

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 10, Issue 2

February 2008

Master Gardening and Gorge Grown Food Network A Natural Partnership for Change

By Todd Dierker, Steering Committee Member GGFN and Central Gorge MG student

A passion for rolling up one's sleeves and getting into the dirt is a wonderful trait. For some it has been an integral part of their personal history while others have looked on in awe as seeds grew into savory family meals. The time has come for home food production to come once again to the forefront of our society. Master Gardeners are vital resources for a community that strives to feed itself. We desperately need those that can encourage others to dig up a small patch of dirt, nurture some seedlings to maturity and share with their family the joys, tastes and health benefits of eating home grown foods.

The Gorge Grown Food Network is striving for this same vision throughout the Gorge region. The tendrils of Gorge Grown and Master Gardeners are naturally interwoven, each reaching for that sunshine. The future looks bright in our communities, even as we face the challenges of climate change, peak oil production and economic uncertainty. The solution begins in the soil, our soil. Our home gardeners need our support. Our school and community gardens need our support. Our local farmers need our support. Master Gardeners can take the lead and get us all back to our roots.

A synergism of the Master Gardeners Association and the Gorge Grown Food Network will result in a victory over farming practices and food production that have us currently digesting food with ingredients we can't pronounce that travel in excess of 1,500 miles to our plates. It is time to ground ourselves in our local systems and increase the food production capabilities of our neighbors. Value added food production and food preservation skills will enable us to enjoy the bounty of our harvests thought the winter months. Here's to the future that we will create together with a fist full of seeds and a smile upon our face.

OSU Extension in Hood River County is a partner with Gorge Grown Foods through the extension programs in family community development and the Master Gardener program. We are a partner in producing a community food assessment questionnaire with Gorge Grown foods that will be distributed in Hood River County. We will be handing out these at Master Gardener classes and in garden clubs as well as through the extension food nutrition programs.

Editor's Note: A speaker from Gorge Grown Food Network will speak at the April 15 Quarterly Meeting of the Wasco County MGA. Time and place to be determined.

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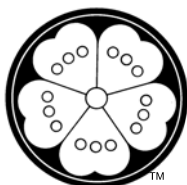
Find Us Online

This newsletter is available online in the Master Gardener section at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/>
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<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

Our Mission

- Increase our knowledge in home horticultural practices.
- Educate home gardeners.
- Promote sustainable gardening techniques.
- Create an atmosphere of enjoyment.



Thoughts From Your President

Kathy McGregor

Classes have begun for the Central Gorge Master Garden Association. We have 19 new students/volunteers this year and 2 community members who are taking classes under a special program called Green Industries. Based on their questions they have asked in class and their enthusiasm for signing up to participate in special projects, I would say they are a bright bunch. Returning Master Gardeners are also planning their roles in the association, and I believe it will be a terrific year.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the snow and that when spring comes, the colorful contrast from our shades of brown, conifer green, and our current white conditions brings you all smiles and excitement for another year of gardening.



State Flowers and Other Feature Article Ideas

Judy Davis, Editor

When I started editing this newsletter there were several people who contributed feature articles on a fairly regular basis. Now they have moved on to other endeavors. I am now looking for other writers who can help make this newsletter interesting and informative. Here are some ideas to spark your imagination:

I happened upon the clip art series of state flowers partially shown above. Are you interested in exploring why states have selected certain flowers as their state flower or compiling other information about state flowers in a series of articles?

It is always good to get to know the leaders of our organizations. Would you like to interview officers and project leaders and write short introductions? These could be done as Q and A (e.g. ask five questions via email) and edit and submit the result. Or they could be more in-depth articles based on in-person interviews.

Is some idea for a class or a question asked at a clinic worth looking into a bit more and sharing with fellow Master Gardeners?

Do you have a passion for herbs, vegetables, or some other aspect of gardening?

Do you have other ideas? Please contact me at 541-478-0133 or rjdavis1@mac.com. I would love to hear from you and get more voices in our newsletter.

Thoughts From Your President Etta Myers

The January quarterly meeting was a great success. Over 20 Master Gardeners attended plus a number of guests interested in becoming Master Gardeners. Everyone seemed to enjoy sharing their projects and experiences as Master Gardeners. As always the food was plentiful and delicious. With a little arm-twisting more than enough people signed up to mentor new Master Gardeners. Thank you for your participation, and I hope will have a very pleasant experience.

Speaking of mentors, everyone is invited to the social on Monday evening, February 11, at St. Paul's church. It is a good opportunity to greet new Master Gardeners, renew old acquaintances and gear up for classes which start on Wednesday. There is a great line up of classes this year with some instructors we haven't heard from before. One of them is the new Statewide Coordinator of OSU Master Gardener Program, Gail Langellotto. She spoke at Mini-College last summer and was very good. There are also some landscape classes that I am looking forward to.

We expect to have about the same number of Master Gardeners this year as we had last year. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at class.

Highlights of the January 15th Quarterly Meeting Ronnie Smith, Secretary

The 2008 budget was approved.

Judy Davis is our new program chairman. The next quarterly meeting date is April 15, 2008. The topic will be "Gorge Grown Foods". We will have a potluck featuring Oregon grown foods.

Lana Tepfer brought picture boards to help explain Mini-College and hazardous waste recycling.

Sheila Tegan brought some scrapbooks from past years.

Cheri Austin explained about plant clinics, soil testing and the county fair booth.

Val Tenney explained that we take turns having the Garden Tour every other year with Hood River. It is in The Dalles this year. The tour will be on May 31st, a Saturday. The theme is "Sun Splashed and Wind Washed". She explained that we keep 60% of the ticket money, after expenses, this year and that 40% goes to Hood River. The money from the plant sale is ours alone. The Committee Chairs will be from The Dalles, but the Central Gorge members will help at the gardens and plant sale, as well as donate refreshment and plants for the sale.

Some of the guests asked questions and stayed for refreshments and more mixing with members. It was a very comfortable meeting for an introduction to the local Master Gardeners.

Happy Valentine's Day



2008 Officers

President - Etta Myers
President-Elect - Lee Bryant
Secretary – Ronnie Smith
Treasurer – Cheri Austin
Historian – Sheila Tegan
State OMGA Representative – Val Tenney
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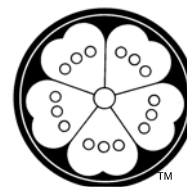
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Our Common Ground **Joint Newsletter of Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener Associations**

Judy Davis, editor
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541-478-0133

Deadline: The second-to-last Monday of the month.



“Botanizing” By Judy Davis

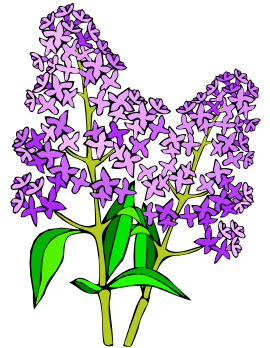
Did you know that when you take your Master Gardener botany and other classes, you are part of a long tradition of amateurs studying plants? John R. Stilgoe in *Borderland: Origins of the American Suburb, 1820-1939* contends that “botanizing” (and cottage gardens full of flowers) was part of the early movement to suburbs. Here is an explanation of the “botanizing” movement from pages 34-35 of *Borderland*.

Understanding flowers and other plants preoccupied some men, and thousands of women, in the 1840s and 1850s. Identifying, classifying, and growing flowers, shrubs, and trees—a range of activities called “botanizing” by practitioners and admirers—entranced educated, leisured women. Botanizing appealed to the intellect mid-century women hoped to develop. “The very logical and systematic arrangement which prevails in Botanical science, has, without doubt, a tendency to induce in the mind the habit and love of order; which, when once established, will operate even in the minutest concerns,” asserted Almira H. Lincoln in her 1829 opus, *Familiar Lectures in Botany*...

Botanizing aids health not only by leading women into the outdoors but by teaching something of herbal medicine; botanizing puts women in touch with divinity; and botanizing leads women into picturesque scenery “along the banks of winding brooks, on the borders of precipices, the sides of mountains, and the depths of the forest.” Botanizing develops the visual acuity which stimulates accurate thought. Above all, however, *Familiar Lectures*...argues that women can indeed master a complicated science previously thought accessible only to men....

I can immediately think of three women born in the 19th century who were avid botanizers and have left us nearby gardens that we can still enjoy today. (The following information is from each garden’s website.)

Hulda Klager and her lilac garden in Woodland, Washington. The garden website says, “She spoke often of her love for flowers and how as a little girl in Wisconsin she would wander through the woods near her home looking for wildflowers.” Later when living near Woodland, she was given a book by Luther Burbank and became fascinated with hybridizing. She developed a new apple and many new varieties of lilacs. A visit to this garden on the National Historic Register is especially nice in late April or May when the lilacs are blooming.



Rae Berry and Berry Botanical Garden. Rae Berry helped finance British plant explorers traveling in Europe and Asia. In return she received seeds and grew fascinating new plants. She also undertook plant-finding expeditions in the Pacific Northwest. She was known as a “serious plantswoman.” The Berry Botanical Garden continues her work of education and conservation of endangered species. The public is welcome to visit this garden in southwest Portland, but reservations are required.

Lilla Leach and her garden in southeast Portland. Lilla Leach was unusual in that she had a college education. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1908. She was an avid plant explorer, especially in the Siskiyou Mountains where she discovered several new species. She and her husband John developed a large garden in southeast Portland that is now part of Portland’s park system. The Leach Botanical Garden website calls it “Portland’s Best-Kept Botanical Secret.”



Do you know of other botanizers whose gardens people might visit? Do you think of yourself as a botanizer?

Dear Fellow Wasco County Master Gardeners,

The Annual Social to introduce our new trainees to the Master Gardener Program will be Monday, February 11th at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 1805 Minnesota Street, The Dalles in the upstairs library beginning at 5:30pm. This has always been an enjoyable time to make introductions, enjoy a short program, but most of all to socialize and make our new trainees feel welcome. Please join us if you can. We would love to have you.

Janet Probstfield, WCMGA Mentor Chairperson

OSU 25th Anniversary Mini-College By Lana Tepfer

"Going Green on our Silver" is the theme for this year's Mini-College at OSU. It will be held at the alumni center on campus July 23 -26th. This is the 25th anniversary of Mini-College, hence the theme.

It's never too early to start planning to attend. This is an excellent way for Master Gardeners to continue their education with top-notch classes, workshops, field trips and garden tours. Networking with other groups from all over the state keep us all from having to re-invent the wheel when it comes to new projects.

Cost is not established yet but will be a little over \$200 for the full package which includes lodging at the dorms, all meals and all classes. Off campus rates are also available for under \$100 if you stay elsewhere. Start saving all your change now and you can have a big chunk of the tuition by the time we receive the applications in early June.

There will be evening socials, tours, etc. as well as all day classes and displays of other chapter's activities. A gathering meal starts us off on Wednesday and there is a banquet on Friday evening honoring all the county and state Master Gardeners of the year.

So please plan to attend this fun learning experience this summer. Meet our new State-wide coordinator and learn what we as gardeners can do to be greener in our gardening practices. Watch your newsletters or ask any veteran Master Gardener about their experiences at Mini-College. See you there?



The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson

Assorted Book Notes

My dear husband, Dick, gave me *The Curious Gardeners' Almanac: Centuries Of Practical Garden Wisdom* by Niall Edworthy (A Perigree Book, 2006). It is hard to categorize the book; time-honored garden tips, wise sayings, traditional recipes, herbs, flowers, shrubs. It is full of miscellany, a book that "readers may delve into from time to time in the hope that they will be intrigued, amused, enlightened, and even inspired". The drawings are delightful, the prose clever, and the quotes sometimes outrageous. "Sex is good but not as good as fresh sweet corn." (Garrison Keillor) 187 pages of fun; keep it by your bedside.

Pat Schmuck

Some quotes from Lauren Springer, *The Undaunted Garden* (1994).

"I don't understand the concept of the low maintenance garden. Landscape yes, but not garden. Gardening may be many things to many people, but it is always an active relationship between a person and a group of plants."

"One would like to believe that time in the garden correlates directly with the health and beauty of the plants. Some success is due to experience. Mostly I think the gardener's influence is more illusory than real. The gardener's main role is to entertain him- or herself. Plants grow in spite of the gardener. ... Gardening is a fine balance between human intervention and the natural course of things. It is the natural forces beyond our control that shape the garden as much as the trowel and the hand."

If you aren't familiar with this book you are missing a wonderful reference. Springer gardens in Colorado, which has a similar, yet different, environment to us. There is still plenty to work with, though, in the book.

Carolyn Wright

Many of us know about the damage deer can do in our yards. It could be worse. My insurance company notes, "An estimated 1.5 million deer-vehicle collisions happen annually in the United States, causing more than 150 fatalities and \$1.1 billion in property damage. Deer populations are growing and deer habitat is being displaced by urban sprawl, making a deadly combination."

To learn more about deer in America and our attitudes towards them, I recommend *Heart and Blood: Living with Deer in America* by Richard Nelson. Many of our ways of thinking about deer come from a century ago when deer were scarce, at least in the eastern half of the country.

Judy Davis

Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

Feb. 11 (Mon)	5:30pm	Annual Wasco County MGA Social. See page 4 for details.
Feb. 12 (Tue)	3 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting. Wasco County Extension Office. All members welcome.
Feb. 13 (Wed)	9-4	Wasco County MG classes start.
Feb. 13 (Wed)	5 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting at Valley Christian Church before the evening's class. Project leaders are encouraged to attend, as they are on the Executive Committee.
Feb. 19 (Tue)	4 pm	The CGMGA Learning Garden Steering Committee meets at the OSU Extension office in Hood River
Feb. 25 (Mon)		Deadline for the March newsletter.
Feb. 29 (Mon)	8 am	Monthly radio programs on KIHR , the last Friday of each month from 8-9 a.m. Elizabeth and one of the CG Master Gardeners speak about topics of seasonal interest.
March 12 (Wed)	5 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting at Valley Christian Church before the evening's class.
March 24 (Mon)		Deadline for the April newsletter.

