

# GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2008

## Have You Gone Green? By Jennifer Harty

It is March and many of you may be thinking of St. Patrick's Day, that decidedly green holiday! As you make plans, I ask you to think of something else with a green theme, our environment!

The trend to "Go Green" is becoming bigger as retailers and large corporations make huge efforts towards using organic products, recycling waste, buying from local organic farms and exchanging harsh chemicals for environmentally friendly alternatives.

As gardeners, we love to play in the dirt and don't bat an eyelash when we spend that extra hour shoveling horse or chicken manure from the neighbor's barn to cover our crops or mother our precious worms to coax out the best fertilizer this side of the Rockies! However, there is so much more that we can do to help our environment so I thought I would give you a top ten list of things you can do in your home and things you can do in your garden to help do just a bit more for our environment.

### Top Ten "Go Green" for the Home

1. Replace incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent bulbs.
2. Reduce your driving by 1 mile everyday.
3. Wash clothes in cold water.
4. Line dry your laundry.
5. Turn down the thermostat 2 degrees in Winter and up 2 degrees in Summer.
6. Unplug electronics when not in use (cell phone charger, toaster, coffee maker, etc.)
7. Use cloth bags for groceries instead of plastic.
8. Use biodegradable and phosphate free cleaning products.
9. Get out your bicycle and bike to work or walk.
10. Clean out your garage or basement and dispose of all used chemicals, paints, fertilizers at proper collection sites. (see pages 4 and 5 for times and places).



(Continued on page 7)

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## 2007 Officers

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Secretary – Audrey Schneider  
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Elizabeth Daniel, Hood River County Program Coordinator

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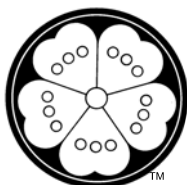
This newsletter is available online in the Master Gardener section at:

[http://  
extension.oregonstate.edu/  
hoodriver/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/)

or  
[http://  
extension.oregonstate.edu/  
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## 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**

When I entered the OSU Master Gardener program, I expected to learn a lot about gardening. That simple statement is so true. But what I didn't realize at the time was how the experiences of work parties, becoming involved with special projects, and meeting with and learning from other Master Gardeners would enrich the experience.

Projects that began with our first Hood River classes have blossomed and inspired new events every year. The Spring Plant Sale, maintenance of and new developments at the Learning Garden, and big plans for the first Rising Moon Festival are among the activities that will allow us to reach out to the community. Plant Clinics are popular among the public at the Extension Office and our outreach sites – Saturday Market, Gorge Grown Foods Market, and clinics in Washington and Cascade Locks – giving us time to research, problem-solve, and assist the many home gardeners in the area.

Now that spring is peeking out, literally as in the case of the Hood River crocuses and figuratively in the case of the slowly melting snow in higher elevations, gardeners are itching to create and maintain their own special outdoor places. Let the fun begin!

## Latest News About the Japanese Heritage Garden

**By Rita Saling**

On February 11 we met with Sada Uchiyama for strategy planning and to select rocks for the garden at Moffat Springs Decorative Stone in North Bonneville. The smile on Sada's face was glorious to behold! He really liked the rock.

That day I also met with Phil Richter of Richter Landscape, Inc., who has agreed to do our rough grading for us, sometime in the next few weeks. We are grateful for his services.

We have set some tentative dates for work parties. The last week in February will likely be when we do the grading. Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will move some cement wall blocks, prep a section of the hellstrip and remove a few plantings that need to go elsewhere. It would be a good time to start working on the corner under Elizabeth's window if we have enough folks. March 21st or 28th is the target dates for rock setting and building the retaining wall.

Sada will spend the day rock setting. We will need people there manning shovels, wheel barrowing gravel, and generally filling in as needed. It should be an interesting process.

Besides the rock and service above, we have recently had several new donations. The Hood River Cultural Trust has granted us \$2000; Hood River Ornamentals has donated three Amelanchier Autumn Brilliance Serviceberries; Hood River Rotary, \$500; and \$1000 from an individual.

Sada would like us to find a professional mason to do the pathway paving and section under the lantern. Initial investigation into the cost of this work is prohibitive for our budget. If you know of anyone who may be inclined to donate services, or perhaps a retired mason that would be interested in our project, please contact me.

## Thoughts From Your President Etta Myers

Snowdrops were the first to pop their pretty little heads out of the ground in my garden this year, but there are signs of other flowers to come soon. It is nice to be outside again and start those spring cleanup and planting chores, though I certainly wish there were fewer weeds.

Classes are in full swing now and are going very well. As always we have excellent speakers and lots of interesting topics. Sign up sheets have also started to appear. Now is the time to plan for your payback hours. Make sure to take advantage of this opportunity. It can be hard to make up hours when September rolls around.

Most of our projects are well under way and have very dedicated and capable leaders. However, there is still one spot to be filled, that of coordinator for graduation in October. If you are interested or have suggestions, please let me know.

## Soil Testing By Wasco County Master Gardeners By Cheri Austin

Soil Testing will begin in March and continue weekly through October. Garden soil will be tested for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, pH, humus, and texture. Cost will remain \$15.00 per sample.

Information on how to collect a sample is available on the OSU Wasco County Extension Master Gardener website or by calling 296-5494. Testing in March will be every Tuesday from 9am-3pm. Beginning in April through October testing will be every Wednesday from 9am – 3pm.

Soil testing is available to Home Gardeners only.



Thank you to Lynn Long, All Master Gardeners, Mentors and Officers who helped make our 5th Annual Mentor Social another success. This event is a welcoming gathering prior to our first day in class.

Janet Probstfield, Mentor Chairperson

**More Central MGA news on page 4.  
More Wasco County MGA news on page 5.**

## 2008 Officers

President - Etta Myers  
President-Elect - Lee Bryant  
Secretary – Ronnie Smith  
Treasurer – Cheri Austin  
Historian – Sheila Tegan  
State OMGA Representative – Val Tenney  
State OMGA Representative, Alternate – Lana Tepfer

## OSU Extension Staff

Lynn Long, Extension Agent

## Find Us Online

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

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

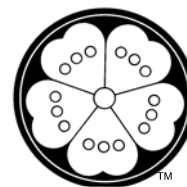
or

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

## Our Common Ground Joint Newsletter of Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener Associations

Judy Davis, editor  
rjdavis1@mac.com  
541-478-0133

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



## More CGMGA News

We are excited that Jennifer Harty and Crystal Pickerd have chosen to co-chair the 2009 Garden Tour. They have already begun planning for next year. Following a kind invitation by Val Tenney, they will be attended some of the Wasco County committee meetings.

Our new historian, Melissa Bickle, is requesting that folks send her Hood River Garden Tour photos for the scrapbook she is putting together. This is a new project, and it will be exciting to create a book of memories of



Hood River Master Gardening experiences. You can send photos by email or regular mail, but she would like as much information as possible about each picture. This may be as little as the name of the garden and the year of the tour, or it may include names of people (or

plants) in the photos. Photos should be mailed to the Extension Service office in Hood River or emailed to Melissa at [lincolnrose@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnrose@gmail.com).

Patricia and Fred Paige presented an excellent pruning class on Feb. 23. They recommended a new book, as well as reminding us about an old favorite. The recently discovered book is *The Ultimate Practical Guide to Pruning and Training* by Richard Bird (Hermes House 2005). Here are publisher comments about the book: "How to prune and train trees, shrubs, hedges, topiary, tree and soft fruit, climbers and roses. Practical advice and step-by-step techniques, with over 800 photographs and 100 practical illustrations." Wow!

The other marvelous pruning book that many of you may know already is *American Horticultural Society Pruning & Training* by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce (DK Publishing 1996). It has detailed illustrations and descriptions of exact pruning techniques and also includes photos .

## Hood River County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

April 14	Cascade Locks	10-2
May 10	Hood River Garbage	9-2
June 28	Hood River Garbage	9-2
Sept. 20	Odell	10-2
Oct. 4	Hood River Garbage	9-2
Nov. 1	Cascade Locks	10-2

The dates listed above and those for Wasco County on page 5 are for household waste only. For information on what to bring or not to bring to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days go to:

[http://www.wshd.org/wshd/waste\\_household.htm](http://www.wshd.org/wshd/waste_household.htm)

Or call the Tri-County Hazardous Waste Program at 541-506-2636.

Hazardous waste collection days are also scheduled in the Tri-County Area for businesses and agriculture. More information is available at the Wasco Sherman Public Health Department website ([www.wshd.org](http://www.wshd.org)) or by calling the number above.

## Recycle Garden Pots



Remember that garden pots larger than 4 inches in diameter can now be recycled. Wash them and put them in your bin for mixed recycling.

*A garden is like those pernicious machineries which catch a man's coat-skirt or his hand, and draw in his arm, his leg, and his whole body to irresistible destruction.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson, *The Conduct of Life*

## Hood River County 4-H Raffle



Here's your chance to win a Honda FG100A Mini-Rototiller and help our local 4-H gardening clubs raise money to support their projects. Tickets are \$1.00 and available at OSU-Hood River County Extension Office. Be sure to tell them you would like to support the gardening clubs when you purchase your ticket. The drawing will be held on Saturday, March 15th at 2 pm at the Hood River NAPA Store on 12th Street.

# Household Hazardous Waste Collections in Wasco County 2008

By Lana Tepfer

The dates for 2008 Household Hazardous Waste collections are now available. We are seeking volunteers to interview attendees about how far they came to participate and what kinds of things they are bringing and to pass out a gardening handbook with alternatives to pesticides in home gardens.

Contact Lana Tepfer at [strawberry@skyride.net](mailto:strawberry@skyride.net) or call (541) 296-9657 evenings to sign up. The first shift in The Dalles begins at 8:45 a.m. and goes to 11:30 a.m. Second shift begins at 11:15 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. (except May 3rd which ends at 3 p.m.) Out of town collections are a little different. All correct times will be listed on the sign-up sheets.

Saturday, March 29th The Dalles  
Saturday, April 26th Maupin  
Saturday, May 3rd The Dalles. This is also a community clean-up day and will include e-waste collection of old computers, printers, cell phones, etc. These items will be recycled by the StRUT program (Students Recycling Used Technology).  
Saturday, May 17th Moro. This one is only from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, May 24th Dufur Park  
Saturday, June 14th Tygh Valley  
Saturday, Sept. 13th The Dalles

These are easy payback hours for a worthwhile project. Sign up early and often!

## Wasco County Master Gardener Projects and Events for 2008

### Junior Master Gardener Program

Chenoweth Elementary School

April-May

Peggy Peterson 296-5941 [mgpeterson@charter.net](mailto:mgpeterson@charter.net)

Cathy Dowry 296-2829 [dowrey@gorge.net](mailto:dowrey@gorge.net)

### Seeds and Soils Fourth Grade Project

Wasco County Schools

April

Pam Manning 296-5195

Shirley Bagge 478-3760

### Wasco County Plant Clinic beginning in April

Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4 pm

Wasco County Extension Office

Cheri Austin 298-8943 [ladybug98617@embarqmail.com](mailto:ladybug98617@embarqmail.com)

### Fred Meyer Plant Clinic

April to Mid-August

Saturdays, 9-1

Cheri Austin

### South Wasco County Plant Clinic

May through August

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 12-3

Maupin Visitor's Center

Emilou Ely 541-328-6219 [elyws@yahoo.com](mailto:elyws@yahoo.com)

### Wasco County Fair Plant Clinic

August 14-17, 9 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 4

Tygh Valley

Cheri Austin

### Wasco County Fair Booth

Gary and Roxy Templin 541-395-2763

[garyroxy@hughes.net](mailto:garyroxy@hughes.net)

### Garden Tour, The Dalles

May 31, 10-4

Pretour – May 25, 2 pm

Val Tenney 993-0721 [valya@gorge.net](mailto:valya@gorge.net)

### Radio Spots

Ongoing

Lana Tepfer 296-9657 [strawberry@skyride.net](mailto:strawberry@skyride.net)

Janet Probstfield 296-4579 [pros@charter.net](mailto:pros@charter.net)

### Community Garden

Ongoing

Charlotte Link 298-5045 [terralink@gorge.net](mailto:terralink@gorge.net)

Marcia Strader 478-2112 [komodo@komodragron.com](mailto:komodo@komodragron.com)

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

(See article above for dates and locations)

Lana Tepfer

### Soil Testing

Tuesdays in March, Wednesdays April – October

9-4, Cost \$15 per sample

Wasco County Extension Office

Cheri Austin

### Mentor Program

Janet Probstfield

### Wasco County Master Gardener Picnic

Details to be announced

Candy Armstrong 298-1019 [armstronge\\_323@hotmail.com](mailto:armstronge_323@hotmail.com)

### Graduation in October

Details to be announced

## Garden Tour, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 by Janet Probstfield

“Sun-Splashed & Wind-Washed” is the theme of this year’s garden tour on Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 in The Dalles. Tour hours are from 10 am to 4 pm. There are five gardens on the tour, each with its own unique features and qualities.

**Pre-tour:** This is an opportunity for Master Gardeners to view all the gardens prior to the tour. Please join us on Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. The place to meet will be announced in the April newsletter.

**Refreshments:** All Master Gardeners are asked to provide three-dozen homemade cookies or instead you may make a donation of \$6.00 to the refreshment fund. Make your check payable to Wasco County Master Gardener Association and mail to Cheri Austin, 3393 Sandlin Road, The Dalles, OR 97058.

**Plant Sale:** Along with the garden tour we have our ever popular plant sale. Our plant sale has been expanded to include garden books, decorative pots, garden topiary, birdhouses and other garden related items. All of these items should be in excellent condition please. Your donation of plants and garden accessories are necessary. Please be sure to plant in clean plastic pots and label with name of plant, water and light needs, and flower color. The neater the appearance of the plant the better they sell. Cheri Austin is in charge of the plant sale.

All Master Gardeners are needed to make this garden tour a success. Complete details of the tour and work schedules for Master Gardeners will be published in the April and May newsletters. If you were not able to sign up during class and would like to volunteer at one of the gardens, help with the plant sale, or have other questions regarding the tour, please contact Val Tenney at 541-993-0721 or [valya@gorge.net](mailto:valya@gorge.net).

*I love cruising other people’s gardens. You can marvel, poach ideas or be satisfyingly dismissive.*

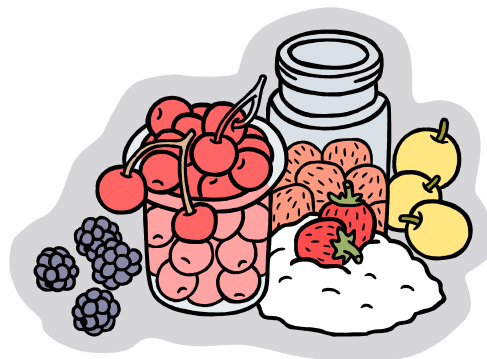
Penelope Lively, in the magazine *Gardens Illustrated*

*The wonder of the world, the beauty and the power, the shape of things, their colors, lights and shades; these I saw. Look ye also while life lasts.*

Gravestone in Cumberland, England

## Preparing to Preserve What You Need to Know Before You Preserve Food

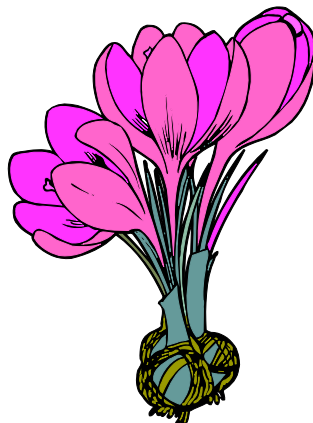
When it comes time this summer to preserve those perfect fruits and vegetables from your garden or the farmer’s market, you’ll want to be ready with the right equipment and recipes for success. Preserving food saves you money because you can purchase fresh food when it is most abundant and selling at the lowest price. Food in season is also the most nutritious and tasty – qualities you’ll keep when you preserve.



This class will show you what equipment and resources you’ll need to freeze, can, dry, pickle, vacuum seal or otherwise preserve food.

Watch for details and registration information in the upcoming Hood River Community Education Spring catalog. <http://www.hrcommunityed.org/>

Instructor: Debbie McDonald  
Date & Time: Monday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.  
Place: TBA



The first crocus seen in the Netherlands were corms brought back by the Holy Roman Emperor’s ambassador to the Turkish court in the 1560s. A few corms were forwarded to Carolus Clusius at the botanical garden in Leiden. By 1620 new garden varieties had been developed, such as the cream-colored crocus feathered with bronze at the base of the bouquet, similar to varieties still in the market.

## Have You Gone Green? (continued from Page 1)

### Top Ten "Go Green" for the Garden

1. Grow a no mow lawn and get rid of the gas guzzling lawn mower!
2. Place shredded paper from your office in the garden underneath the mulch.
3. Compost your food scraps and yard waste.
4. Divide your plants to make more and exchange with other gardeners rather than buying and accumulating more of those plastic pots from the nursery.
5. Xeriscaping! (Need I say more)
6. Set your sprinklers on timers. (The cost of buying a decent timer is well worth it when you can water at 6:00 am effectively and without waste and not having to get out of bed to do it!)
7. Use only organic fertilizers and pest control of course!
8. Share your knowledge with a not so eco-friendly neighbor
9. Teach your children and grandchildren about the importance of recycling and show them how to recycle.
10. Provide shade near the air conditioning unit in your home so that it does not have to work so hard to keep you cool. (If you have such a thing!)

This is only a partial list of the many things you can do to help make our environment more healthy. I am sure you can all come up with many more ideas to "Go Green".

I leave you with this thought, make March the month you decide to make the extra effort to "Go Green" and add one or two more Green alternatives to your daily routine! You can use it as an addition to your New Year's resolutions (you know, the ones you have not started) and smugly check it off your list!



The shamrock, a three-leaved clover, is a symbol of Ireland. The shamrock was traditionally used for its medical properties and was a popular motif in Victorian times. It is also a common way to represent St. Patrick's Day. Shamrocks are said to bring good luck.

Information on shamrocks and crocuses from Wikipedia.

## Please Bring Some "Teeaaaaaa" to My Garden By Catherine Flick

Like clockwork, around President's day weekend, the spotted towhee begins singing its early-morning song just before the sun rises. Its song is a raspy, upwardly inflected "teeaaaaaaa." Distinguishing the sexes is pretty easy if you see the two side-by-side. The male has a black hood, back, wings, and tail. The female is paler where the male is black, ranging from brownish to gray-brown to blackish (from *All About Birds* website on the spotted towhee). Both sexes have burnt-orange flanks and white spots on their backs. Juvenile towhees look nothing like the adults: their bodies are brown-gray with streaks on their undersides.

Watch a spotted towhee noisily feeding on the ground; you'll probably observe its two-footed, backwards-scratching hop. This "double-scratching" is used by a number of towhee and sparrow species (like the fox sparrow) to unearth the seeds and small invertebrates they feed on. One spotted towhee with an unusable, injured foot was observed hopping and scratching with one foot (from *All About Birds* website on the spotted towhee). Leaving some of your fall leaves and raking them under shrubbery provides mulch for plants and food for towhees.

The presence of towhees in your yard means you have dense shrubby thickets and leaf litter - good habitat features for birds.

## Gardening Email Newsletters By Debbie McDonald

The National Gardening Association website has several very nice newsletters that you can receive by email. I especially enjoy receiving the "Edible Landscaping" newsletter written by Charlie Nardozzi. Other newsletters include "Celebrating the Seasons" by Rebecca Kills, "Moss in the City" by William Moss with a focus on urban and small scale gardening, and "Kids Garden News" with resources for those of us teaching kids about gardening and interested in school gardens. These are monthly newsletters; so your inbox won't be flooded and they are timely.

"Edible Landscaping" arrived today with suggestions for early greens to be planting very soon. With a renewed interest in vegetable gardening, "Edible Landscaping" might also interest you. The website for the National Gardening Association is [garden.org](http://garden.org). Click on the Free Newsletters button on the left hand column to subscribe.

**Central Gorge and Wasco County  
Master Gardener™ Associations**  
Judy Davis, Newsletter Editor  
6840 Oakbrook Lane  
The Dalles, OR 97058

### Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

March. 11 (Tue)	3 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting.</b> Wasco County Extension Office. All members welcome.
March 12 (Wed)	5 pm	<b>Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting</b> at Valley Christian Church before the evening's class.
March 24 (Mon)		<b><i>Deadline for the April newsletter.</i></b>
April 21 (Mon)		<b><i>Deadline for the May newsletter.</i></b>
May 25 (Sun)	2 pm	<b>Garden Tour Pre-Tour.</b> See page 6.
May 31 (Sat)	10-4	<b>Sun-Splashed &amp; Wind-Washed Garden Tour</b> in The Dalles. See page 6.

### The Dalles Art Center Plant Sale Saturday, April 26, 9 am

Plant donations are needed for The Dalles Art Center Sale. Leftovers from this sale are given to Master Gardeners for the Garden Tour Plant Sale. So when starting plants or dividing perennials, think about preparing some for the Art Center Plant Sale. Contact Carolyn Wright at the Art Center 296-4759 for more information.