

Make 2020 a growth year

Places are still available in the winter Master Gardener course starting on Thursday, Jan. 9, in Tillamook.

The 12-week course, offered for beginning and advanced gardeners, is provided by the Tillamook office of the Oregon State University Extension Service. It covers sustainable gardening, soils, propagation, pruning, landscape and garden planning and design, suitable plants for coastal gardening and landscaping, pest and disease control, weed management, orchards, raised beds and other topics of interest to local gardeners.

Students will receive a variety of hands-on and interactive training in weekly classes from Oregon State University faculty and local experts.

Participants in the program are encouraged to choose the volunteer service option, which offers the class at a reduced price and requires 60 hours of volunteer service within the community helping educate the public about gardening.

Tuition for the volunteer option is \$120 and includes the comprehensive "Sustainable Gardening" book, as well as access to a wide range of printed and online resources as well as experienced professional instructors.

People who do not have the time or desire to volunteer, can take the training for \$240 and receive a certificate of horticulture.

To sign up, go to <https://bit.ly/TillamookOSUMasterGardener>.

For more information, call the Extension Service office at 503-842-3433 or go to <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/tillamook>.

Go native in Newport



Red flowering currant

A wide range of native plants plus the knowledge needed to make them thrive will be on offer this weekend in Newport as the Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District hosts its annual Native Plant Sale.

The sale offers affordable native trees, flowering shrubs, showy perennials and hearty ground cover for gardeners who want to increase biodiversity, support pollinators, beautify communities and save water. From red flowering currants and nootka rose to western azaleas, broadleaf lupines and Oregon iris, guests can browse more than 50 hard-to-find species under one roof.

"Gardening with native plants allows homeowners to work with species adapted for our region's unique climate, soils, and wildlife with relatively low water and maintenance needs beyond initial plant establishment," said

the district's Conservation Program Manager Emily-Bell Dinan, adding: "Native plants in home gardening provide key habitat for countless insects, bees, butterflies, local and migrating birds, amphibians and small mammals by providing animals with nectar, seeds, shelter and habitat structure for creatures big and small."

In addition to the wide range of plants, the sale will give visitors the chance to chat with the district's skilled experts to share ideas and provide guidance.

The sale will run from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday Dec. 7, and 9 am to 1 pm, or until supplies run out, on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Lincoln County Commons, 633 NE 3rd Street, Newport.

For more information, email info@LincolnSWCD.org, call the district office at 541-265-2631.



Great Egret • Photo by Ernie Rose

All birding, no bill

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City will be heading out for a walking and driving tour of Siletz Bay this Friday, Dec. 6, in search of wintering waterfowl as well as year-round residents.

Starting from The Bay House Restaurant and ending at SE Fleet Street in Cutler City, the outing offers the chance to spot great egrets and great blue herons as well as red-breasted merganser, northern pintail and bufflehead.

The easy, family-friendly walk is sponsored by Explore Lincoln City and Lincoln City Parks and Recreation.

All Audubon bird walks are free and open to the public. No prior experience is needed and no pre-registration is required. The walks are led by experienced birders and binoculars and field guides are available to borrow.

Friday's walk will start at 9 am at The Bay House, located at 5911 SW Hwy. 101.