Very useful experiences

Additional on the spot learning

Exposure to experienced master gardeners in answering questions. Shadowing.

The variety of experience within the MG training program is broad and deep. There are so many opportunities to participate, so many fine and dedicated people to work with, and catering to so many interests and skills, it would be a challenge to experience them all in one training year. As for myself I took it as a challenge to participate in new areas and with new people, knowing that it all contributes to the sense of community in some way while broadening my knowledge base. And it continues to do so.

It was hard since I was working full time... But I think volunteering is very important so I didn't mind it. But I do think it may be an obstacle for some people

Got me to visit several locations where MG folks worked. I had a chance to work with various Veterans and then decide what areas I liked best.

Learned a lot working in the demo garden.

Saw the wide variety of projects (then) available for service; had a lot of time around knowledgeable MGs so I learned from them.

It got me exposed to a broad variety of topics, people etc.

I was able to meet other mg.s that I might not have had contact with.

It helped consolidate information learned in class and provided the opportunity to put knowledge into action. It also helped me become more involved in the local community and was a great social experience.

Learned a lot from other MGs; felt like I was a part of the MG community; liked being of service to other gardeners; liked working in the community.

Getting to know other gardeners, learning from other gardeners, and learning the variety of gardening projects that were available in the community.

Education Time

The benefits of the volunteer requirement include: excellent hands-on, experiential learning, engaging with other MG's, learning from others, and connecting with the community are valuable experiences to help reinforce the learning.

A chance to try out different venues.

It forced me to get used to doing phone clinics and introduced me to the work being done at Jenkins Learning Garden.

Continued learning for me and hopefully education for the public!

It was vital to re-enforce class time lectures with field experience.

learned more, met people, found resources

My service hour requirement gave me the opportunity to help people who had questions about any facet of gardening. I also had many choices to fulfill my service beyond the necessary office hours. In doing all of this, I continued learning more about the MG program and best, sustainable practices. I also became a better gardener personally.

applied learning from training

Adult learning in the real world.

I got to experience many different garden venues from green houses to public gardens, etc. very educational and interesting.

I felt more a part of the organization and made friends that kept me active and involved.

Engagement

Learning more about gardening, being involved in a gardening community, making gardener friends.

Became acquainted with many different aspects of the Master Gardeners program. Broadened my knowledge of gardening related issues. Better able to answer gardening questions.

I believe the hours could be reduced and the experience would still be beneficial.

Lots of opportunities to try out a wide range of venues.

Getting out and meeting the public to discuss horticulture/issues

enabled me to really learn the material

I did most of my hours in the Rose Garden because it fit my schedule. I discovered a place I could lose myself and escape the stress of work. And learned more while volunteering.

Tried a variety of volunteer opportunities, which helped me decide what I enjoyed the most.

More learning opportunities and contribution to communities

Working with true veterans who know the ropes. Doing the research for walk in and phone clinics. Working with the public in outreach activities. Building local and state network of knowledgeable plant people and sites.

Putting training and new knowledge into practical experience at the phone banks and community information tables. Development of friendships with other master gardeners.

It was a good way to become acquainted with the many volunteer opportunities in the county. The groups I volunteered with benefitted from my participation, too. The hours also helped me understand the scope of issues that residents in Portland deal with, vis a vis gardening.

I learned how to use the tools and knowledge acquired in training and expand on that knowledge during my internship. I gained confidence in my ability to provide the right information, or the right referral, to our clients. I met LOTS of lovely people. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

I met many MGs and made many friends. I'm speaking almost exclusively about non-program hours. The Multnomah Demo Garden became my home.

They got me into applying what I learned as well as how to use the resources available to us.

Meeting other volunteers. Some volunteer hours (like working in the phone clinic) provide an incredible opportunity to learn, while others (working at a plant sale or to organize chapters meetings) aren't as educational.

The requirement afforded an opportunity for me to understand MG program elements.

Lots of opportunity to try different things, met lots of terrific MGs and I felt I could give back for all the excellent education

Having a very broad range of types of volunteer opportunities allowed me to try a lot of different settings. I learned what I liked to do - and what I don't like to do!

I learned by volunteering different methods of gardening.

Assisting members in the community to accomplish their gardening tasks, demonstrate pruning, soil composition. learned from both doing and helping.

Helping the high school kids learn from soil prep, to seed starts, to harvesting. Then processing their produce.

Got me involved in a lot of interesting things and made friends

Use some of the information from training sessions Connect with people

n/a

Getting to know the program, learning to be of service in the plant clinic, learning for myself, getting to know members of the community, having fun.

- learning how to apply newly gained knowledge under veteran MG guidance - networking with veteran MG's - learning how to utilize all the resources available under veteran MG guidance - becoming aware of how much fun it can be as a MG volunteer - gain self confidence in learning how to disseminate this learned knowledge to the public by practicing under the guidance of a veteran MG

I was working full time and attending college. At the last of training, my husband and I were transferred to Texas. I was permitted to complete hours by making MG the focus of classroom directed study. Flexibility on the part of OSU was a major contributor to completion and continuing participation.

Learning about Extension and all the services they offer, as well as what is required of a master gardener volunteer.

encouraged my involvement and I learned from the process !

Allowed diverse selection of projects for hours

The only benefit, I can remember, other than education was taking the training for free; that is education!!! Satisfaction, of course. Helping gardeners.

it was a good immersion strategy.

Meeting local like minded people.

You always learn best by doing things hands on

It got me out into the community in ways that I think were helpful to the general gardening public. It also helped me appreciate the role of the master gardeners in our community.

Helped me clarify what I had learned.

Great reason to explore many MG volunteer opportunities in order to complete 60 hours.

Becoming familiar with ongoing demonstration gardens and community gardens.

More hands on. Learning types of questions clients have. Getting to know other Master Gardeners.

The 40 plant clinic hours gave you good practice diagnosing plant problems at different times of the year. The 20 volunteer hours in the project areas gave you a chance to see what areas you would most like to volunteer your time.

Exposure to multiple volunteer activities was necessary to complete the initial service hour requirement. In other words, you could not volunteer in any single activity to complete the service hours. The exposure to multiple activities beyond my core interests gave me practical experience that opened up even more volunteer opportunities.

It put me out there in the public. I was able to share information about the MG Program and all that the Master Gardeners do.

I met a lot of different veterans, and was able to see how different people did the job. I also benefited from each person's knowledge.

Interaction with fellow Master Gardener's and contact with the public to apply resources and guides learned in trainings.

All of the volunteer hours were part of the learning experience. i was nervous toward the end that i might not get all of the hours in. Then there were more things needed after I completed the required hours and I got just a couple extra.

For me: learning by being in plant clinic. Exposure to others with common interests. For the community: answers to questions posed through the plant clinic.

well since we have not served any volunteer hours yet i can only assume that the benefits will be for us to raise money for multiple purposes- also for us to learn more on plants and diseases to help the public. to get others excited about gardening.

made me participate more and gained more confidence

Applying training to program activities.

Learning from MG veterans

The volunteer hours helped to reinforce all the learning we received in classes and help us in performing in plant clinic. It also allowed us to socialize and make new friends with like minded people making our volunteer hours more fun. I do think that it would have been a bit more difficult for me had I been working at the same time. Amy Jo has been very responsive to this issue with our working members in providing flexibility for them.

It was almost 20 years ago and we had a wide variety of options that were not as specific as today. It seems we had a lot more fun on projects - perhaps too much socialization. As it should be, we are now almost entirely education focused but many members miss the 'fun' element of working together on community projects.

Whatever project you are involved with there are opportunities to learn new things. Also the gratification of bring a project to completion.

connecting with community and other master gardeners

Being able to volunteer for many different projects and plant clinic and see what I became most interested in for future years of volunteering.

Got engaged with other MG's on a number of interesting projects. Established new school garden, helped maintain the San Joaquin Demo Garden, worked on Garden Tours, acquired a lot of new knowledge about gardening and made a lot of good friends. After moving to Oregon and joining the Yamhill County Master Gardeners, had many of the same benefits, different people, different projects.

Although the material is well presented in class there is no better way to really learn and apply what has been learned than to work in a plant clinic setting helping community members with their gardens problems and questions. Other benefits of volunteer service hours are expanding my knowledge base, meeting people in the community and understanding which gardening issues are most prevalent in the community.

Putting the learning into action

Working exposure to different areas. I found what I would not like to do and the areas I like to work.

Met other MG (vets) and newbies from other counties. Became familiar with the wide variety of service available. Liked that we got to choose what we did and were not forced into things we did not want to do. Helped cement many of the things learned in class.

Helped reinforce my training.

I continued to volunteer in the community garden for 4 more years, and will do so again this coming season.

Th

Meet and serve people in community Generates more interest in program the more people we are able to give back to.

Learn how MG can assist the gardening public

It provides the bare minimum of what a volunteer needs to know.

Interaction with other master gardeners and the public is both fun and educational for me. We improved the production of a Food Bank garden with volunteers from the master gardener community.

It gave me practice in the plant clinic and opportunity to become familiar with reference sources.

I'm a 2018 trainee so have yet to complete my volunteer hours. I see the future hours as a way to extend and expand learning. Plus it'll help for me to meet other MG's and find a volunteer niche.

Learning the different aspects of the Master Gardener program.

Practical application of knowledge gained in class Skills Friends Information

Familiarity w/ Extension and MG Program resources; getting acquainted w/ Veteran MGs; discovering personal area of interest

Learning how MGs work on various projects. Learning what fit for me.

More knowledge and interaction

Met other Master Gardeners and learning from them. Also, getting out in community and learning and sharing with them. Isn't this what the program is about? Sharing ideas and teaching about gardening based on research based facts.

I got to know some of the other Master Gardeners, reinforcement of information learned in class, teamwork, a sense of community

No great benefits for me, I have been gardening for over 20 years and spend most of my summer in the garden. I was certified in 2011 so whatever the service requirement was at that time. I do not remember.

The required hours gave me ample time to get familiar with the various volunteer opportunities within our chapter, to get to know my fellow MGs and to expand my horticulture knowledge base.

Learning additional info and resources available. Contacts within the MG community to assist in furthering knowledge.

Practical application reinforces what was learned in class

exposing myself to the community service to the public learning on the job meeting fellow gardeners still...learning...learning....learning

Learning about different Master Gardener projects.

Getting acquainted with plant clinic procedures and resources

I learned a lot working in the plant clinic, and I think I was able to help some people who asked us questions.

Volunteer service helped me learn. But I was working full-time and it was exceedingly difficult to meet the requirement. I had to take some vacation days from work in order to do volunteer shifts in the plant clinic on weekdays.

Potential exposure to the variety of MG opportunities which can allow an intern to hopefully find a niche that meets their interests and abilities.

Requirement enabled me to feel more comfortable taking on the Clinic Desk independently. Became more familiar with various committees/opportunities within organization.

Getting to know, interact and socialize with other MG's Being mentored through the 60 hours

Increase knowledge base, able to help the community and build a network of other Master Gardener resource knowledge in the area.

The benefits of learning gardening and horticulture information, so that we can help other gardeners solve their plant problems.

Helps you meet people. Learn more

Getting experiences in a variety of situations, meeting the public and learning how to deal with a variety of subjects.

Getting to know the program better. Learning as we volunteer.

The volunteer time exposed me to a lot of other gardeners doing different things than I do... growing different things for different reasons.

Serving and educating the community

The school project was very successful and the kids enjoyed it and learned about planting a pollinator garden

It gave e some more practical experance. It was helpful to have a certified MG with us during some of the events.

- getting actual experience in dealing with the public and the kind of questions they have - being exposed to the MG projects where volunteers are active - meeting other MGs. People bonds are essential - becoming confident enough with the volunteer training experiences to feel like I could do it, although this takes years rather than a couple of months - being involved is the best way to learn

It structures experiences that force deeper learning. Our Plant Clinic requirements are particularly beneficial because we have to address/research real questions in a timely and standardized manner. Community service hours help us become comfortable speaking in public, whether at a booth, in front of a small audience or working alongside community members.

Provided practical experience to educate public for home gardening practices.

Built confidence when applying our "book" knowledge to practical situations. Exposed trainees to other master gardeners and their opinions. While some people love plant clinic and others less so, there is nothing like having dedicated time to bounce ideas off staff and other MG to while thoroughly researching a question.

To stay involved in the community

I am not employed and it's wasn't easy getting that many hours in a short season, someone with a job many find it very difficult to complete the hours as the majority of hours is staffing the Plant Clinic during normal working hours

Learning to take questions from the public about gardening problems and try to find answers for them. It taught me a lot about researching and identification.

I went to schools ,community gardens, farmers markets, created raised beds for groups, children's gardening camps. It was a very heart warming experience to watch others enjoying learning new experiences.

none

Keeping my finger in the pie, so to speak. Hopefully inspiring others to become Master Gardeners.

1. Getting to know other MG's 2. Exposure to various MG projects 3. Hands on garden experience w seasoned MG's

The need to complete the volunteer hours motivated me to get involved in activities like answering questions at info booth at fair, working in the demonstration garden, community garden etc. These activities increased my gardening knowledge as well as making new gardening friends. This also provided a sense of accountability for the wonderful training we had received. I was disappointed to realize that a number of my fellow students did not really try to complete the volunteer hours and were not really held accountable for it.

Repetition of researching and also answering gardening questions.

learn while doing networking with other mgs finding mentors being faced with challenging situations that you would not necessarily encounter in your own garden

Learning more about gardening from doing public service and working with other gardeners

It allowed me to meet people in my community I had just moved too. My volunteer time was an elementary school garden that had been neglected. Another classmate and I had fun bringing the garden up to snuff and really get the kids involved. We made a difference!

It prompted me to participate in a variety of volunteer venues.

I got to test what I had learned and where I could be useful in the community

It helped the community and school districts.

It got me involved in my community.

continuing learning, applying skills where needed, being part of a community with a commitment to growing that community. I have also received personal help from other volunteers.

Finding how many opportunities we have locally for our hours. Meeting other MG volunteers and learning more skills for my garden as well as being helpful.

Getting to know the group of MG's and the community they serve

It requires you to get more involved than you might if there were less hours.

Spending the first year in training with experienced MG's.

Learned: how Community Gardens function, what a demonstration garden is, what topics the public needs and wants to learn about, how to organize community service programs

Discussing gardening with others

Learning so much about gardening and the educational "giving back" to the community.

Forced me to try different activities that I would not have normally volunteered for. This greatly expanded my knowledge of the community and the role Master Gardeners play here. BUT it could have been 40 hours versus 60 and the effect would have been the same.

Demonstrates a serious commitment and gave me chance to try different tasks and decide what I'd like to do again.

Wide variety of approved activities. Opportunities to work alongside Veteran MGs to develop competency and confidence.

Utilizing what I had learned in class and helping others. Volunteering with OSU Extension (I'm a Beaver) Making friends with people who were in my class who are my friends to this day. Having friends who enjoyed the same things I was interested in.

Becoming involved with like minded individuals in a community project.

Getting to know the other MG's....putting into practice what we were taught in class

Opportunity to be of service and apply organizational and MG specific training. I served on the board last year, worked on a few committees, and more so getting hours in was as given. It is reinforcing of skills learned to interact with public and encourage questions, although not enough was done in obvious places. The "Help Desk" doesn't get a lot of action so you get to know others sitting with you quite well Face to face is often more powerful and rewarding for all parties. Samples and questions could not be left this year in a clear, easily seen area like Farmers' Markets or similar.

Continued learning and the satisfaction of serving others.

Great interaction with the community.

Applying information learned in class to the real world Meeting and interacting with other master gardeners

Became involved Got to know other MGs Learned a lot answering questions

Learning while volunteering Building relationships with fellow master gardeners Satisfaction to contribute

Learned what many of the MG programs were, especially Plant Clinic

met and worked with veteran MGs, found a niche

Introduction to meeting people to take and answer questions in a variety of locations. How to analyse and then answer a question brought in to the desk in a timely manner. Get out and teach novice gardeners how to raise crops in a community garden

More participation and hands on so you can have a better understand on how things work

Back when I took the course there weren't as many volunteer opportunities. Mostly the MG desk, so I got more comfortable doing that.

personal growth socialization community support

The people you meet..some become friends... and the information that is exchanged between everyone..

As a Polk County MG class of 2012, completing the Yamhill County requirements afforded me the opportunity to expand my knowledge w/extensive use of computers along w/great trainers; having the five-2 hour office training opportunities option from the start was a plus; the ability to participate in Seed to Supper Program, Farmers Market clinics , i.e., a variety volunteer opportunities w/knowledgeable MGs to gain experience in safe environments. was also beneficial.

Get to know people and become part of the group. Learn more about gardening.

1) community service 2) MG hours fulfillment requirement 3) met new people

I learned a lot. Met a lot of people.

Educational experience, networking with other MGs, public interaction.

The experience of what it would be like if I continued in the program

I learned a little more by helping others at the MG office.

I recognize that the required hours of payback are equal to the hours of instruction and also recognize that the payback hours can be equally instructive, if not more so as the learning is applied to real-life situations that are of direct importance. The volunteer hours also offer the opportunity to get to know fellow MGs, gain new friends, and become a part of the community in a way that the class hours don't. I also have always felt that the benefits (to me) of volunteering outweigh any perceived costs.

Gave me confidence to use the resources and tools available to MG's. Working with vets reassured me that I don't need to be an expert in gardening, and that it's ok to not know every answer. Working collaboratively is essential, IMO>

I signed up for several types of activities so that I could get a good feel for what was out there. It helped me to zero in on a group of activities that I continued to devote my volunteer hours. I was retired at that point, so had flexibility in hours and locations. I was able to meet people across the metro area---Multnomah and Clackamas county, in addition to Washington county.

When you are around gardeners, you always learn something new! Tidbits here and there in conversations, and of course, actual instruction on various components of the program. It is also a great way to meet the veterans and become included in fold of being a Master Gardener.

I experienced all the different volunteer opportunities available, and this experience helped me decide what niche I wanted to fit into.

It encouraged me to explore all the various activities and groups to where I would fit in

It let me know what I could do as well as meeting others with similar interests

It provided hands on practice.

Broad variety of volunteer opportunities during the year that I first certified (2004). Not as many now.

giving back to the community experience with class material reinforcement

Able to explore many areas of volunteering.

Showing Records: 1 - 275 Of 275

## Q6 - What do you think were some of the drawbacks of your volunteer service hour requirement?

What do you anticipate might be some of the NEGATIVE outcomes of reducing v...

Didn't spend as much time on my own garden.

There were no drawbacks from my perspective. However, I didn't see the value in volunteering for some work projects that were not public outreach but were simply work parties. The Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden springs to mind. I logged a lot of hours there in my first year raking leaves and other debris, but I can't see how the MG program got any benefit. I have not returned. Working in a Learning Garden is a different story. This is an issue for the MG program, because lots of people log hours on "partner" projects and don't bother with the program hours.

We all live very busy lives. The commitment when made is important to the success of the program. So I made it the first activity on my to do list.

It was difficult for me because my allergies go crazy around bark dust and it is everywhere!!!!

Super time consuming. I was also working full time so it was difficult to fit all the volunteer hours in my schedule.

It took time away from my own gardening.

CERVIS Cervis Cervis!!!

Nobe

I felt short on knowledge at times, and floundered at times.

At the time, I didn't see any drawback. Now, I think the requirements for phones and clinics are at best onerous and at worst stupid. Why do you need three people sitting around to answer phones when 1-2 could easily handle the volume for most of the year. Why do you need 3-5 people sitting around talking to each other at clinics where 1-2 could easily handle the average volume? It makes no sense to me that this is systemically more highly valued building and maintaining model gardens at the Pittock Mansion, Jenkins Estate Learning Gardens and similar efforts. Real gardening and real interaction around the gardens.

Scott T. wrongfully taking away Brookings school but allowing Gold Beach schools, which are in the same district because he can't get along with Michelle Pruden.

none

First of all, just finding the time. It wasn't too bad because I had just retired. It would be a lot more difficult for someone working full time.

none I enjoyed it. Meeting the public, researching answers to questions, contributing to the local county community

There were no drawbacks for me.

Difficult to fit into an already busy schedule.

It wasn't that hard for me because I was retired, but it may have been difficult for working folks or those with younger families. Also, I didn't mind serving on week ends, but people with families might have found that difficult.

A lot of the days were short working days so it really was a time commitment through the entire year. With a full time job it made it pretty hard at times.

None

Not having mentors on the hot line with me who taught me how to research answers to the questions

none

none serious. It was a bit of a drive to some of the opportunities.

Having to get the allotted hours in the 6 months time-frame

My schedule.

I haven't been involved in the MG volunteering program yet but I don't anticipate any particular drawbacks - I am retired now and am certain that I could not have participated in the MG program & volunteering when I want employed.

None.

I don't see any drawbacks. We agreed when we signed up for the class that we would do volunteer work. I had difficulty making my hours due to illness one summer season and another my Mother was living with me on Hospice. Our extension agent accepted the hours I was able to work.

I really didn't find many drawbacks. I really enjoy working in the office clinic because there are so many resources available to answer the questions. I always learn something new every time I work there. I guess the biggest drawback for me is the drive to McMinnville. We live in Newberg.

I just retired this past year, so without a job and kids at home, I am expecting that the volunteer requirement will be doable. In fact and am looking forward to volunteering more senior/experienced MG to further my learning.

Felt pressured to get the hours done, while trying to find activities of interest. Especially difficult if you work full time.

N/A

at the time I was working a night shift (2100-0700) so the hours were hard for me... but i was on a graveyard shift so many things happening at normal times were hard. i think the number of hours was reasonable to learn things and get exposed to a variety of different activities. but, since the hours are often in 2-4 hour blocks it does mean each block of hours you do really is 1-2 hours longer based on commute times etc. it might be nice if there were more options to get a bigger block of hours done at a time

I have not experienced drawbacks.

I anticipate a good bit of nervous energy and stage fright, but I know I am not alone; there will be Veteran Master Gardeners to guide me.

I was working at the time, which made it difficult to get in my hours.

Being expected to take on responsibility when I don't feel ready. I have only been to 2 farmers markets, now i am expected to lead a trainee, I still feel like a trainee, I am less likely to sign up for markets or the call center, I just don't feel competent.

none

NA

At the time, not much mentorship in the clinic offices.

It takes a lot of time and I did a lot of volunteering on the weekends.

Trying to find enough opportunities that are relatively close-by and convenient.

I began a new job during week 2 or 3 of training, so was working full-time days during my volunteer service requirement time. I also did a lot of other volunteering outside the program (which I may have been able to get credit for, but didn't know this at the time) on a Portland Fruit Tree Project tree care team. Having a full-time day job limits volunteer opportunities to weekends, which can get hard to schedule: everything happens on weekends. Also, I bike everywhere, so getting to volunteer sites on a tight schedule could be hard.

Hard to fit it all in during the time frame

Being retired, I didn't have the drawback of some others, that were working and had trouble finding suitable times to do it,

None at the moment

None, really. I'm retired, and even though I do other volunteer things during the week, I generally could schedule Master Gardener service time just about whenever I wanted to do it. Exception was the Plant Sale, in which I would have liked to work more hours in the greenhouse prior to the sale. Everyone wants to do that, so the time slots had to be apportioned out.

Not enough diversity of types of training.

In some instances a long drive was required for just a little service credit. I have avoided Multnomah Cty phone lines where the shifts are only 2 hours and parking is very difficult. Clackamas Cty has 3 hr. phone shifts and parking is a breeze.

Hard to complete for me because I worked full time at the time.

Difficulty in finding suitable information. Getting client to define the problems. Finding time for volunteer service.

Not everyone is comfortable with the phone clinics (including me).

Time consuming

There was a peculiar situation in my county in Michigan at the time. The MG coordinator did not consider the only botanical garden in the county as worthy of full credit for hours --even though it was the place where the training sessions were held. She favored churches, schools, etc in her neighborhood. We eventually got it worked out but she almost killed the MG program in the county.

Sometimes it was more difficult to find duties to sign up for.

Nothing serious but I know phone duty was a challenge. Good models and permission to not have all the answers really helped

It can be hard to complete during the busy summer time

none - sometimes opportunities not available

I was surprised by the attitudes of some of the veteran Master Gardeners. Though most were very open and welcoming, others were the quite the opposite. I also don't like crowds and because of the don't want to do events like the Farmers Market. I'm confident though that I will continue to find many rewarding ways to fulfill my volunteer hours requirement.

Burn out. It was so much that I only wanted to complete the following year's 20 hours

I had to sacrifice most of my free time to get the required hours within the time frame.

Can't think of any drawbacks

Offerings were not always appealing (for example, Farmers' Market crowds were generally distracted and rushed -- not interested in spending much time and just want a short answer. However, Farmers' Markets make up a high percentage of the opportunity.

I'm glad I got started early. I was still working and it was challenging to reach the magic number of hours.

I was still working then and many opportunities weren't available on my days off. I ended up taking a month off from work so I could get the bulk of my hours in. Not everyone would be able to do that.

I don't see any drawbacks. It was a lot of work, yes, but such a wonderful feeling of accomplishment. Becoming a MG was a great achievement and not to be diminished.

Busy weeks with so much volunteer hours, but i am retired, so not quite as hard for a working person. I loved the variety of options to give back tho!  
Just a little stressful.

I overcommitted myself and as a senior citizen had difficulty handling the physical effort required. I had to drop out of a couple programs I was interested in.

Wasn't super easy to breeze through so had to do some work and knew that this was a barrier for many.

There should be 4hr and 8hr blocks of time. Longer hours would reduce travel time and expense, and reduce the number of days needed to dedicate to meet the hour requirement (not all of us are retired).

Just finding the time. I was not working that year. I can imagine how hard it would be for someone working full or part time.

the available hours available and coordinating with other responsible requests for my time

None. It was easy to fit into my available time. I completed more hours than required.

As a younger, still-employed MG, I understand why so many people wait until retirement to get involved with the program; fitting in the volunteer hours (and even more so the training hours) around full-time work can be challenging.

The requirement for "phone lines" was ridiculous!

Fitting them into a schedule that was already full of responsibility.

Limits people who can participate. May particularly present a problem for people who are younger or employed

Wife needing care for three months

Hard to fit things in when you work full time.

I don't know if it was a hard and fast requirement but a lot of stress was put on doing sessions on the hotline. I found the hotline work to be boring and not very helpful.

I ended up doing whatever was available toward the deadline just to get the hours, rather than doing things I would have enjoyed more.

60 hours was a lot. I was recently retired so that made a HUGE difference in my ability to volunteer. I was very focused on becoming an MG and entered the program knowing what was expected. It was important to me to follow through. I was lucky because my family supported me and Life didn't throw any unexpected curve balls...lol

Difficult for me due to working full time

Not having a solid understanding of the hierarchy of the MG program, and not having enough experience to answer questions.

As a full time worker, I had to dedicate many of my weekends or use my vacation time to get the hours in. I am unable to work a shift on the phones.

My experience was that some activity areas were dominated by personalities (and perhaps for too long) that were a bit too conservative ... too used to doing things their way .... too reluctant to let you dive in with some guidance and encouragement, and too quick (perhaps unintentionally) to dampen ones' enthusiasm. (Mistakes are OK by me ... not having fun or being treated as unqualified or "unworthy" is not.) Outside of that I saw no drawbacks ... so many things to learn. The above-mentioned experience therefore determined where I chose to spend my time once my requirements were met.

A drawback is the rigidity of having to volunteer to be a Active master gardener.

Feeling a little overwhelmed with the questions people asked and not knowing enough. The location of the phone center was not easy for me and it was in a very small room -- way to small for me to feel comfortable.

No problem for me as I am retired.

I was astounded that many of my peers didn't finish and dropped out of the program. The year I trained there were only 2 counties where I could do service, so that made it very difficult and involved a lot of travel. I waited almost 10 years to train because I knew it would be so hard with a family, and if I worked outside the house, I wouldn't be trained now, probably. It is a hard slog and everyone tries to get hours at the same time of year and in the same places, it seems. Now the projects that count for support are many fewer, and I have heard from other vets, not as fun as the regular gardening projects that we could do.

Getting enough of the required hours was difficult without driving long distances. at that time it was very competitive so scheduling that many hours was tough.

Pressure is put on mgs to work the phones in the office. I personally dislike this activity, so have to work around this to get my required hours.

There weren't a diversity of opportunities in Columbia County--there didn't seem like there was a lot of motivation to create new opportunities.

Sometimes it was hard to get slots when I was available, and it was also stressful because you had to sign up early to get the slots. But then the stated requirement that you needed to get a replacement if you couldn't do your shift was stressful because stuff comes up in life! I'm not sure what the solution to that is, but it is definitely a negative.

Having to figure out on my own which projects worked for me. We were told what the possibilities were but we had to contact the head of the project and learn what the hours were and the work required. The first year I tried several projects that didn't work but eventually learned what was workable for me in the following years.

Time involved

Volunteer service hour requirement was challenging for those of us who are employed and have families. The program is geared towards retirees who have the financial means to do all of the volunteering and take the daytime training.

None, I am retired.

I have limited physical energy, so some of the work was difficult, and I find three hours quite long to be on duty. I also still don't feel well qualified to answer questions but am learning to overcome that. With research.

Picking which areas to try.

travel, boring jobs

Nothing comes to mind.

hard to get larger blocks of program hours scheduled

Random mentors. Some good, a few totally disinterested in teaching and modeling evidence based advice.

Some of the service areas were very inconvenient to get to.

I didn't see drawbacks. It was very clear from the beginning that completing those hours was expected to receive my MG status. There were many options to choose from in completing the hours. I was able to accumulate many more than needed.

None

None

None

Trying to find the time to fit in the hours and the anxiety of worrying about the process were drawbacks. There is a reason so many of our Master Gardeners are retired. I fall into that category, but needed to wait until grandparenting duties eased up a bit before I felt I had time to participate in the program. Even now it is a juggling act. I'm not sure how those working full time can even consider it.

Juggling home and family expectations.

That's a lot of hours unless you are retired. Have the opportunity to volunteer happen during the day during the week excludes a lot of folks who are working. This might have been fine when the demographic of the program was 65+ years, but it's getting younger each year.

Only available weekdays during office hours, no hours available early evening or Saturdays

It seemed like a lot of hours but came at a time when I could make it work.

Sometimes the requirements for orientation before participating in an activity were not clearly communicated.

It was a lot of hours to achieve in about six months.

Occasionally had trouble matching my calendar to volunteer opportunities.

A short amount of time to complete the volunteer hour requirements.

Time tracking and end of season reporting are areas that could use some serious upgrading. The entire reporting process seems antiquated and very prone to error. As far as the requirement to serve a certain number of hours, I think it is a bit more difficult for those of us who are still working to manage those hours, but not impossible. It's much simpler for retirees.

I saw no drawbacks related to the service hour requirement.

For someone with hearing problems, working the phones was a terrible experience. Also having Jean Natter as the "veteran" on my first two phone clinic shifts was... stressful.

I should have varied my volunteer hours more - I did only phone clinics. There should be a requirement that trainees and veterans should do more than one type of volunteering.

Not all volunteer hours are the same (see above) and sometimes your time doesn't feel as though it was well-spent. That said, I don't really know of any drawbacks.

Not sure there were any drawbacks. However, I did notice that at many events there were more "volunteers" than customers/clients.

None for me. If I had been working instead of retired it would have been a stretch

It was not easy to get in all those hours.

None

some opportunities were more of a social nature.

Scott didn't get along the the Youth Group leader, so he discontinued our option at Brookings schools, but not at Gold Beach schools. THIS IS DISCRIMINATION.

Would be hard to meet for anyone not retired

Not always clear what counted for what Number of hours needed

n/a

It took a little bit of planning to schedule the time, amongst other personal things, but if a person decides to be a master gardener, I would assume they are signing up to "do the time."

- the time commitment required, more so for those who are working - not enough volunteer opportunities on the weekends

none

It is a lot of hours to fit into a busy time of the year.

getting it done, being located in a small community and rural location- while it was not difficult, it was a couple years getting the requirement done...

Specific requirements for each section made it difficult to obtain those hours. Example: 20 hours for plant clinic when plant clinics were finished.

We did a lot of digging and other grunt work on projects no else showed up for. It is hard at times; we also have a life and as we age we are taking care of our older relatives.

i was fortunate to be able to adjust my schedule for that first year. For others it is very difficult. Being at the clinic is fun. The challenge is to make time for it. The veteran shcedule works well for me.

Too few people who participated.

There seemed to be too many hours at the plant clinic

There really were none for me personally but I can see where the hours for trainees could be cumbersome if there are family issues that need to be handled or if the trainee is working. I know that while I was working, I had no time to do this, let alone do the volunteer hours required to certify. That would also be the case for veterans who may work and have trouble getting a work/life balance. My take is that many of the people who take the training are retired and a good percentage have no intention of doing the work to re-certify. That is certainly the case for the people in my class. Others are working kids and they just don't have the time to dedicate to this full time.

Finding the right fit for the job.

Actually, I see none.

Just takes time

I didn't see any drawbacks to the required 60 hours of volunteer time as a trainee. I volunteered 200 hours that year.

You had to start early in the season with volunteer activities in order to complete all of the hours. Those that waited, such as taking a summer vacation, were challenged by September to have enough opportunities beyond additional Plant Clinic staffing. We also had some activities canceled due to wildfire smoke and extreme heat, which reduced choices later in the season.

Time limit to do it. Availability of projects that were interesting that are available more than once.

Having to commute to Myrtle Point was probably the biggest drawback.

Many questions and plant problems brought to us by the public require research, often from many sources that are not readily available in some settings, for example the Saturday Markets and Plant Clinics at Home Depot. Although follow-up is prompt, I think credibility is dissipated when we aren't able to offer solutions immediately. People want suggestions and solutions on the spot. Spring and Summer are busy times for all of us and the responsibility of getting back to a client is another thing to do that makes it not fun for me and I do not like to leave assignments for the next volunteers. to follow up. Granted, some situations need time to research, and that can't be helped, but portable technology in the form of iPads loaded with the OR/WA Training Handbook and publications, PNW, etc. would be a godsend. Most Master Gardener's are not young and I am an able bodied 63 year old, but the fun of Plant Clinics and Farmer's Market are negated by the amount of heavy equipment required to set-up and take down.

Lack of time to do the hours and do other things as well.

None

The gas and mileage required.. And no credit for the mileage

that we cannot do any volunteering until we finish all the master gardener class- seems like they should go hand in hand.

personal time constraints Intimidation, being new, of my limited knowledge

They are too focused on education and should include other meaningful support to activities that support Extension

Worrying about not getting hours

I really didn't experience any. Amy Jo works with us in providing some flexibility when we are having difficulty. Those of us that have been a MG for a while try to let newcomers know this, especially with our mentorship program beginning in training.

Today, many trainees are excited about the program but as it progresses they find it difficult to complete all the volunteer hours. Communication seems to be part of the problem from the 'project sign-up' time to 'project participation' time. We have dropped our mobile plant clinics and this was a great opportunity to complete trainee volunteer hours for those that work full time.

Driving long distances to some Master Gardener events.

hard to schedule

none

After moving to Oregon, I found I do much less community outreach/education and gardening related activities and spend an inordinate amount of time either directly or indirectly supporting the administrivia and fund raising to support of the Yamhill County Master Gardener Association.

I completed the MG program while working full time. Sometimes it becomes difficult to volunteer on a regular basis. Sometimes it seems as though there is an expectation of more volunteer hours just to meet the community demand when commitments to community are accepted without first consulting the volunteer group to determine if there is sufficient interest or time to meet the need.

Physically was unable to complete due to extended illness. I was not prompt on submitting my monthly hours. Unsure of what qualified for hours. The behaviors of some of the members of the class.

I didn't find any drawbacks, I hated the hours in the plant clinic but I do see the importance of working there. ( nobody said I had to like it)

I was already retired so not too difficult. Harder, I imagine for folks who have a full time job. Sometimes difficult to schedule when there was a limit on the newbies who could participate at some of the services. For example, LO Farmers Market used to only allow 1 trainee and two vets per shift.

More trainings hours in the program spent on plant problem diagnosis would be helpful to assist when volunteering in the plant clinic.

The more you do, the more you learn. The more info you have to share with others. No drawbacks.

Not enough opportunities throughout ENTIRE county and if there were, the information about those opportunities was not effectively sent out.

Some pressure to obtain required hrs

The open-ended nature of the requirement i.e. choose the volunteer opportunities outside of the plant clinic, leaves the new volunteer a bit unmoored and overwhelmed. Also, the social element means meeting and remembering many new faces. A bit more structure in this area would help.

None

It was sometimes difficult to fit my schedule with open clinic shifts.

Record keeping was more of an issue for me than the hours.

Opportunity to get hours severely limited for those with day time jobs/family obligations; available opportunities hold no personal interest; completion w/ other community volunteer opportunities.

Personality and poor knowledge on how go operate a greenhouse. Lack of training in leaders. Poor organization.

Time constraints, long learning day

Was difficult for some people to get in all their hours. Especially, if you have a big graduating class like I did and few volunteer times to compete. Most hours available are also in the spring or early summer which might make it hard for some people to volunteer along with their employment times competing.

my mentor didn't connect with me, my desk duty wasn't fun due to unfamiliarity with reference books. Easier now due to internet I was working part-time and had to do payback on off days

none

Honestly, I can't think of any drawbacks. But, I am retired with grown children and have the time to adjust my schedule as needed. If I had family or work obligations, finding the time to fulfill the Program Activity hours requirement becomes more difficult. Last fall, I made several reminder calls to chapter members regarding renewing their membership. Several of our younger members said while they enjoyed the training and wanted to do more volunteering, they found it difficult to balance their family/work obligations and complete the required "education outreach" hours. I am not sure how to resolve this. Perhaps more Program Activity opportunities available on the weekends/evenings?

Req'd to do plant clinic - not my favorite activity. Not busy enough for me.

Some opportunities were just busy work

I am retired so my volunteer time was easier than if I had been working. Actually with a family and working I would have never been able to do it.

It was a huge time commitment in addition to the training.

None

Some people in our class were not able to meet their commitment, due to illness, pregnancy, etc. Those people ended up not becoming Master Gardeners and might have been valuable contributors. At any other time, I think I would have had trouble working that many hours.

See above. The heavy hours requirement sends the message: Unless you are retired, we don't want you. Working people don't have that much free time.

None. I was recently retired when I did it and had flexible time.

None that serious - had to schedule around vacation times, etc.

Common trepidation and complaint is 30 hour Plant Clinic help desk To this day that is where we lose a lot of our MG's

Having more opportunities to help in a community garden setting.

Making sure that the required Master Gardener volunteer hours are met is sometimes daunting, especially when your own home landscape and gardens need your time.

None

none

Time restraints, consideration of what, when, and where events are held, job that fit the volunteer (and their needs. (example:handicapped, illness, honoring arrangements that impact the volunteers time (such as last minute meetings, working in gardens, cancelling last minute, etc. )

Nonethev

It would have been extremely hard if I had still been working or lived in area like Vernonia. Vernonia is not close to where meetings are held or other events that qualify.

- was a big demand on time, esp. for people who have other obligations and/or are not yet committed to the MG program - limits the potential pool of people who might become MGs. Thus most volunteers who stay with the program are usually retired or have plenty of free time. The younger working folks can't manage that much time and effort. Maybe a two tiered plan that allows working people to do certain activities that don't require as much knowledge or time and they become more involved over time and move up to full certification.

I honestly don't think there are any, but I pursued becoming a Master Gardener because I love to garden but also to keep learning. If anything, earning my certification has been a humbling experience - underscoring what I don't know!

Limited opportunities for contributing hours.

Luckily, I was not working at the time so was able to allocate the time, but the requirements were more difficult for those who were working, have more demanding home life, etc.

I had many opportunities, and did not find any drawback

It was tough to fit in that many hours during the summer without family and personal conflicts.

I enjoyed the community service hours but I found Plant Clinic commitment hours difficult.

none

None

I'm retired. Had I still been working it may have been difficult to put in the time.

i did not really see any drawbacks. I later found out that some of my fellow students attended the training to use the knowledge to start a business and did not intend to do the volunteer hours.

Being able to schedule then in among other priorities.

not all the veteran mgs were welcoming or good mentors

The low number of MG who actually complete hours and serve

Volunteer time is not the issue to me. Continuing ed is the challenge in remote areas. While the people teaching are great, we only have the same ol same ol every year. Time availability is an issue. I don't wNt to go back to class as I feel I have moved beyond that level. More classes with advanced information and new topics are needed please! Make me want to go to class! I love my volunteer time and spending time with my fellow MG's

I was retired so I had free time, that is not the case for all. The main problem I see is that it puts undue focus on the new trainees to the detriment of veterans. It is my perception that a few core veterans take on the majority of tasks and the trainees need many hours so they are sought as the helpers. I think it is alienating to veterans but I could be completely wrong.

Didn't mind doing the work or the committment but scheduling was an issue. I learned what areas I didn't want to be involved with.

Not always available to help. Projects were many miles away.

It was difficult for me to find activities close to my town and I got frustrated a lot.

full time job plus small nursery business, family responsibilities, over 70 (not too much physical energy). I completed 39 hours; still trying to fulfill the remainder.

My church gardening which is a very large garden and public does not count for my hours.

It is overwhelming at first, but there were a wealth of opportunities.

I don't think there are any drawbacks, you go through the program you should give back.

None.

Working people can't schedule Plant Clinic hours Mon to Friday when those are their working hours. The only alternative has had to be Plant Clinic in community events like Farmers Markets and Community College events. Far too few opportunities on weekends and too many people trying to earn their hours.

Just the amount of volunteer hours required.

Too many hours after already sitting through 60 hours of class time. This could be a factor in why we lose so many individuals in the post-training period.

May be difficult for working folks especially with kids at home. We're retired so was not too difficult.

All of the hours were not conducive to having a full time job.

Deters some people from becoming certified or recertifying.

I didn't see any drawbacks to the volunteer service hour requirement except that I was in a large class and at times it was difficult to get the desk hour requirement in. I don't think that is a problem these days. However, some of the hours I was able to count beyond the desk time, don't count now.

Scheduling in the Plant Clinic was a challenge as it gets booked up. I found volunteering at the Grower's Market/ Plant Clinic or County Fair much more enjoyable. the public interaction was greater and the feedback and one-on-one personal communication was much more fun and relaxed.

WOW...a LOT of plant clinic hours

See above. Help Desk, as set up now in Lincoln County, is site specific. In other words, one shows up, follows up, and often waits in vain for something to happen. Being in a more public setting where people can stop by, ask questions, take a mini-lesion would be likely more beneficial. Being able to respond remotely to phone calls or e-mail queries (work in your pajamas as an interview with Multnomah County MG said) would be far more attractive. Lincoln County is large enough that some members have to drive 45 minutes or more to sit at the Help Desk. And a few have real day jobs which is extremely limiting for rigid Help Desk service. Lincoln County site is made less attractive as cell service there is very poor and it is oddly located.

I didn't encounter any, but had waited to become an MG until after I retired. Neither work nor family commitments to interfere.

Had to budget time between work, family and volunteer service.

55 hours was not difficult for me but I am retired. I have mentored, however, other Master Gardener trainees who have full time jobs and they found it harder to do the 55 hours.

I had to put off projects in my garden and around my house to make time to volunteer for MG and also for the classes

Hard to fit in with many other things going on.

After first year, found it a bit more difficult to attain education hours - accomplished this by reattending new MG classes

None

None. It was a matter of fulfilling my part of the opportunity. OSU teaches, I volunteer.

None

Didn't have any.

I would have liked the '24 hours "on the desk" in the extension office to include more of the "OR off-site" options that is stated in the '8 additional hours of desk duty...' clause.

I dislike sitting at booths, but some people enjoy it.

None

None

Some difficulty determining how I could best fit in to MG program.

Not enough places that I felt were worthwhile to invest my time.

I have a bad back and shoulder, so it is difficult to help with some of the physical work.

When I first joined the program and for several years there was a requirement that everyone be involved in a youth project. Personally, that is not an interest of mine and not why I joined MGs or have stayed with it and I would guess I am not alone in that sentiment. It became even more annoying when background checks to work with youth became required. I do think youth programs are important, but folks joining MGs because they are interested in gardening are not expecting that sort of requirement and I think it should be optional. My suggestion for the state-wide is that plant clinics be the only specific payback requirement and that the other hours be the choice of the participants.

I'm retired so it wasn't difficult for me to schedule the volunteer activities. However I've worked with quite a few new MG's who really struggle to meet the requirement due to work and family obligations.

Some activities were not as engaging or of interest to me, but I think it is hard to know that from the start. People have different interests. It was sometimes confusing to know what counted as program vs. support---I think MGs still have a hard time understanding this. I prefer the hands-on activities that allowed me to broaden my experience and knowledge.

Not many drawbacks...except adding more garden maintenance...ie: weeding, to my schedule!

Driving - it takes a lot of driving to get to the venues.

It's a lot to ask in the first year, maybe start lower the add more hours the 2nd year

None

Most hours were plant clinic hours. I know this is a valuable source of man/woman power for OSU, but plant diagnostics was only one class. I felt we either needed more in depth diagnostic and plant ID training or the volunteer hours should be divided equally between all the areas we studied. Also the required group project was very time consuming, not always a topic all group members were invested in, and the results were stacked somewhere rarely if ever seen again. I learned a lot and enjoyed it, but not everyone did.

If a potential MG has a paying job with certain requirements (time, days, etc.), it can be difficult to find volunteer opportunities to mesh with the paying job's schedule.

some project participation was mandatory in an area that did not interest me or I did not feel comfortable

The short time frame to finish. No winter opportunities.

Showing Records: 1 - 262 Of 262

## Q7 - Are there any other thoughts you would like to share with the Advisory Panel?

Are there any other thoughts you would like to share with the Advisory Pane...

I, at first, was very reluctant to work on the "hot line"( now plant clinic) because I didn't think I had enough knowledge to be helpful. The more I worked with a team of like minded MG (they were new too), the more at ease I became. The first year I had volunteered more than the required 60 hours.

The initiative to give MGs who keep up their skills with continuing education a sticker of recognition is a good start. While many MGs view the program as a social activity, it's important to keep the emphasis on continuous learning and public outreach.

In Lane county we have tried very hard the last three years to make our training as active as possible. Each year we have added one or two new active lessons. And this year we have had excellent speakers who also presentated with activities.

Can we work out a program for teaching or administrative options for volunteer service? I want to help, but sneezing and teary eyes are not good for a public image.

I do not think I could overestimate the value I received from the MG training. The monetary cost was modest. Volunteering service to the community could perhaps be considered just part of that cost of the education and again, it is a modest one. But for many of us, volunteering service in the MG program might be our first experience in volunteerism. I think for most of us it is a rewarding experience and one that we will continue perhaps even outside of the MG program.

No

No. You got my shots.

I'm not rejoining because of the piss poor politics with Curry Gardeners under Scott and his supervisor not doing anything, just buying his time till retirement.

no

Decreasing the number of hours in the short run could, I feel, have the result of increasing the hours in the long run. If one feels pressed to get in the hours, the result is simply stress. In the long run, I believe this will prove discouraging to the individual.

I was a horticulture "professional" with almost a college degree in hort science. In the SF Bay Area, I taught fine pruning and "coached" paying clients about how to care for their garden...ie. how to garden based on science, while debunking myths before I retired and became a master gardener volunteer. Aware that my prior training in college was much more than MG training, but enjoying it non the less. And I learned new information, too, which explained the new eco-environment in the PNW---very different from my earlier experience.

I do not think the number of volunteer hours should be reduced. They provide a vehicle for trainees to get involved in a more comprehensive way. Cutting a few hours off the requirement will not make better Master Gardeners in the long run. Those 65 hours allow trainees to investigate volunteer opportunities, find what is appealing, and personally connect with others in the program.

The cost of the program has increased quite a bit since I was trained in 2008. That increase may be difficult for prospective gardening enthusiasts.

A distribution plan might be helpful, e.g., phone clinic, demonstration garden, farmer's market, other, so that interns get that breadth of exposure to volunteer venues

I am 74 years old and electronically challenged. It would be harder for me to go thru training now because of the emphasis on using the computer and learning through computers.

we need more options for the required approved continuing hours

Working with other MGs and doing hands on in clinics and in the field was the cement to bind the information from class.

No

I have a background in horticulture though its been a long time since I got my degree and have really been both pleased and challenged by the course to date and think the approach to course delivery very effective. The program has managed to efficiently streamline a significant amount of information in a fairly short time which I believe speaks to the quality of the instructors delivering the program. Each of them to date have engaged with the class and made sure they're getting across. Thank you

The Master Gardner Program is a great benefit to our community.

I learn best with hand's on education. I am not a fan of PowerPoint presentations - especially voice over PowerPoint presentations. I've taught on line many years and the classes can be so much more interactive, interesting and fun.

I would like to make a comment on the classroom training. I would like there to be more hands on activities as there was with the Plant Identification class. I am thinking this mainly needs to be done in relation to botany, entymology, pest/diseases, and weeds. It would also help if there were more color photos in our "text book" related to these subjects, although I understand that this might be an expensive undertaking.

The current service requirement is much easier to accomplish.

Great program that seems well thought out and well organized. A variety of ways to learn the material. Nice job with the modules onCANVAS.

I am a current 2018 trainee and I am mid-way through my training.

One of the main reasons I entered this program was to have something to offer to my community. I have felt a draw to "do something as a volunteer" but have not felt like I had anything specific to offer. The Master Gardener training is giving me so much knowledge, and when I volunteer, I will have the opportunity to share what I have learned.

If you could have the chapter meetings and training on a MAX line it would help people with sight problems or lack of vehicle be able to make the meetings or training.

Working at both the Wash. Co. Demo garden and Jenkins Estate Learning garden...Finding a way to fit in was a little difficult at times. I often felt I can do more than pull weeds, I have plenty of those at home. Everyone seemed to have their niche and it took a little effort to work into something.

The program instructors are not all great educators. While they are all experts in their respective fields a few are unable to engage the students in a creative multimodal manner. Solid lectures are not a great way to teach and have students retain information. Hands on experiences and group projects are two good way to have students apply and retain knowledge. That being said, there is one instructor who did have a hands on project. However, as someone who has taught K-Grad school, has a BA & MA this individual is the worst instructor I have ever encountered. This instructor is teaching 3 classes. I have though of dropping out many times due to this instructor's rudeness to students & inability to listen to their question. .

The MG program is very organized and rich with content. Always more to learn.

Some events are over-staffed. I realize this may be because the MG program wants people to be able to get their hours, but at most farmers' markets and phone clinics I've staffed having 3 volunteers is 1 too many. One vet and one trainee seems enough.

Overall I think the training is excellent

I think it is great to investigate this subject.

Remember there are a variety of learning styles and demonstration of mastery should reflect that variety.

I can't say that working in the Plant Clinic is fun, but it has its moments. It is rewarding and I usually feel like I accomplished something at the end of a shift. However, I personally find that a 4 hour shift is too long. I understand that since most of the MGs live in Bend, it is a longer drive for them to come to the Extension Office in Redmond, which is where I live, so it makes sense to get the hours in. I understand that a few MGs try to schedule a whole day in Plant Clinic to get the hours done. I wonder if the Plant Clinic hours could start at 8:00 AM and last all day, for a total of 9 hours, and divide the day into three shifts of three hours each..

I'm halfway through my training right now. We'll be meeting with our volunteer options next week.

Great program, great people - extremely well organized.

A better reference material ; more detailed resources would help.

None

The volunteer service requirements can't be so onerous that people can't fulfill them. For renewals there should be more flexibility in how the hours can be earned. I was asked to consider being a coordinator for my Portland Parks Community Garden because I am a MG. When I asked the MG people if this would qualify for volunteer hours I was told no, even though this seemed to me to be an ideal way to share gardening experience with less skilled gardeners. Part of our mission I thought.

no

I think that the cost of the program is as much if not more of a barrier than the volunteer hours. Try to extinguish the use of the term "payback" when we talk about volunteer hours requirements. I've never been comfortable with "payback" given the program cost and to me this is about sharing knowledge and skills gained with the community,

Keep the required volunteer hour part of the program. It's excellent experience and networking, especially for new "master" gardeners who had little or no gardening experience before the class.

Not at this time.

I loved MG training

I see a lot of new MG's doing all their education hours on the phones, I think it would be a good idea to require, maybe 3-5 hours, out in the field interacting face to face with the public.

I think the MG service model today includes too many passive types of services (client asks and MG answers). My experience with teaching has been that often a person lacking information does not know how to frame a good question. As the person learns, the person begin to delve into the subject and many questions flow from that foundation. A more impactful way MGs can inform home gardeners is by teaching them mini-courses. This requires a higher level of preparation and readiness but would be more rewarding for both the client and MG.

I like the option of taking the MG training for a higher price and not have the training hours requirement. I was interested in a volunteer experience using a subject I'm personally interested in so I finished my hours to stay involved. I have promoted it to a couple of friends who were interested but was surprised by the high price.

The AV equipment and speakers were issues at almost every meeting. Mikes were too loud or did not work at times and a few computer glitches with presentations. Not always consistent, but the crew was almost always able to fix after some time. I loved the whole program and process despite the glitches.

not at this time.

Is there anything we can do about lack of diversity in the MG program? Address what we can do to sustain native pollinators and bird populations.

Maybe having to do more volunteer hours for the first two years then drop down to regular vet hours. Having this as a choice to do in the first year or over two.

no

I have doubts about the value of online training. Interaction with your soon-to-be co-workers helps break the ice when your in a classroom and learn about othr's foibles and more first-hand. In addition, a fair number of client issues are local problems, seldom encountered in other places, even in an adjacent county. Research has already shown that learning from books, etc., is more effective than learning from a computer screen. Retention is better..

The year after I earned my certification I spent about six months in another state and was unable to complete my hours, and it wasn't clear to me if I would be able to recertify (or if I had options for earning my hours remotely somehow). While I was able to become an active MG again, it would be nice to have some information on that so I could have planned ahead a bit more.

There are some "veteran" MGS out there -that should not be mentoring interns; and perhaps should be better informed on the goals /purpose of the role of a Master Gardener.

More support for the first year...pairing with an existing master gardener or small group meetings. Can feel pretty isolated

LIFE IS GOOD

I think it would be helpful to have more veteran MG's be presenters during the MG trainings. It would allow the trainees to hear more personal experiences and it would spark more interest among the trainees.

I think the program is expensive and I believe quite a few people who can't afford it, are too proud to ask for financial assistance.. I also think it is worth every penny! Are we experiencing a downtick of new interns? I think we live in uncertain times and there are a lot of pressures on families. This does present a challenge if the majority of interns are retired since years of involvement may be limited.

When I was an Intern, I found great benefit in trying out lots of different \*types\* of volunteer opportunities (different markets, native plant sale, conference, rose garden, Pittock Mansion!) more valuable than 6-hour shifts at a farmers market every weekend to get the hours in.

To emphasize community more, perhaps and to empower others to grow food and beautify their neighborhoods. Emphasize and highlight how we serve effectively : in ways that beautify neighborhoods, feed the poor or teach others to feed themselves, reclaim and improve soils, how we educate and disseminate only research-based info. Maybe to self review the agencies and be a little more supportive as to how some teach and learn, and a bit more more critical of those who dominate or have a "choke-hold" on projects. I was very impressed by how the teaching was organized and always started and ended on time, and with quality instructors. Perhaps at each session, to remind students to stay with the reading -- it's amazing how many trainees I talk with think they can cram the readings into a few sessions instead of staying timely from week to week.

Another obstacle to becoming a master gardener is the cost of taking the class. I don't know how to change that, possibly more online stuff that people can print out themselves (so the big binder doesn't have to be printed).

I am concerned about the cost of the training. seems like it has nearly doubled since I took the class in 2010. I would think that would cause people to reconsider taking the class. I understand there are scholarships available but it's hard for many people to ask for a special discount.

Making it easier for people to complete their volunteer hours that are still working.

I really wish that we could have Sustainable Gardening in every clinic box. When you are a brand-new intern, that is the familiar book. If you don't bring your own you are sunk at first. It can be very intimidating when you don't feel you know very much to have to deal with all unfamiliar resources in the field.

Due to the number of people becoming Master Gardeners who have little gardening experience previously, it makes me a bit nervous when they are giving the public gardening advice. Also with the reduction in hours required, they are not getting as much supervised experience as they really need. What made the training I had really wonderful and vibrant was the very experienced extension agents who taught the classes. Now the classes are taught by an assortment of volunteers, and people who have commercial horticulture businesses. The commercial people tend to deviate from research based info and are not necessarily educators.

Things have changed a lot since I came through in 2004. The cost of the program is very high and the number of hours has really increased. There are also different kinds of hours that can sometimes be difficult to acquire especially if you have a family or a job.

I think the sign ups this year that designate interns vs veterans are a good idea. However, as a first year veteran, I really don't feel ready to be the lead veteran on some things, for example, the phone clinics. So that acts as a disincentive to sign up for the phone clinics .

I was a MG in Nebraska from 2005 until 2012 and then moved to Oregon and became a MG in 2013. The programs were different but I found both to be useful. For volunteer hours in Oregon, the first year I had to complete 60 but it wasn't difficult because the MGs in our chapter worked together in our demonstration garden, we had plant clinics at farmers' markets, and we worked in the Extension Office to answer questions. In Nebraska, I didn't have to answer phones in the Extension Office although I did work plant clinics at farmers' markets. Also, there was no state or county organizations so we were independent as Master Gardeners.

I absolutely loved the classes! And I like the continuing education and the opportunity to hang out with gardeners.

Don't dumb it down.

I think we are doing very well here in Tillamook County. I would not recommend cutting back the number of hours spent in MG classes because there is so much to cover.

Study how Master Gardeners in other parts of the country handle the telephones. Way too much effort and learning spent in policy and procedure. Takes away from the content time.

I think shortening the hours (volunteer) is easier for people to get the requirements in the allotted time.

I think that our chapter would like to keep it at 70 hours because many of our programs including our demonstration gardens depend on those hours for staff.

As a veteran MG, I still don't quite understand the breakdown of volunteer hours on the annual form I'm required to complete. What exactly constitutes program and partner activities.

While the volunteer hours certainly provided learning experiences, I tended to regard them as payback for the excellent instruction I received during training. I was just talking with an experienced gardener this weekend (she makes trips here and abroad to visit gardens) who, when I brought up the possibility of being a MG, said "all those volunteer hours" kept her from considering it.

Since 2012 I've seen the demographics of the programs shift. we are getting younger people interested in the program. . The young folks are interested in issues around non traditional horticulture (community horticulture/ work with communities etc, rather than hobby gardening. A lot of our volunteer opportunity lean more to the hobby gardening spectrum.. Unless we can figure out how to engage these younger participants they will the class and wander away. This will happen more and more

Seems the service hour requirements for new trainees changes alot from year to year. Please continue to put emphasis on core activities - phone and remote clinics.

volunteer hours, especially clinic hours drives home the classroom information. Be careful not to cut the pay back time too severely since it enhances learning. It also cuts back the opportunity to find other volunteers with whom you "click". Friendships help support retention of volunteers. Key issue for volunteer management and service delivery.

None

Nope.

How about having regular trainers give one hour re-cert classes quarterly at Chapter meetings? Paying close attention for an hour, surrounded by friends, is much easier than doing so for six hours surrounded by strangers. How about asking trainees at the end of a session, "What question on this topic would you like to be asked at a farmer's market? How would you answer?" It would help trainees know that they actually had some useful knowledge. The trainings tend to make the trainee realize how little they know. It might help trainers learn what they need to change.

This is an excellent program and I continue to learn a great deal each year. I would like to see opportunities for continuing education credits more prevalent in some of the offerings. For example, does Tree School count for re-certification?

It may be easier for retired people to meet the volunteer service hour requirement, which is, in my opinion, reasonable.

The quality of education we received, the excellence of the instructors as teachers and in their fields would be tough to surpass

I didn't know as much about what I was getting into as I could have. I would be glad to share my experiences with MG interns, as a sort of mentorship session; perhaps others would do that as well?

I wish you would move the Extension Office to a more centrally located town like Coos Bay, where I believe more members would attend the meetings.

SICK of being told, I as an active Oregon Registered Nurse have to renew my Background Check. When I been telling Scott those of us ENd and MDs already have a current Background Check on record, with the State.

I am currently a trainee in the Master Gardener program, in week 8 of the classes. As a semi-retired person, I do not anticipate any problem in meeting the volunteer hours required. However, I have concerns for my fellow classmates who are working full-time jobs. In my conversations with them, they express concerns with whether they will be able to coordinate their jobs with volunteer days/opportunities available. In fact, they mention they may not pursue the certification primarily because of the 60 hour requirement. I think that would be a shame to lose these highly motivated, "younger", individuals who would be an asset to the program.

- please make it statewide that each new trainee has a dedicated mentor to follow them through the first year to give them encouragement and advice

This can be a lifetime commitment if handled with understanding and compassion.

Being a 2011 graduate, I've seen most of the training sessions several times. Acknowledging trainees haven't seen it and need the basic information, veterans are bored with the same presentations, which leads to lack of participation and drop-outs.

I find the monthly newsletters very informative that Chip does, and look forward to them. He is really good for us all, I hope all the state has an comparable quality extension agent ;o)

Allow flexibly when assigning hours so people can work in their area of passion or experience

Master gardeners eat too much at meetings. I wish I was younger to be a better member of CCMGA. I cannot do in the garden what I used to!!! My retirement is taken up with many other challenges. Life happens. I have enjoyed my time as a member of CCMGA.

there is a lot to learn to be a master gardener and plant clinic is the most challenging and fun. making way for 40 hours of plant clinic is difficult. Pairing a new master gardener with a veteran is very useful. Wish there was a grace period or a make up option if you cannot get those hours.

I did not complete my volunteer requirements and am satisfied with trainee status. The classroom and continuing education is was first rate and my primary focus.

I think it is very important to get out into our community. I am not sure it is made clear enough to trainees - or veterans for that matter - that part of what we do is represent OSU in our community. This is a tough thing - volunteering. I do work with other agencies and have for many years. There is a need by the agencies to rely on their volunteers but it's a challenge. The demographic, from my experience, are those already retired or those who already have a strong basis in volunteering in the community. If the need is to help the public - and it's there - I think there needs to be a real conversation about the universe of people filling that role and what the real expectations are. This is a volunteer gig for all of us and many will just walk away if it gets too crazy. You need to think about what it will take to keep all of us engaged and excited about doing this.

Explain a volunteers responsibilities,for instance, like no drinking or taking drugs on or before volunteering and what will happen if you are reported.

None at this time.

It would be nice to be more involved in the decision making process, specifically with respect to landscaping decisions, pruning, plant selection, etc.

No. I am sure it's a process that has been proven

In Central Oregon, we have several classes that are hands on. Composting, Soils, Insects, Weeds, Plant ID, Botany, and Pruning.

Consider a way to accomplish hours through blocks, such as specific months. Another suggestion that I made to our Extension Office is to inform trainees not only about the possible volunteer activities but what the estimated number of volunteer hours one might expect. Some activities earn single hours, while others earn tens of hours. Understanding both the time commitment and the potential for meeting volunteer service hours help inform trainees what the overall mix of activities are necessary to complete the requirement.

I think the MG Program needs to be better advertised. So many people that I talk to have no idea it exists. I didn't know till someone told me & gave me a class as a gift. Then, I was hooked!

None. You guys are doing a great job

Would the Advisory Panel consider the creation of a card Perhaps 3"x 5 "? One side packed with a consensus of the best and most common resources, websites and publications it can comfortably cram. The other side could devote half to an eye catching photo (perhaps a contest each year?) the other half would have phone numbers and contacts specific to the MG chapters and space for comments or notes. Just a thought!

The people I met and got to know was the greatest benefit of becoming a Master Gardener. It was also very good for me to learn that there is always more to learn.I found out how little I really knew.

Please do not reduce the required number of plant clinic hours. It takes time to become familiar with the plant clinic. Reducing this requirement will delay and ultimately reduce volunteer effectiveness in the plant clinic. I have no opinion regarding the total number of volunteer hours.

Master Gardeners don't get credit for everything that they do. I can see why this is off-putting to some of them. And we have lost people for these reasons.

we have great leadership and great members here in Klamath Falls, I have enjoyed becoming part of this group.

Great program

For our working people, weekend opportunities are important. Evening opportunities may be more difficult to provide.

I would like to see more recognition of the volunteers throughout the process of becoming a Master Gardener or recertifying instead of just one night. I realize that this may be considered 'hand holding' but people like to be recognized. In one of our community gardens, we recognize the 'garden of the month' and it is amazing how plot holders respond. It also encourages others to work harder, get creative and make the entire experience more enjoyable. Perhaps a county program can be established for this purpose and then some form of recognition in the state newsletter - just a thought. Thanks for the opportunity to share.

would like to see some way of including hours spent growing plants from seed for fund raising plant sale. Perfect way to put what you have learned to use and learn more

I don't think reducing the volunteer hours below 60 for MG Trainees will make it that much easier for the trainees that are not likely anyway to continue on volunteering in future years as a Veteran.

In California, the San Joaquin Master Gardener's had a full time paid Coordinator and support staff that did most of the work the local MGA does in Oregon. The coordinator was responsible for - establishing and providing oversight of all committees, - planning and oversight of most events and activities (with help from the members), - hosted a monthly dinner all members attended that would provide a great opportunity to socialize with other members and be updated on work other members were doing. In addition, the the UC provided an enormous amount of infrastructure support for master gardeners. The UC made available to all counties a wonderful UC administrated website that members could log into, record volunteer hours; coordinate online signups for upcoming committee meetings, events and activities; share documents; see who was doing what; where help was needed. In addition it provided an enormous amount of online gardening related resources maintained by the UC (IPM etc.) and, If you moved to another county, there were no surprises, you had the same UC provide online resources and interface. In Oregon every association is pretty much on it's own to provide most of the organizational structure and planning for events both educational (Spring into Gardening) and related to fund raising (Plant Sale) through a Board of Directors. With the exception of the VRS the local association are left to provide most online resources for the Master Gardeners through their own paid for, and maintained website ycmga.org. The association authors it's own Newsletter. I've found that because of the onerous amount of association related work, people get burnt out and have less time for the real mission of the Master Gardeners. Because there is no regular opportunity to commune with the general membership as a whole (as with the Monthly dinners in California), our group tends to be much more balkanized into smaller groups that don't communicate much, and where leadership can become entrenched and very protective of turf.

Having been involved as a MG for 20 years, I would like to see more on-line opportunities for education (webinars on a wide variety of topics) for experienced gardeners. Last year Oregon hosted 4 of these and they were very interesting and enjoyable. Interested persons from multiple states participated. I would like to see more of these learning opportunities available to Master Gardeners from multiple sources, a clearinghouse to select topics of interest. All pre-approved for MGs.

The class was both convenient, well taught and fun.

I would like to see trainees have more hands on exposure in the greenhouses, not just seeding but root pruning, trimming and care of plants. I would also like to see more hands on time in the actual gardens we have -vegetable and the discovery garden.

Overall, a great program with highly qualified staff who are always very helpful. Love being one of the MG. It's a good group of people who are always ready to include others in whatever they are doing. Cost has gotten pretty high though. It was \$160 when I went through in 2005. Not sure what price is now but think it has probably tripled or, perhaps, quadrupled. That's hard (especially for young people) to pay.

There needs to be a communication that is available monthly listing all opportunities throughout an area. This could be an email, mailer, posted flyer, Facebook post etc

No

The hierarchy of COMGA, who actually does what, is opaque, even to a veteran. Yes, so-and-so is in charge of X project, but has designated YZ to another person, who remains off the radar except by word of mouth. Then how and when to contact that person becomes difficult, especially for the new volunteer. The COMGA website needs to be presented as a resource and new volunteers need a in-class tutorial on how to use it. Of course, it needs to be kept current. All of the MG program has become more technical, almost requiring an IT tech to make it workable. (Other example: water-wise water monitoring from satellites.)

Our Food Bank garden always makes a pitch for new volunteers at the master gardener classes and has got good volunteers that way. We need new volunteers as lose the older ones so I support the idea of volunteer hours.

No

I understand that the primary purpose of the MG program is to extend education to the public. But, could our own gardening experiences not also count for volunteer hours. For example, I'm not very knowledgeable about vegetable gardening but am trying to start seeds for the Tomato-rama plant sale. Could I not count some of that seed starting exploration as volunteer hours, since my experimentation also makes me better able to teach the public? Thanks for asking!

I think the volunteer requirement is very important, both to meeting the purpose of the MG program and to enriching the experience.

Challenge is to recruit younger cohorts: more emphasis on school programs might attract younger family/professional types; create new opportunity for volunteerism; assist schools with outdoor/environmental activities/learning; create greater public awareness of MG Program.

Developed a program that is the same statewide.

Always need more instruction

no

no

During my training, I became well-acquainted with a couple other trainees. We would sit together, study together, and, after our training, agreed to sign up for phone shifts together. As with any group or organization one joins, it is about the connections you make that perhaps have the biggest influence on whether you stay with the group. During trainings I would incorporate activities that encourage dialogue between trainees. For example, when the instructor poses a question that requires more than a simple answer, trainees might be asked to think about it privately and then share with a partner prior to sharing out whole group. This serves several purposes. 1. Everyone has time to think (not everyone knows the answer immediately) 2. Everyone has a chance to share their answers with someone (not just those who are called upon). 3. Trainees get to know one another. The instructors that I have had during my initial training and subsequent recertification trainings have been excellent. They are knowledgeable, enthusiastic and passionate about their topic.

Statewide requirements for recertification should be standard across all chapters of MGs.

More hours on the clinic desk would be helpful. Too many committees fighting for volunteers

I am a Master Gardener....but not a "MASTER GARDENER"..... through my training and our Coos County Group I have met "MASTER" gardeners. These "MASTER" gardeners I hold in reverence. They are the demigods of toiling the earth. I am proud to volunteer with them, or work the gardens...absorbing as much as possible from their knowledge bank. This is for me the true benefit from volunteer hours.

I think it would be helpful if the panel also looked at the volunteer hour requirements for ongoing active vs associate membership. After not being able to achieve the hours for active membership, I feel like I'm stuck with limited volunteer opportunities in order to try and achieve the active membership requirements for next year.

None

I would like to see the program be more flexible-- offer more opportunities to earn service hours on weekends; consider allowing trainees 2 seasons to complete all the requirements so they can become a master gardener and still have a life.

None

Broader base of service opportunities, maybe putting together work groups to offer our skills to help the elderly/disabled. A volunteer coordinated activity, not just the farmers market.

I'm thankful to be a part of the Master Gardeners Program. It's very informative, and a great way to give back to our local community.

No

When I took the course, the very first session was botany which was very scientifically presented. It had been quite some time since I was in a classroom, so the material was a bit overwhelming. I know scheduling can be a problem, but my suggestion is to start off with a little lighter subject. Botany was much better received later on.

I wonder if there might be a chance to electronically have classes. If folks would like to have class discussion, classes could be Skyped. One could take the weekly test electronically as well and send results to the Professor. Some field trips might be arranged so that volunteer work could be included before, during, or after the teaching at the site.

The first day orientation needs a makeover. It is not interactive nor fun. It can be both. I am a teacher. I know it can be designed instructionally sound and not dull.

There is a need for the timing of the classes to be available for folks still working. We need younger folks involved. I have heard that the classes can be very expensive. If possible maybe there could be a change in the cost of the classes.

Fear & confidence are bigger factors than training time that cause people to fail to certify or drop out in the first years. Maybe always have people work in pairs esp. in plant clinic.

There are so many people who love gardening but for some reason can't fulfill the requirements or chafe at doing so. Could there be different levels of certification, a stair-step approach that would encourage more people to take the training? We need more money to promote MG training. Maybe an appeal to nurseries?

Apologies, I don't remember the specifics but it was not always easy to schedule plant clinic shifts.

If I am going to stay active and come to the MG training each year, I am hoping that the training sessions will have a few different instructors, although I realize that the subject line is pretty much the same.

More webinars to count towards hours would be great!

We here in Klamath County have a new advisor as of fall 2016. She is very experienced and adds to the Chapter lecture with her personal experiences. She has had many years in horticulture and is a BUG NERD witch she is very proud of.

seems to work well

Reporting the volunteer hours has become a bit complicated.

The training I received ( in 2013) was very good under the direction of Chip Bubl the extension agent.. I have recommended the training to many people sense. I do not think the volunteer requirements should be reduced because the program is basically "free" to begin with and if people do not have to "invest" very much in it they will not take it seriously. I also think the that the need to fulfill the volunteer hours should be stressed and tracked more rigorously.

Volunteerism is down everywhere. But making too many less hours and loosen up the criteria and curriculum devalues what this program is about.

New classes! Make me want to go to class again challenge the assistants to bring in people who want to volunteer. Currently we are getting people who move to the area interested only in learning for themselves on how to garden in this area. They have no intent on volunteering!

I think there should be a annual update video or publication made for volunteers. The initial training is supposed to be comprehensive. Each year there is new information or updates to that training and every veteran would benefit from knowing that body of information because they are not attending the new classes. I think there could also be some specialized training on line that built on the more general training given initially. I do take advantage of online webinars but I think there is room for training that is more detailed in areas covered in the initial training. Soils, fertilizers, propagation, IPM, and so on.

The staff and volunteers were excellent. Most home MG's want hands on relevant information. Theory is a waste of time. Teach more about the difference between chemical use vs. abuse. Fear of chemicals comes from the ignorant

You need to do a better job with new students on possible projects after they graduate. Most never hear a word from anyone. Very poor internet sites for new students to check for possible community projects.

If you can develop some presentations that a new mg would feel comfortable in presenting and would be educational to a community, then the mg would just need to get a venue and advertise their presentation.

The training was invaluable, a very positive experience, but completing the volunteer hours has not been that easy for me. Certification is an incentive for some, but for me the learning experience alone was more motivating. I would have been happy to have paid more for the course if that were an alternative to 60 hours of volunteer service.

Yes, churches which are by nature public should be included in volunteer hours.

I like the idea that some of the information from the MG program could be online and interactive in that way. However, MG's are such a huge asset for the community, having the class in person as a group makes it a part of building a resilient community. We are more responsive, more connected and more united

I realize that I come from the state down under. But it did have some advantages. Here you will take anyone to be a MG. There, in my county, you had to have an interview and were told specifically that you need to fulfill your hours. Not that there weren't those that did not but usually most did. We had some of the same problems with people not staying with the program but it seemed less of a problem. We also had a paid coordinator and no association. If the MGs did not have to spend so much time running and funding the program they would have more time to spend doing the important work of teaching the public.

Don't forget that there are many eager volunteers on the east side of the Cascades who can't always participate in Willamette Valley activities due to weather and long driving distances. And please consider giving us credit hours for driving to distant locations to volunteer - a Sunriver volunteer has to drive almost 60 miles each way to teach a class in Madras. But they don't get credit for the time spent in their car, only the classroom. And yet the Central Oregon Master Gardeners are expected to do it every year.

Too many education hours required. Classes are rarely new or interesting. I have to use satellite for Internet so the online classes are not an option. This may be the reason I leave the program

For most people, it's very difficult, unless totally retired, to maintain the volunteer requirements. Also, since this is a volunteer commitment, it shouldn't feel like a job (sometimes a full time one!)

Please consider reducing the post-training volunteer hours required or we will continue to alienate the younger individuals who could contribute so much. Also please consider an alternative to daytime training sessions for those who are employed and unable to take a day away each week from work without jeopardizing vacation and sick leave accruals (which are commonly now one bundle in most companies). Thank you.

Keep the program requirements robust to ensure certification is meaningful and respected.

If you want to get the younger generations involved it would help to offer classes during the evening hours or maybe even on a weekend day. Also having more hours available to complete the volunteer hours during the year would be helpful. Basically it seems like the MG program is geared towards retirees and is very difficult for a working individual to complete and maintain.

Personally, I would like to see more field trips such as small farm visits and nursery visits incorporated into the program. I think becoming familiar with the local plants and vegetation offered locally would be a benefit. I'm also a member of the Grants Pass Garden Club, each month we have a plant of the month talk. I have learned so much about plants and their specific needs, insects, diseases, etc. Each week of class, maybe bring one or two plants in that have common problems to practice diagnosing and getting used to looking at plant problems. I think more exposure to the real world of plants would benefit the members. Also, another consideration may be to incorporate working on the local food bank farm or school garden as part of the required hours. I know members can choose to do this, but a food bank farm may be an interesting experience. I was surprised by the number of members in the association that don't have gardens or plant any vegetables at all.

Increasing both visibility to the public and more ways with flexibility in time and location would be an all around asset. I know student MGs need some support which may not require that they could not meet with a veteran in a range of locations, using electronic library sources which are common today anyway.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

Fifty hours should be sufficient for the requirement, but if people have time they can dedicate more.

Varying the content of classes and the instructors makes the classes more interesting to returning volunteers. I like having an interactive component. For example, we had a lecture on pruning and then went into the learning garden to actually prune...

This is my first year as a veteran Master Gardener. We figured out that every veteran would have to spend 20 hours in the plant clinic to cover all the clinics. This will be difficult for me because I am also on 2 committees plus I am a member of Klamath Sustainable Communities and am on the Committee to organize a Vegetable Garden Tour for our community. I also work 2 days per week and have a very large yard and vegetable garden that I alone work in. I feel stressed just thinking of the 20 hours plant clinic in addition to the education hours and all the other hours that would count as volunteer hours. I guess I could resign from the committees. Another way of looking at it would be to try to retain as many Master Gardeners so that there are more people to volunteer resulting in fewer volunteer hours for each individual, thus making the whole process more enjoyable and less stressful. I am aware that some people volunteer a lot of hours but not everyone is able to do that.

We do not have much diversity in our group. I hope we can bring in more minorities.

no

You're doing a great job

I think all the counties should charge the same (with enough charged for a small -say \$30 refund), have the same required volunteer hours, and upon completion of the volunteer hours a refund (the \$30 mentioned above) given at graduation. So many people take the agreement lightly and never intend to volunteer. On the other hand, if they do volunteer, - there is a greater chance they will find their garden passion and some garden friends. And stay involved.□

Better preparation and training on how to answer a plant clinic question.

Keep up the good work...

In the beginning (volunteering in Newberg), I would have liked more choices for the "33 hours in another approved activity". And for recertification, more varied choices for Continuing Education..., i.e., water-wise gardening; use of native plants for homeowners; what is healthy soil; how to help people access extension/research information from their homes; to keep MGs interested, involved, and excited about sharing their extensive experience/knowledge/abilities w/in a variety of communities like the twelve Legacy Healing Gardens, local schools, nursing/care facilities, as well as the choices within the MG program. <http://www.legacyhealth.org/health-services-and-information/health-services/for-adults-a-z/horticultural-therapy/garden-locations.aspx>

I like to research and learn things on my own. More of that should be incorporated into the training. Also, there needs to be more info on how to garden on the east side.

No

I had a friend that wants to take the class but isn't a people person. He wants the education but doesn't want to volunteer

Encourage chapters to provide opportunities for new recruits that give them more of a sense of ownership in program.

I'd like to see some training to certify people to judge horticulture for county fairs. I am trained, there is only one other person in this area. We really need some more people.

I am now a lifetime MG and have NO problems meeting the 24 recertification hours - at the end of February I already had 52+ hours of payback time completed and anticipate another 100 or more by the end of October. However, I also remember that there were some years when meeting the 24 hours (for returning mgs) was a stretch due to a full-time work schedule. I still work but am better able to volunteer due to opportunities outside of work hours. I think a number of first year MGs don't quite accept the payback requirement or understand how much they can learn from those hours. They may also have problems fitting into our projects, for whatever reason. I wish our program offered more hours of classes, even one more day (6 hrs) to have a more complete training. As it is it can take several years for the "electives" to cycle through.

We could think more broadly about how volunteer hours can be met, and consider activities that do not require MG's to be physically present. We could use technology so MG's can contribute at a time and place convenient for them. We could grant volunteer hours for assisting with modernizing our operations, marketing, researching, etc. -- much of this can be done remotely. We could look for ways to create more neighborhood-based activities (community gardens, education, neighborhood beautification, etc.).

We have many different types of activities for volunteer which I think is good. I like being able to attend the Intern Training lectures for a refresher. It is good to also have different Instructors periodically on a given topic as content is updated and changes. I think our Metro MG Extension Office provides good support.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer service organization, so getting enough volunteer hours should be flexible. That said, I wished I had had to volunteer in all the projects for a couple of hours each, just to see what all was happening around the area and to get exposure to other projects that may have been more of a draw for me.

Because of the driving limitations, I would like to see some online volunteer work available.

I enjoy mixing online and classroom training, workshops are great for hands on

The requirements are not set Statewide and each County does its own thing. I think it is an unanswerable problem on a state level if there is no common ground at the County level.

I think every class should have some sort of hands on component. I learned a lot on the weed walks, why not tree, shrub, native plants walks. Native Oregonians might already know these, but many MG trainees take the classes because they are new to the PNW and are unfamiliar with what grows here. There's so much!

For our program, it would be interesting to poll the MG's on which projects should be continued and which let go.

On accessibility (the primary issue as I understand this survey), creating more at home/online modules where the classroom time is more hands-on lab style would be tremendous.

Showing Records: 1 - 205 Of 205

**End of Report**