

G. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR:

Policy:

Each year a COMGA Master Gardener will be selected and recognized for their contributions in accordance with the mission of COMGA bylaws. For purposes of this policy, the 'current' Master Gardener of the Year is defined as the person who received the award last. For purposes of this policy, the 'previous' Master Gardener of the Year, is defined as the person who received the award the year prior to the current Master Gardener of the Year.

Procedure:

1. Nomination:

- a. The Master Gardenertm of the Year Criteria and Nomination form will be published in the September COMGA monthly newsletter to distribute to all COMGA members, concurrently with a membership-wide email. The nomination form will also be on the www.goCOMGA.com/forms website. COMGA members will submit nominations to the OSU Central Oregon Horticulture Agent, by the date listed on the nomination form. The Horticulture Agent will give the nomination forms to the previous Master Gardener of the Year.
- b. While nominations from anyone in COMGA will continue to be welcome, we will also use an objective standard to create some nominees: Anyone in the MG program who has reported more than 200 total hours of service in the current plus the previous year. This list of people with 200 or more hours of service in the past two years will categorize their hours according to the MG categories outlined on of the Report Your Hours page on the Extension website.
- c. Using the Master Gardener of the Year criteria, the Awards Committee will evaluate the candidates on this list and any nominations sent to Horticulture Agent to select a winner.

2. Selection:

The previous Master Gardener of the Year will schedule a meeting with the current and other past Master Gardeners of the Year (the Awards Committee) who are Active members. If past recipients of this award are nominated again, they will be notified by the Master Gardener of the Year chairing the meeting, that they may not attend the selection meeting and discussion. Copies of the accepted Nomination Forms will be made available to meeting attendees, in person or electronically once the meeting has begun. The previous Master Gardener of the Year will lead the meeting discussion on how nominees meet the criteria for this award as described above. Selection will be made by those Master Gardeners of the Year in attendance. Selection will be done in a timely manner in order to have time to choose a gift and have the plaque engraved and presented at Recognition Night. The Horticulture Agent will be notified of the selection and will then advise the OSU Master Gardener Program Manager of the new COMGA Master Gardener of the Year.

3. Certificate:

The Horticulture Faculty will make the Certificate for the COMGA Master Gardener of the Year and it will match the size and style for other recognitions at the Recognition Night Banquet. Allow enough time for this to be made.

4. Gift:

Funds for a gift are included in the line item of the COMGA budget under Recognition Night.

5. Plaque:

COMGA is responsible for getting the plaque engraved with the recipient's name. The plaque hangs in the plant clinic office at the Deschutes County Extension Service Office in Redmond, OR. Metal header

CENTRAL OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

and plates can be purchased and engraved by Bend Engraving on 2nd St., matching the engraving of previous years.

6. Recognition Night:

Names of all nominees for this award are included in the Recognition Night program. The current Master Gardener of the Year will introduce and describe the contributions of the Master Gardener of the Year to be recognized and present the certificate, gift and plaque. Photos are taken for the COMGA historical files and folders.

7. Award OMGA Gardening Conference Tuition:

The COMGA Master Gardener of the Year recipient will have his/her OMGA Gardening Conference tuition paid for if they attend. This is included in the COMGA OMGA Gardening Conference budget. If the COMGA Master Gardener of the Year cannot attend that year, the funds for attending OMGA Gardening Conference could be carried over for the following year for that person after review by the Scholarship Committee.

8. OMGA Master Gardener of the Year:

The COMGA President will submit the application for OMGA Chapter Master Gardener of the Year in the Spring of the following year. The current COMGA Master Gardener of the Year will be COMGA's applicant.

PERENNIAL STAR:

Policy:

A recertified Master Gardener may be selected for the Perennial Star award to honor extensive, exemplary participation in the Master Gardener program and COMGA.

Procedure:

1. Criteria:

Perennial Stars are those volunteers who are the foundation of our organization. They can be relied upon to be There, time after time, year after year. They exhibit in-depth knowledge of the Master Gardener program and the COMGA organization. They reliably do excellent work in whatever activity or task they undertake. Their work has contributed significantly to the furtherance of the mission and goals of the Master Gardener program and COMGA. They are very knowledgeable about horticulture and gardening and willingly share that knowledge with the public and fellow Master Gardeners. Additionally, they have earned the respect of their fellow Master Gardeners over an extended period of time. They are Active Members and generally have been active in the program for more than five years.

2. Selection:

The Perennial Star is selected at the discretion of the Awards Committee. Selection is done at the same time as the Master Gardener of the Year. The award is given only when the committee determines that there is a candidate worthy of such recognition. The Awards committee proposes candidates and reaches a consensus decision.

3. Recognition:

A person on the Awards Committee presents the award at the annual Recognition Night. The recipient receives a star pin and a certificate prepared by the Communications Liaison.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

Policy:

CENTRAL OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

A Central Oregon certified OSU Master Gardener who has provided COMGA with lengthy (20 or more years) extraordinary service and exemplary participation in the OSU Extension Master Gardener program, may be selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Procedure:

1. Criteria:

Lifetime Achievement Award nomination(s) will come solely from the Nominating Committee and the local OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator. The Awards Committee will evaluate if the nominee(s) meet the criteria for this award as described in the policy section, with the agreement of the local OSU Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator.

2. Selection:

- a. This award is meant to recognize a Central Oregon certified OSU Master Gardener with 20 or more years of extraordinary service and dedication to the OSU Extension Master Gardener program. It will be awarded at the sole discretion of the Awards Committee, in conjunction with the local OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator.
- b. This award also recognizes long-term dedication to supporting the efforts of the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association and its work to advance the mission of the community horticulture program.
- c. Extraordinary service includes but is not limited to:
 - i. acting as an ambassador to the local OSU Extension Horticulture Program;
 - ii. actively sharing sustainable gardening knowledge through teaching and other activities which help educate the gardening public;
 - iii. routinely volunteering a high number of hours annually, over a broad range of projects that support COMGA and advance the mission of the local horticulture program;
 - iv. demonstrating strong organizational and interpersonal relationship skills; and showing consistent leadership through long-term dedication to assisting others.

3. Recognition:

The gift honoring the award finalist will be given by the local OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator or the current COMGA President, at the annual Recognition Night. COMGA will provide the funds to purchase the gift and engraving. Recipient's dues in the organization will be waived in perpetuity.