

Name of Project: Home & Garden Show (Central Oregon Builders Association) (May 2, 3, 4, 5, 2024)

Project Coordinator: Vickie Minor

Brief History of Project: The OSU Extension Master Gardeners have been staffing a mobile plant clinic at this event for many years. As of 2024, we pivoted away from a mobile plant clinic and now focus on (1) promoting awareness of the OSU Horticulture program in Central Oregon and (2) educating our gardening community on how the horticulture and master gardener programs can help with high desert gardening challenges. Over the three days of the event, volunteers talk with the public about gardening topics, and we provide information on publications that are commonly available on the extension website, at the extension office or in the plant clinic office. We also talk to visitors about the master gardener program. Booth volunteers include recertifying master gardeners and trainees. Hours worked are credited under the Home & Garden Show planning category. We also hold several gardening classes over the weekend of the event, presented by recertifying master gardeners. The classes are 60-90 minutes long and provide opportunities for trainees to be teaching assistants.

Volunteers needed:

-Thursday, May 2: SETUP – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: two (2) volunteers (recertifying MGs or trainees) will be needed to help set up the booth, which involves transporting tables, and other supplies from the office/shed, to the Middle Sister building on the fairgrounds. (If you have a truck, that would be very helpful to transport the tables and signs.)

-Friday, May 3: BOOTH - two shifts; 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Two volunteers are needed for each shift; shifts are open to a combination of recertifying MGs and trainees.

-Saturday, May 4: BOOTH - two shifts; 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Two volunteers are needed for each shift; shifts are open to a combination of recertifying MGs and trainees.

-Sunday, May 5: BOOTH - two shifts; 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Two volunteers are needed for each shift; shifts are open to a combination of recertifying MGs and trainees; **BREAKDOWN - 4:00 – 5:00 PM: same volunteers working the afternoon shift.** (If you have a truck, that would be very helpful to transport tables and signs back to the office/shed.)

When does the event/project occur? This is an annual event, usually held the first weekend in May. Dates this year are May 3-5, 2024, from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, with setup on Thursday, May 2.

How to sign up for shifts: Vickie will send an email to all recertifying MGs and trainees who voiced an interest in helping with this event, to let them know when shifts are open. Shifts go quickly so if you are interested in this event, sign up as soon as you receive this email. **Volunteers will be able to sign up for one shift.**

A separate email will be sent by Lizzy Anderson to trainees, asking for class assistants.

Contact info: Vickie Minor, geovick92@yahoo.com, 203-430-6909 (cell)

For class info: Lizzy Anderson. raqiningangel61@yahoo.com, 541-968-1626 (cell)