

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 10, Issue 7

August-September 2008

Final Issue of This Newsletter

This is the final issue of *Gardening, Our Common Ground*. Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener Associations will be publishing information separately. Elizabeth Daniel and Cindy Collins will continue publishing a weekly e-newsletter for Central Gorge that was started this summer. Val Tenney will be the editor of a new Wasco County newsletter (see page 5).

Elizabeth Daniel restarted a newsletter for the Columbia Gorge Master Gardener Association in August 1998. The masthead said, "Help...I Need a Name." For a time it was called the *Columbia Gorge Master Gardener Newsletter*, but, in January 2000, it became *Gardening: Our Common Ground*.

Much has changed in the past 10 years, but not everything. Some of the people and some activities from that August 1998 newsletter are listed below. Some of it sounds familiar, doesn't it?

- Anna Nolen reported on activities at the Hood River Care Center.
- Shirley Chrisman was named chair of the 1999 Garden Tour with Patricia Paige, Scott Fitch, Roxanne Spoppable, and Patricia Schmuck on the committee.
- Janet Prosbfield reported on work at the Rorick House.
- Margaret Haupt called for volunteers to help plant at the Habitat for Humanity house.
- Kathryn Olmstead, Roxanne Spoppable, Lana Tepfer, Shirley Miller, Kathryn Ketchum, Anna Nolen, and Jack Archer had attended Mini-College. Lana, Kathryn O. and Roxanne were in charge of door prizes.
- Don Arbon, from Mid-Columbia Medical Center, was coming to the August picnic to talk about developing a children's garden at the hospital.

I started editing the newsletter in November 2004 and have enjoyed being at the center of Master Gardener news. I also enjoyed writing articles, including a history of my parents as organic farmers in the 1950s, when it was often considered a reactionary, right-wing thing to do. (I have copies of that series if anyone wants them.) Maybe after taking a break, Wasco County Master Gardeners will hear from me again in newsletter articles.

Thanks for all your help in providing articles and news. It takes many people to make a newsletter a successful venture. Please continue to support the new editors.

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Secretary – Audrey Schneider
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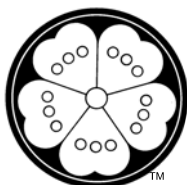
This newsletter is available online in the Master Gardener section at:

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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

The Wasco County and Central Gorge Master Gardener Associations will be losing a connection after this final newsletter. This has brought about mixed feelings and concerns about losing touch with our neighbors and colleagues-in-gardening. Yet I hope that a new bond is created and maintained. We will share our respective newsletters and continue to help each other with Garden Tours and other people-intensive events.

Members of the CGMGA had the pleasure of meeting with several of the WCMGA members this summer and were honored to have folks from that association attend our Quarterly Association meeting in early July. It is my hope that we will have a yearly social event that gives us time to meet our fellow MGers, share ideas and projects, to enjoy each other's company. I suggested a fancy ball (!) as a winter get-together, but the idea met with raised eyebrows.

The Central Gorge Master Gardeners are keeping active with plant clinics, workshops, and continued upkeep of the Library, Care Center, and the Learning Garden, and our own gardens. The Japanese Heritage Garden dream is coming true and everyone is encouraged to stop by to see it; bring a friend!

A million thanks to Judy Davis for her informative, comprehensive, and beautifully displayed newsletter!

Japanese Heritage Garden Update

By Rita Saling

After a year of hard work, fund raising, and plotting, we are ready to start planting the Japanese Heritage Garden. I can't give enough praise to those many who have turned out for the work parties doing backbreaking work, as well as providing financial support, to get this project where it is today. **Thank you all.**

The wall is built, the stone is set, the irrigation system is in place and the fences are completed. Many thanks to Mason Mike Byrne and Builder Mike Mapes for their construction expertise. Their work is stunning. Cindy Collins is our irrigation specialist and will be on hand during planting to see that all the new plants get their emitters. She will be holding a casual drip class at that time, if anyone is interested.

We will plant most of the garden September 3rd and 4th, and maybe the 5th if necessary, early in the day to lessen the stress on the plants. Later in the fall I plan to get the bulbs into the ground. In the spring we will continue planting ground covers, the hellstrip, and will finish off the basin and bring in the gravel.

We are still short funding for the lantern, benches, and gravel. Locating a lantern to meet the designer's specifications is proving difficult. Hopefully, one of our grant applications will come through to help us finish up.

We welcome planting help, keeping in mind "Many hands, etc. etc....". There will be holes to dig, water and fill for approximately 100 plants, compost to spread, emitters to place, camaraderie and even a little meditation if you like. Call or email me at 509-427-8754 or rsaling@saw.net if you want to sign up to help. Come see the birth of the garden.

More Central Gorge MGA News on page 4.

Thoughts From Your President Etta Myers

Mini-College was excellent this year; perhaps the best I have attended. One of the early sessions was Membership Retention, which is certainly something we can apply to our own group. I also very much enjoyed classes on compost tea, the history of clematis, and rethinking the urban landscape or ten ways to save the planet. On Saturday we visited the Oak Creek Center where they are doing experiments on collecting rainwater from roofs for reuse, rooftop gardens, and other means of going green.

Our quarterly meeting is coming up in September, and it is important that as many as possible attend. This is when we will elect new officers for the coming year. Lee Bryant and Laretta Piatt are serving on our nominating committee. If you are interested in being part of the executive board, I'm sure they would love to hear from you.

Judy Davis is winding up her fourth year of editing and publishing our newsletter, and what an excellent job she has done. It has been especially challenging because of the splitting of the Hood River and Wasco county groups. Thank you, Judy, for all of your efforts. In the future we will be doing separate newsletters although we agree that the opportunity to take each other's classes and to do pay-back time at each other's locations will continue. Val Tenney will be taking on the Wasco County newsletter, and I am sure she would welcome any suggestions you may have.

WCMGA Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 pm Pamela Manning's house, 2463 Three Mile Road, The Dalles

Please bring a plate of finger food to share.

Graduates of the Family Food Education program (some of whom are also Master Gardeners) have been invited to share information on food preservation and this Extension program.

Come and share your summer's gardening stories, learn a little, and help plan the future of our association and classes.

More Wasco County News on pages 4 & 5.

Bugs aren't going to inherit the earth," they already own it. It's time to make peace with the landlord.

Dr. Thomas Eisner

When you get too old to set a bad example, you can start giving advice.

You did not weave the web of life, you are merely a strand in it. What you do to the web affects you.

Officers

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

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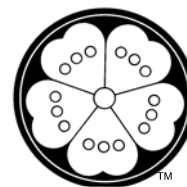
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/>

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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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More Central Gorge GGA News (Continued from page 2)

The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association
Invites You to Attend the First Annual
RISING MOON FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 13, 2008
5:30 - 8:30 PM
The Learning Garden
OSU Extension Office
2990 Experiment Station Drive
Hood River, Oregon

Celebrate our natural resources under a
RISING MOON
while enjoying live music by:
Peny and Small Change
Pady O'Furniture and Jamba Marimba
Hors d'oeuvres will be served to you as you sip
beverages from area wineries and breweries
as well as non-alcoholic beverages

Tickets are \$15 (21 and over event) and includes
music, hors d'oeuvres and one complementary beverage
ticket

Tickets are available at:
Klindts Book Sellers in The Dalles
Waucoma Bookstore and Good News Gardening in Hood
River

**Tickets are limited
so advance purchase is suggested**

Proceeds help support
the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association

Garden Visits By Kathy McGregor

After enjoying the Columbia Gorge Garden Tours for so many years, we have begun a new activity that allows us to (spy on - oops!) enjoy gardens created by any Master Gardener, without the fanfare of the Garden Tour.

So far, we've visited Cindy Collins', John Stevens', Sami Keolker's, and Gail Dagan's gardens. We eat, drink, ooh and aah, ask questions, and at times steal parts of plants from the gardens. It has been a great chance to socialize and learn from each other.

We've had a good turn-out – 12-15 at each event – and the food (which is provided) is a bonus. Not a potluck! Nothing to prepare! Gardening, garden, nursery, weather, and other conversation! And all with people who share a similar love.

Our last garden visit of the year is open to all Master Gardeners and guests. John and Shirley Ihle will host us on Wednesday September 24, from 5:30 to 8 or so. The Ihles' address is 3645 Holly Drive, not far from the Valley Christian Church where we hold our classes. Reminders will be sent by e-newsletter, accompanied by directions and a request for an RSVP.

If you can't make it in September, don't despair. We've already planned some of the gardens for next year. Perfection is not required; so anyone who wishes to host is welcome to do so!

Workshop: Pondering a Pond? *Pond Development, Alternatives and Permitting*

Saturday, September 20, 2008
10:00am – noon
Cost: \$5.00
OSU Extension Office, Hood River

Local Watermaster Bob Wood will help you understand what is involved in constructing a pond from permits that might be required to understanding your water rights. A professional from Aquascape, Inc., the nation's largest supplier and innovator of water feature products will share her expertise on options and alternatives for low maintenance water features and present ideas to bring the water gardening lifestyle into your own backyard for the entire family to enjoy. This could be the class that saves you from digging a very expensive, dry hole in your yard! To register, please contact Hood River Community Education at 541-386-2055. For more information about this event contact the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District at 541-386-4588 or hrrswcd@gorge.net.



Central Gorge Master Gardeners of the Year
Anne Saxby and Rita Saling

More Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association News (Continued from page 3)

Seeds of Change From your Editor-to-be, Val Tenney

THANK YOU, JUDY DAVIS, for all the years of dedication to editing our newsletter. You have given us many, many issues of timely, informative, entertaining material while graciously putting up with our (my – at least) last minute, just-under-the-deadline submissions. You've left some very big gardener's clogs to fill, Judy. Starting with the September issue, I'll take the job and try my best to maintain your high standards.

Wasco County Master Gardeners, I will need tons of help from all of you. Send me updates on your projects, tips about coming events, a report of a show you attended, a great recipe you tried, a funny gardening story you heard, a strange gardening question you were asked. Let me know if you are interested in writing a monthly column toward some particular purpose or any particular topic.

We'll have a contest now and then: toughest plant clinic question, most abundant tomato plant, most informative garden magazine, etc. You get the idea, and you'll get more details as we go along.

Our FIRST contest will be for the NAME of our own new NEWSLETTER. Since we are no longer publishing together with Central Gorge Master Gardeners in Hood River, the first issue in September will be a brand new creature: new formatting, new content, new editor, new NAME. Do you have a great idea for a newsletter name? It should reflect our unique geography (the Gorge, the river, the desert, eastside of the mountains, etc.), or Wasco County's diverse growing conditions, or our sunshine and wind, or, or, or ...

Send all your great ideas to valya@gorge.net and you may get to name our brand new, very own, Wasco County Master Gardeners' Newsletter. AND, you will win a brightly colored, attractive and versatile Gardener's Tote Bag! Wow!

Thanks again, Judy. Take a break, sniff a rose, sit a spell on your favorite garden bench, but keep your cell phone handy; I'll surely be calling for advice.

Imagination Garden Update By Marcia Strader

The Imagination Garden Project is a partnership between the Wasco County Master Gardener Association, North Wasco County School District 21, and the Wasco County OSU Extension offices of Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, and Family / Community Development. The garden will be developed in phases on land adjacent to The Dalles campus of Google, Inc.

The Project has gained its first corporate sponsorship. On July 30, Charlotte Link, Project Leader, gave a site tour and presentation to the top three executives of Oil Can Henry's International. In attendance were John Ayres (President and Chief Operations Officer), Chris Shepanek (Chief Executive Officer), and Bob Bailey (Chief of Real Estate Development). The executives offered to donate \$1000 to the Imagination Garden project, which will be matched by the owners of The Dalles Oil Can Henry's, for a total of \$2000. This money will be used to help construct the safety barriers between the Garden site and the Columbia River.

Fern Wilcox, the Wasco County OSU Extension Agent for Family and Community Development, has secured an additional \$500 for tools and equipment from the Garden Enhanced Nutrition Education (GENE) program. In addition, applications have been submitted for several other grants, and more will be submitted in the next few months. We are actively recruiting community partners and additional corporate sponsors.

Secondary students at The Dalles Wahtonka High School will be involved in the overall design of the garden during this coming fall. During the winter, elementary students in School District 21 will be involved in designing smaller, theme-based mini-gardens within the Imagination Garden's perimeters. Next spring, we hope to have many students and community partners involved in the actual construction of the garden and its components.

For further information, please contact Charlotte Link (terralink@gorge.net, 541-298-5045).

South Wasco County News By Anna Nolen

We enjoyed welcoming Master Gardeners to our yard for this year's annual Master Gardener picnic. The following weekend two Master Gardeners arrived on time (only a week late) for the annual picnic. We shared a good laugh together and had a very nice visit with them. I am so glad I am not the only person who does that! Thank you both!

South Wasco County Master Gardeners are looking forward to again partnering with the Maupin community and Maupin Dig And Hoe Garden Club for the upcoming Riverfest event this September 13th. Be looking for the advertisements about this festival and mark your calendars to attend a fun time!

Mini-College Reflections

Ronnie Smith

WCMGA Master Gardener of the Year

I have heard it said, "Happiness is a direction, not a destination." It certainly proved to be the correct "direction" for the over 300 people that attended Mini-College 2008. It was a wonderful experience! The choice of classes and subjects was varied and interesting, the class facilitators were enthusiastic, and the old and new friends met were definitely headed in the "happiness direction."

It was the first time for me, and I truly thank everyone for electing me Master Gardener of the Year, which in turn gave me the chance to attend. I will most definitely make an effort to go again and urge everyone to make the effort to enjoy the "happiness direction" in 2009.

Rita Saling

CGMGA Master Gardener of the Year

This was my second trip to Mini-College, and I found it to be particularly educational, especially since the focus was on "Green" gardening, recycling, utilizing our resources more efficiently, and defining global warming – all things dear to my heart. Every class I attended brought me at least one tidbit of information that I could pass on to my peers. I would like to recommend checking the website of David Sandrock (www.sandrockscapes.com). His class, Rethinking the Urban Landscape, was particularly valuable.

Gail Langellotto, the new director of the Oregon Master Gardener Program, was very much in evidence and open to suggestions for improving the Mini College experience. I was very impressed with her energy, new ideas and accessibility. I hope next year we will have more folks attending.

Anna Nolen, WCMGA

We thought this year's Mini-College was one of the best we have attended. The organic theme and encouraging use of alternatives to pesticides is an anthem I have sung for many years, even when it was not yet popular. It was great to be part of the choir! We enjoyed sharing Laretta's first Mini-College experience. Laretta said she thoroughly enjoyed attending Mini-College and really liked the classes.

Lana Tepfer, WCMGA

It will be hard to top this year's Mini-College. The theme "Going Green on Our Silver" was carried through beautifully with interesting and very thought provoking classes. If I had to choose a favorite it would be Rethinking the Urban Landscapes by David Sandrock, Ph. D. He had a top 10 list of things we can all do so save the planet. While I won't go into all of those, he does have a website you can visit for more information: www.sandrockscapes.com.

At this point in our lives residential gardens are increasing at a rate of 2,000,000 acres per year. We must re-design our yards to reduce lawn areas wherever possible. The amount of fertilizers used on turf grasses is causing too much nitrogen to go into our biosphere. Fertilize only when truly necessary. And only fertilize to correct deficiencies that have been determined by soil testing.

Landscape irrigation accounts for almost 1/3 of all residential water consumed. 7 billion gallons a day!

Using a gas power mower for one hour gives us the same amount of air pollution as 11 cars on the road. This is because unlike cars, there are no emissions standards for lawn mowers. One hour on a riding mower causes the same pollution as 34 cars!

With food safety, security and the cost of transporting foods to us from foreign countries, we need to be growing more of our own foods. Edibles are beautiful, put them everywhere not just in vegetable gardens.

One half of all of the Portland area is either paved or roof tops with impermeable surfaces. We must learn to build and use bioswales or "Rain Gardens" to more safely absorb rainfall without it all becoming run-off.

These are just a few suggestions he mentioned to think about. I will suggest to Lynn we try to get this man to come to our spring 2009 classes. He was just excellent.

On another note, the Door Prize committee, which Wasco County Master Gardeners have run for the past few years dispersed a record 74 gifts at Mini-College. What a job-- but we have it down to a science.

2009 Mini-College will be August 4-6, so mark your new calendars and try to come. Wasco County had 3 Master Gardeners attending Mini-College for the first time this year and many repeaters. Why not count yourself in next year?

Last Weekend for Gorge Grown Mobile Farmers' Market By Todd Dierker

Imagine fresh produce — blueberries, carrots, snap peas, cherries, sweet corn and more - grown locally and picked fresh, available every weekend in small, rural communities throughout the Gorge. This summer, the Gorge Grown Mobile Farmers' Market is making that a reality in Stevenson, Cascade Locks, Mosier, and Dufur from July 12 to August 24.

The goal of the Gorge Grown Mobile Farmers' Market is twofold: to increase access to locally grown fresh foods for rural Gorge communities and to increase local market opportunities for small farmers in the Gorge region. The expectations for both of these goals are being exceeded during this pilot year. Hundreds of pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables and naturally raised beef are being purchased in these small rural communities every week.

By welcoming other small farmers to join the market at each site with their own wares, Gorge Grown Food Network hopes to create viable farmers' markets in each town.

The pilot year for the mobile market has been made possible by financial support from the Oregon Investment Board, the Washington Investment Fund, Columbia Gorge Family Medicine, and the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

The 2008 market season is running with a simplified structure and short 6 week schedule. At the conclusion of the season, the project managers will evaluate all aspects of the project and use this information to refine and improve the operation for 2009, when they plan to explore an expanded mobile market program!

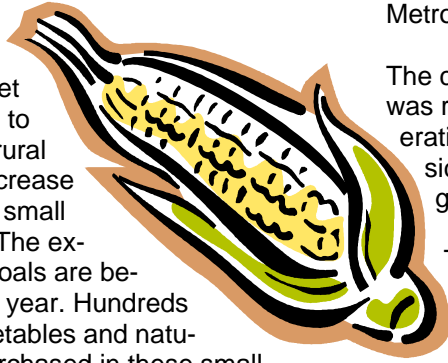
Schedule—July 12—August 24

Saturdays

- Stevenson, WA, 9am – 12pm in the Chamber of Commerce lot
- Cascade Locks, OR, 1pm – 3pm in the Charburger lot near the bridge

Sundays

- Dufur, OR, 12pm – 2pm across from the Historical Museum
- Mosier, OR, 3pm – 5pm in the 10 Speed East Coffee Shop lot



The Conservatory By Timothy Farrell

After leaving the crowded National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C., I wandered over to the much more peaceful Botanic Garden on my second afternoon after arriving in DC. The United States Botanic Garden is literally in the shadow of the Capitol at this time of the day, being just East of the marble domed Capitol Building on Independence Avenue and First Avenue. It is easily accessible from the Capitol South or Federal Center SW Metro Stations.

The country's founders' dream of having a national garden was realized in 1820. The present facility has been in operation since 1850 and was recently renovated. It is basically a big fancy green house with a huge lawn and garden surrounding it.

The garden's collection includes more than 60,000 plants. The collection is divided into economic plants, medicinal plants, orchids, cacti, native plants, and ferns, to name a few. The various exhibits are very informative.

My favorite exhibit was the ever-changing orchid corner. The Garden has about 5,000 such plants, but only about a hundred were on display. I also enjoyed the jungle and the garden primeval. The latter has a small Ginkgo tree and numerous plants out of the Jurassic era. Finally, the East Gallery had some interesting exhibits and plants. One, for example, described plants that are useful for cleaning the air by removing toxins such as formaldehyde. Another displayed some interesting plant parasites, including one that I had appear in a plant clinic with plantaholic John Stevens - dodder. Bizarre stuff.

The gardens were all immaculate and all of the plants were in perfect health - something to compare how your own plants should look. Although I have seen bigger specimens of some of the plants that I was familiar with, I am not sure that I have ever been to a garden with such consistently healthy plants. To see what is in bloom, check out their very informative website. www.usbg.gov.

As with the Smithsonian, admission is free. The helpful attendants also had information on the local Master Gardener Program run by the University of the District of Columbia (202) 274-7115. The program is similar to Oregon's in its scope and philosophy.

The garden hosts a plant hot line to answer questions about plants ((202) 226-4785; www.usbg.gov), which may be a handy resource for our plant clinics.

In sum, the U.S. Botanic Garden was an enjoyable and peaceful experience, unlike some of the overcrowded museums in D.C.

**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

Sept. 8 (Mon.)	9:00 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting , Hood River County Extension Office.
Sept. 13 (Sat.)	5:30 pm	Rising Moon Festival . Hood River County Extension Grounds. See page 4.
Sept 16 (Tues)	3:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting , Wasco County Extension Office.
Sept 23 (Tue.)	6:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting at home of Pam Manning. See page 3.
Sept. 24 (Wed.)	5:30 pm	Central Gorge MGA Garden Visit to John Ihle's Garden. See page 4.
Oct. 15 (Wed.)	6:00 pm	Central Gorge MGA Quarterly Meeting , place TBD.
Nov. 5 (Wed.)	6:00 pm	Central Gorge MGA Graduation . Valley Christian Church. Wasco County MGA Graduation . Time and Place TBD.

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

Safely dispose of old garden chemicals and other hazardous household waste at these events:

Sept. 13	The Dalles Disposal	9-2
Sept. 20	Odell	10-2
Oct. 4	Hood River Garbage	9-2

Oct. 18	Mosier	10-2
Nov. 1	Cascade Locks	10-2

For more information see www.wshd.org or call 541-506-2636.