

17th Annual Spring Garden Fair

On April 28th, the Columbia County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA) held their annual spring garden fair at St. Helen's High School Commons. During the day long fair, the CCMGA offered forty varieties of tomato plants with over five thousand plants for sale at only \$1.50 each. Admission to the Spring Garden Fair was free.

During the course of the fair, guests were able to visit more than two dozen local vendors who offered products including annuals, trees, shrubs, vegetables, garden art, hanging baskets and more. A Plant Clinic Table with information available on gardening topics, the CCMGA's insect collection, a cold frame, a mason bee house, and a composter were all on view. Throughout the day, raffle drawings provided prizes for many attendees.

The goal of the master gardener is to teach people more about growing plants and to provide information and technical assistance in gardening. During the Spring Garden Fair, the Columbia County Master Gardener Association members partnered with commercial grower Yoshitomi Brothers of West Linn. The partners offered a Tomato Information Table where specially-trained master gardeners were available to answer questions on how to properly start growing the plants being purchased.

If you were unable to attend this year's Spring Garden Fair, the Columbia County Master Gardener Association will be back again next April with more plants and expertise to share! We hope to see you there.

Submitted by Andrew Demko, CCCC Board Member