

Life *in the* Valley

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THE OREGON GARDEN



PHOTOS BY ORCA STAFF / SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL
Brenda Ballinger, a third-grade teacher at Oregon Connections Academy from Silverton, holds a pink Magnolia flower while 13-year old Matt Yigzaw, an eighth-grade student from Sherwood, takes notes during a field trip to The Oregon Garden.

Cultivating green thumbs

Students get botany lesson during trip to Oregon Garden

JUSTIN MUCH
STAYTON MAIL

A wet early spring did not deter a number of Oregon Connections Academy students, who took advantage of The Oregon Garden setting for a refreshing field-trip lesson on Thursday, April 18.

ORCA Outreach Manager Laura Dillon described the outing as an educational field trip about botany. ORCA high school science teacher Michael Rodriguez of Corvallis conducted the lesson, while a dozen other teachers from around the state joined a dozen students and parents.

“Students learned the evolution of plant life including the diverse forms of reproductive and vascular structures, pollination, photosynthetic aspects and much more,” Dillon said. “Students also discovered how to identify various plants and trees native to Oregon.”



Two dozen students, parents and teachers turned out for the field trip with a focus on botany.



Oregon Connections Academy high school science teacher Michael Rodriguez quizzes students, including freshmen Mikayla Wood and Sidney Kincaid, about Sword Ferns.



Colorful blooms greeted ORCA students during their field trip to The Oregon Garden.