

## Support for funding OSU Extension

OSU Extension Service provides services and information for many programs. Three have impacted my life. I am still using the white sauce, formal table setting information, and sewing skills I learned as a sixth grader in the 4-H program in Denver. My husband and I got a lot of training and information as new small woodland owners. As I began gardening, the Master Gardener program gave me useful, research-based information.

About 6 years ago I took the Master Gardener training class which was like a college level course, put in laymen's terms. As a volunteer, I have learned how valuable this program is to the community-much more than I realized when I initially called for help.

OSU Extension oversees and provides a framework for the work of Master Gardeners. This provides a multiplier effect for tax dollars thru an army of volunteers (135 in Washington County alone) who provide information and support to county residents. Throughout the state, OSU Extension helps Master Gardeners maintain quality control through continuing certification based on the most current research, provides office space for phone clinics, etc. When we had to switch to online meetings, our Extension immediately supplied webinar capability.

Washington County Master Gardeners maintain two demonstration gardens, provide free monthly seminars and more than 30 free demonstrations to encourage urban agriculture, support sustainable practices for cleaner water and healthy soil. Vegetables from the demo gardens are donated to food banks. Walk-in clinics are available at farmer's markets and a phone clinic is available daily. We provide hands-on experiences for children and outreach to underserved communities.

OSU Extension provides a cost-effective service to all parts of our community and I hope you will support it.

Karen Graham, president Washington County Master Gardeners, Bethany (Portland), Oregon