

# GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 3

April 2007

## An International Flair to Spring Membership Meetings

### **Wasco County Master Gardener Association April 10, 6 pm, Ronnie and Charles Smith's home Program on Lynn and Marlene's Trip to Kyrgyzstan**

The quarterly meeting of the Wasco County Master Gardener Association will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 10th, at the home of Ronnie and Charles Smith. The address is 317 W. 21st (near Sorosis Park). Lynn and Marlene Long will present an educational program on their recent travels in Kyrgyzstan, a distant central Asian country, where they worked with cherry growers. Come learn about the culture and the horticulture in this fascinating part of the world. In addition, the association will hold a short business meeting. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome, so please plan to attend!

### **Central Gorge Master Gardener Association April 11, 6 pm, Hood River Extension Office Potluck supper and program on the flowers of Spain**

This is the year's first meeting, potluck, and social. It will be held Wednesday, April 11th at 6 pm at the Hood River County Extension Office. Kathy McGregor is going to give a slide presentation about the flowers of Spain. This meeting will also be a potluck so please bring your favorite dish as well as your own table service. Coffee and tea will be available. Everyone is encouraged to come, have fun, and learn more about the Association.



## Get Ready for Spring Plant Sales

Find news of how you can help with and/or shop at spring plant sales inside this newsletter:

- April 28 The Dalles Art Center—See page 7
- May 12 Spring Fair at the Hood River Extension Office Grounds, CGMGA fundraiser—See page 2
- June 16 Garden Tour Plant Sale—See page 6

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## Officers

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President Elect - Kathy  
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State OMGA Representative –  
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State OMGA Representative,  
Alternate – Glenda Ryan

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Elizabeth Daniel, Hood River  
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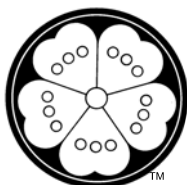
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online in the Master Gardener  
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hoodriver/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/)

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 Dede Garcia

We all know that spring is here. People are mowing their lawns, an assortment of bulbs are blooming and the weather has been wonderful. What a difference a month can make!

A lot has happened this month for the Central Gorge Master Gardeners. The new trainees are finished with classes and wearing their Master Gardener badges. The last day of class was well attended by both new and returning Master Gardeners. The tests were discussed, badges distributed and a wonderful potluck was enjoyed by all! Elizabeth even had all of us practice putting up the Saturday Market tent. It was a great exercise. Now the new Master Gardeners and the returning Master Gardeners are ready to take on Plant Clinics, Saturday Markets and the Thursday Gorge Grown Market. It is also time to clean up the gardens at the various Master Gardener projects in town—the Hood River Library, the Hood River Care Center, and the Learning Garden.

Anny VanNatta and others are busy working on the Spring Fair plant and gift sale. They are busy dividing perennials and making garden gifts for the May 12th sale at the Extension Office. Be sure to mark it on your calendars!

Of course it is time to start cleaning up our own gardens and begin thinking about your summer plantings. For now we'll be content to enjoy the daffodils and hyacinths, the beautiful yellow forsythia, and soon the tulips and the various blooming fruit trees of the valley.

## See page 4 for a list of CGMGA 2007 Projects

## Spring Fair Garden Gifts & Plant Sale

**May 12th -- Put it on your calendar(s)!**

**10 - 3 -- Tell your friends**

**Plan to come**

**Hood River Extension Office Grounds**

Start digging, dividing and potting your extra perennial plants to donate. Thin down your inventory of gardening books, tools, and garden items (in good condition). Think of whom you would like to give Mother's Day or Spring event (Birthday) gifts. Think of those you would like to bring and show around the Learning Garden. Think of inviting other garden enthusiasts to share this event.

More than being an annual CGMGA fund-raising event, the Spring Fair also showcases the Master Gardener Program and Learning Garden to the public. This event will have a variety of things to see and do and buy! There are educational and social opportunities for Master Gardeners, families, friends and nature lovers!

(continued on page 4)

## Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

It's exciting to look outside and see that spring is blooming everywhere. I believe this is my favorite time of year. Every year I tell myself I will do a better job of labeling and making notes of where plants are as they emerge. Although my intentions are good, I never seem to follow through. This year will be no different since I will be moving soon.

Classes will be finished in a few weeks. I hope everyone has enjoyed them as much as I have. We have had some great speakers.

The Wasco County Plant Clinic will open April 3rd at the Extension Office. The format will be the same as last year. Clinics will run Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4 pm at the Extension Office, Saturdays from 9-1pm at Fred Meyer, and new this year at the Farmers Market. These clinics will be on the first and third Friday of each month from 8-11 & 11-2. Plant Clinics are a very important part of our program and more have been added. Lets all work hard to make them successful. When you are working in the office this year you will notice a few new changes. No. 1—Wasco county MG now have an email address [Wasco.MasterGardeners@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Wasco.MasterGardeners@oregonstate.edu) and No. 2—A new microscope. This will allow us to take a picture and email our specimens to OSU rather than mailing them. Both will be great additions to the office.

Remember our quarterly meeting on April 10th, I hope to see everyone there. Enjoy the warmer weather and have a great month.

## See page 5 for a list of WCMGA 2007 Projects



## Field Trip to Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival in Woodburn Saturday, April 14, 2007 Departing from The Dalles Marina at 8:30 am

The festival located near Woodburn, OR will have tulip and daffodil display gardens, gift shop, crafters market place, farm equipment display, live entertainment, wine tasting and food booths. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle fee.

Please call Garry Peterson at 541-206-5491 if you are planning to attend. Let him know if you need a ride, can take extra passengers, want to meet the group in Hood River or Cascade Locks, or have other questions or concerns.

## Officers

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

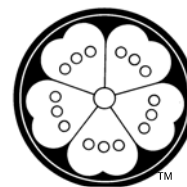
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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

Judy Davis, editor  
[rjdavis1@mac.com](mailto:rjdavis1@mac.com)  
541-478-0133

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

Printed on recycled paper.



## 2007 Central Gorge Master Gardener Projects and Plant Clinics

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|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Spring Fair - plant and garden gift sale</b><br/>Leader - Anny VanNatta<br/>Date: May 12, 2007</p> <p>2. <b>Annual Garden Tour</b><br/>Leader - Glenda Ryan<br/>Date: June 16, 2007</p> <p>3. <b>Hardy Gardener Workshop</b><br/>Leader - Pat Schmuck<br/>Date: To be determined (late summer or early fall)</p> <p>4. <b>Hood River Library (Xeriscape Garden)</b><br/>Leaders - Pat Morrison and Dede Garcia</p> <p>5. <b>Learning Garden</b> (includes several individual projects)<br/>Leader - Sandi Rousseau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Herb Garden<br/>Leader - Shirley Chrisman</li> <li>b. Native Plant Garden<br/>Leader - Anne Saxby</li> <li>c. Fountain Garden<br/>Leader - Glenda Ryan</li> <li>d. Compost<br/>Leader - Scott Fitch</li> <li>e. Bioswale<br/>Leader - Jordan Kim</li> <li>f. Japanese Heritage Garden<br/>Leader - Rita Saling</li> <li>g. Ecolawn<br/>Leader - Steve Castagnoli</li> <li>h. "Hellstrip" or Verge Garden<br/>Leader - Elizabeth Daniel</li> </ul> | <p>6. <b>Junior Master Gardeners - Mid-Valley</b><br/>Leaders - Pam Crider and Audrey Schneider</p> <p>7. <b>Junior Master Gardeners - Cascade Locks</b><br/>Leaders - Virginia Fitzpatrick and Tracy Janik</p> <p>8. <b>Rising Moon Fundraiser</b><br/>Leader - Margo Dameier<br/>Date: August 25</p> <p>9. <b>Hood River County Fair</b><br/>Leader - No one at this time<br/>Date: July 25-28</p> <p>10. <b>Plant Clinics (at the Extension Office)</b><br/>Leader: Gemma Furno<br/>Date: Mondays and Thursdays</p> <p>11. <b>Saturday Market and Thursday Gorge Grown Plant Clinics</b><br/>Leader - Elizabeth Daniel</p> <p>12. <b>Stevenson, WA and Carson, WA Plant Clinics</b><br/>Leader - Pat Morrison</p> <p>13. <b>Mentor Program</b><br/>Leader - Dede Garcia</p> <p>14. <b>Graduation</b><br/>Leader - Kathy McGregor<br/>Date: Fall</p> |
|---|--|

### Spring Fair Garden Gifts & Plant Sale

(continued from page 2)

There are raffle prizes plus perks for participating Master Gardeners, besides Payback opportunities! EVERY CGMGA Master Gardener in attendance will get a free raffle ticket. Master Gardeners from other associations will get three!

A Display Table/ Simulation, Raffle and short presentation will take place at the April 11th Chapter Meeting. There will be sign-up sheets to volunteer.

Work-party dates are being set for April. Ideas, questions and volunteers are encouraged. Please contact Anny VanNatta at gardennanny@coho.net, or call 503-452-1848



### Standard Flower Show, May 5 & 6 By Jennifer Harty

The Hood River Valley Evening Garden Club will be holding their 3rd annual Standard Flower Show on May 5th & 6th. The show will be held at the beautiful and historic Columbia Gorge Hotel from 11:30am-4:30pm on both Saturday & Sunday. The theme of this year's show is "I Do....." featuring unusual & creative designs with a wedding theme.

For those interested in participating in the design categories, please call Pam Crider at 541-387-2245 to reserve a space. Horticultural entries DO NOT need a reservation. They can be brought to the hotel on Saturday morning between 8:00am & 9:15am.

A copy of the design schedule will be available at the Extension office in Hood River for your perusal.

## 2007 Wasco County Master Gardener Projects and Plant Clinics

### **Junior MG Program – Chenoweth Elementary School**

April – May  
Charlotte Link, 298-5045

### **Seeds and Soil Fourth Grade Project**

Wasco County Schools – April – May  
Pam Manning, 296-5195

### **Transitional Youth Housing Garden Mentoring Project**

Bill Marick, 298-5733

### **Wasco County Plant Clinic – Beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4 pm  
Wasco County Extension Office  
Cheri Austin, 509-767-1450, [ladybug98617@earthlink.net](mailto:ladybug98617@earthlink.net)

### **Fred Meyer Plant Clinic - April to Mid-August.**

Saturday 9-1  
Cheri Austin

### **Farmers Market Plant Clinic – Beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>**

8-11 and 11-2  
First & Third Fridays of each month  
Chamber of Commerce, The Dalles  
Cheri Austin

### **South Wasco County Plant Clinic - May 9th thru August**

8th, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 12-3  
Maupin Visitors Center  
Emilou Ely, 541-328-6219, [elyws@yahoo.com](mailto:elyws@yahoo.com)

### **Wasco County Fair Plant Clinics –August 16-19**

9 to 12: 30 and 12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Tgyh Valley  
Cheri Austin

### **Garden Tour - June 16<sup>th</sup>**

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

## Spotlighting the South Wasco County OSU Master Gardeners By Laretta Piatt and Emilou Ely

The Master Gardeners of South Wasco County are excited about the many partnerships they are developing throughout the Maupin area.

First, the partnership with the Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club was started by designing a high impact, low maintenance learning garden. This "City Garden at Henry's" included garden design, automatic irrigation clinic and a rose pruning clinic involving people from the area and students from the local school. This garden received a \$500 grant from the Oregon Roadside Council, and a national recognition award from the Federation of Garden Clubs for our Patriotic Tree planting in November 2006. We are also planning to apply for a \$500 Wildflower Grant in 2007.

Second, SWC OSU Master Gardeners are looking forward to the upcoming events, beginning with Seeds and Soil program in April at Maupin school. The plant clinic has already begun with personal inquiries and will resume regular schedule at the Visitors Information Center in Maupin on the second and fourth Wednesdays, beginning May 9th through August 8th.

The Maupin hazardous waste collection day is April 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be staffed by MG's Gary and Roxy Templin and MG Tammy Tripp.

The Master Gardeners of SWC will also be partnering with the Maupin Garden Club for a rose pruning clinic March 31, 9:00 a.m. at Maupin City Hall, rose garden relocation clinic, the Maupin Annual Community sale on May 19th, 9

am to 3 pm where we will have a plant clinic booth at the Grade School gym, and Wasco County fair and plant display in August.

The South Wasco County OSU Master Gardeners and the Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club are working together to have a new Blue Star Memorial Marker placed in Maupin. This has been started by having a Spring Tea chaired by (new OSU Master Gardener) Carol Jones. The funds donated from this tea are going for this Marker. There will be further fund raising projects for this Memorial.

Val Tenney visited the Maupin Garden Club on March 7th 2007 and presented the members with an outstanding program on how to present floral entries at the fair for judging. She was well received and the members learned a great deal of information. Phyllis Olson will visit the Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club on April 4th, 2007 and present a program on how to prepare your plants "so you can be a winner at the Wasco County Fair." Please feel free to come to this meeting and be as informed as we will be. Social time is 12:30 to 1:00, meeting 1:00 to 2:00, and then Phyllis will give her presentation. The club members are looking forward to having Phyllis visit our club.

Also, we are so proud to have two more new OSU Master Gardeners taking the classes for 2007. They are Lois Nelson and Carol Jones, both from Pine Grove. It has been a great experience for Emilou Ely and Laretta Piatt to be their mentors with more knowledge gained as well.

## Garden Tour, June 16, 2007

By Glenda Ryan

"Reflections in the Garden" is the theme of this year's garden tour on *June 16, 2007* in Hood River. Tour hours are from *10:00 am to 4:00 pm*. There are six lovely gardens on the tour this year each with unique water-features. The selected gardens include a water wise garden, a small garden with "borrowed views", a large park like garden, a small garden spilling with plants and whimsical art, a garden with multiple water features and The Learning Garden at the Hood River Extension Office.

**Pre-Tour.** This is an opportunity for all Master Gardeners to tour the gardens during the pre-tour on *Sunday June 10 from 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm*.

**Refreshments.** All Master Gardeners are asked to provide 3 dozen homemade cookies or make a donation of \$6.00 for the purchase of beverages, paper products, etc. that are used at all of our events. Make checks payable to Central Gorge Master Gardener Association and mail to Anne Saxby, 4169 Barret Dr., Hood River OR 97031. Pat Morrison is in charge of refreshments.

**Plant Sale.** The ever popular plant sale will be at the Learning Garden this year. We would love to have your donated plants. Please be sure to plant in clean plastic pots and label with name of plant, water and light needs and flower color. Rita Saling is in charge of the plant sale.

**Plant Clinic.** We will not have a booth at Saturday Market on tour day; instead it will be set up at The Learning Garden with two shifts. A Morning shift from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. and an afternoon shift from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Complete details of the tour and work schedules for Master Gardeners will be published in the June newsletter. 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 work at the plant clinic booth please, contact Glenda at 509 493-1407 or [glenda@gorge.net](mailto:glenda@gorge.net).

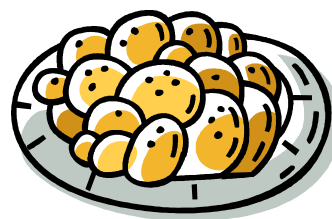
## Garden Tour Plant Sale By Rita Saling

As you are looking around your garden and wondering which plants to divide, pull, or prune, I hope you are keeping the garden tour plant sale in mind. Now is the time to try propagating woody shrubs or potting up plant divisions. Keep in mind that the tour is late this year and not the best time to try transplanting. We will be offering a few new options at the sale for local gardeners.

Some guidelines for plant sale use:

- Keep the pots uniform. We prefer 1 gallon or 4 inch pots. It helps make the sale look professional.
- Use potting soil. Often garden dirt gets compacted and doesn't promote good root strength, or it may have weeds.
- Pot up plants early enough to recover from transplant shock. Healthy and vigorously growing plants sell themselves.
- Some woody shrubs you might like to try rooting are: rosemary, ceanothus, lavender, willow, rose, ruta or any other plants that do not grow true to seed.
- Volunteers or seed starts are another group of plants that are easy to come by. Just stay away from those that reseed themselves so prolifically that they are considered a weed or a problem to control.

If you need 4 inch or gallon pots, give me a call and I will put you in touch with someone who has lots. Good planting!!



## Lavender Cookies

Melissa Bickle brought them to the HR class and they were a big hit. People wanted the recipe and asked her to put it in the newsletter. So here it is:

- 1 cup butter (room temperature)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped finely
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 Tablespoon lavender flowers, chopped and crushed (I grind mine finely with a mortar/pestle)

Combine all ingredients.

Form into 1 1/2" balls. Gently flatten each with the bottom of a glass that has been dusted with granulated sugar (or lavender sugar if you have it). Not too flat, just so that each cookie is evenly thick.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes.

You can sift a little powdered sugar over the cookies when they are cool to make them look fabulous.

## Mini-College at OSU August 1-4 By Lana Tepfer

Each year our state-wide organization, the Oregon Master Gardener Association, hosts an annual conference called Mini-College at the OSU campus. This year's conference is August 1st through August 4th.

A kick off bar-b-que is held on Wednesday evening with a social hour following. Wednesday during the day there is a leadership forum at 10:30 and the annual OMGA meeting at 1:30. These are open to all who wish to attend. Details in the application.



Thursday has a general session with reports of activities of all the chapters around the state. There will be three classes that day and garden or nursery tours that evening.

Friday's general session will be the Search for Excellence, selected projects of some of the groups' best efforts. A class after that and then lunch and free time or another class. The annual banquet is Friday night with the Master Gardeners of the year and others being honored.

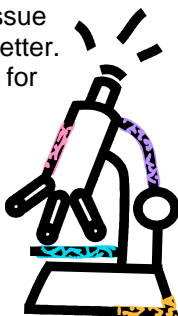
Saturday has optional workshops or classes until noon.

Cost of the entire on-campus package, which includes all meals, classes and dormitory housing, is \$255. Those who want to stay off-campus at their own expense can purchase classes only or meals and classes at a reduced rate.

Our two groups offer a full scholarship to Mini-College for their Master Gardener of the Year who will be chosen later this spring. With the division of our two groups, we do not have scholarships from our local groups this year. The state offers a few Send-A-Friend scholarships as funds are available. These must be applied for prior to May 23rd. Please call your treasurer about an application if you need one. Maximum award is \$200.

Plan to attend Mini-College if you can. It is a great time to network with other groups and the classes are wonderful. There will be three choices for each time slot. Applications and a class schedule will come in the June issue of *The Gardener's Pen*, our state-wide newsletter. You can also check the website occasionally for new information.

You don't need to be an Master Gardener to attend so if you have a friend who loves to garden, encourage them to attend too.



## The Dalles Art Center Spring Plant Sale—April 28 By Carolyn Wright

Before you know it the Cherry Festival and Spring Plant Sale at The Dalles Art Center will be here! Saturday, April 28 starting at 9 am in front of the Art Center there will be a huge assortment of plants suitable for our area, including perennials, vegetable starts, annuals, shrubs, berries, ground covers, house plants and about any thing you might want, all reasonably priced. Many of these plants are out of fellow Master Gardeners' gardens.

Donations of plants are needed! While starting seeds plant some extras for the sale, and while thinning/ dividing your perennials pot up the extras for the sale. The Art Center has a good supply of pots in various sizes, and if you need help with dividing plants give a call (296 4759) and someone may be able to come help (please give plenty of notice). We do ask that all plants be potted up, and advise that at least a week is needed for transplants to settle in so they aren't stressed and wilted at the sale. Please be sure to note flower colors for anything that comes in a range of colors, such as Iris, Chrysanthemums, daylilies etc. Plants can be delivered to the Art Center (220 East Fourth Street) April 24 -27. Leftover plants are cared for and donated to Master Gardener plant sales.

There will be a Plant Clinic during the plant sale - if you are interested in helping and earning some pay back hours contact Cheri Austin. Volunteers are also needed to help with the sale (this doesn't count towards payback hours). If interested please contact co-chairs Etta Myers or Cathy Dowrey or sign up at the Art Center.

## Vernal Equinox Facts



The vernal equinox in 2007 arrived just seven minutes past midnight, universal time, on March 21. Coordinated Universal Time is what used to be called Greenwich Mean Time, which means the vernal equinox arrived late in the afternoon on March 20 here in the Western time zone of the U.S.

The equinox marks the beginning of the period when day and night are equal lengths everywhere on earth. Because the sun is large, equinoctial conditions actually last for several days.

"Vernal equinox" is a Latin expression meaning "equal night of spring." This term applies even in the southern hemisphere where the vernal equinox marks the beginning of autumn.

## Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

April 5 (Thur.)	9:00 am	<b>Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting</b> , Experiment Station Library.
April 10 (Tue.)	6:00 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting</b> at home of Charlie and Ronnie Smith. See page 1 for details.
April 11 (Wed.)	6:00 pm	<b>Central Gorge MGA Membership Meeting</b> at Hood River Extension Office. See page 1 for details.
April 14 (Sat.)	8:30 am	<b>Field Trip to Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival</b> . See page 3.
April 17 (Tues)	3:00 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting</b> , Wasco County Extension Office
April 23 (Mon.)	8:00 pm	<b>Deadline for the May newsletter.</b>
May 12 (Sat.)		<b>Spring Fair and Plant Sale</b> , Hood River Extension office. See page 2.
May 21 (Mon.)	8:00 pm	<b>Deadline for the June newsletter.</b>
June 10 (Sun.)	2-5 pm	<b>Pre-Tour of Garden Tour</b> for Master Gardeners. See page 6.
June 16 (Sat.)	10-4	<b>Garden Tour “Reflections in the Garden”</b> in Hood River County. See page 6.

Live in simple faith...  
Just as this  
trusting cherry  
flowers, fades, and falls.  
— Issa

