

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 9

August 2007

Summer Recipes

Lavender Lemonade

1 (12 oz) can frozen lemonade
1 gallon cold water
1/4 cup dried lavender
2 cups boiling water
mint or lemon balm sprig

1. Combine the frozen concentrate with cold water, mix well.
2. Steep lavender in boiling water for 10 minutes. Strain lavender blossoms from boiling water and discard.
3. Combine lavender water with lemonade concentrate and cold water.
4. Chill well and serve with mint or lemon balm sprig.

Submitted by Melissa Bickle



No-Bake Fresh Fruit Pie

(from *As Easy as Pie* by Susan Purdy, 1984)

9" piecrust, prebaked
4 cups fresh fruit (you can use whatever you want, mixtures are great. Try berries and peaches, whatever is in season)
2/3 - 1 cup sugar
3 Tbsp cornstarch
1 cup water
1 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp butter



Make and prebake a 9" pie crust.

Mash 1-1/2 cups cut up mixed fruit. Measure sugar, cornstarch and water into a pan and whisk until smooth. Stir in the mashed fruit and cook over medium-low heat for 7-10 minutes, or until mixture is thick and clear. Stir in lemon juice.

Taste and correct balance of sugar and lemon if necessary. Stir in the butter and all remaining cut up fresh fruit or berries. Firm fruits like apples or plums are best slightly mashed into the cooked sauce, with softer fruits/berries simply stirred in. Chill until partially thickened. Pour into the cooked pastry shell and chill to set.

You can skip the piecrust and simply serve this as a pudding.

Submitted by Carolyn Wright

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President Elect - Kathy
McGregor
Secretary – Audrey Schneider
Treasurer – Anne Saxby
State OMGA Representative –
Cindy Collins
State OMGA Representative,
Alternate – Glenda Ryan

OSU Extension Staff

Elizabeth Daniel, Hood River
County Program Coordinator

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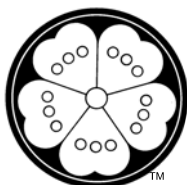
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Our Mission

- 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

July was a very good month for the Central Gorge Master Gardeners. The potluck meeting at Pat Schmuck's beautiful home and gardens was very nice. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious and it was nice to socialize with everyone.

The Hood River County Fair just ended. Elizabeth planned a lovely fountain garden display, as well as hand outs and posters. Several Master Gardeners helped Elizabeth set up the fountain on Wednesday morning, the day before the fair. It was an excellent learning opportunity for easy container pond construction.

At the Executive Committee meeting, Glenda Ryan surprised the board with a check to the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association for \$6,000 from the Dorothy Metcalf Charitable Foundation. This generous donation will give the Association the opportunity to do things for the Master Gardener Program that otherwise we would not have been able to do. At the present time we have invested the money, giving us time to consider the most productive use of these funds.

As this month comes to an end, I look forward to August and attending Mini College. I haven't been before and am anxious to attend the classes, visit with old friends, make new friends, and embrace the experience. Hope to see you there!

Highlights CGMGA Executive Committee Meeting Audrey Schneider, Secretary

1. Total assets as of July 11 are \$8449.68. A quarterly audit will be conducted during the week of July 16 by Anne Saxby, Dede Garcia, and Shirley Chrisman.
2. Glenda Ryan announced receipt of a donation of \$6000.00 from the Dorothy Metcalf Charitable Foundation via Bob Metcalf, fund director. The funds will be invested in a short term CD for the time being.
3. Individual scholarships for Mini-College were set at \$50. Recipients of Master Gardener of the Year will continue to receive full funding.
4. Project reports:
 - Sandi Rousseau described the Learning Garden as "in maintenance mode for now." Permanent plantings for the fountain garden will go in this fall. A design for the Japanese Heritage Garden was presented in the afternoon following the EC meeting. Donations are now over \$4400 so the designer can be paid.
 - Volunteers are needed to fill slots for plant clinics at extension office and Saturday markets.
 - John Stevens said new plant labels, made by him and Judy Maule, have been placed in the Library Garden. The labels provide cultural information about each plant, in addition to Latin names. A sign for the garden is in the works. June Knutson of the library inquired about a notebook for the library desk.
 - Colleen Garrabrant and Fred Paige have modified the irrigation system at the Care Center. The garden is in great shape, and a new sign is in place.
5. Elizabeth reported that the Community Ed classes taught by Master Gardeners have been going well. Attendance was good at Debbie McDonald's Stepping Stone and Garlic classes and at Landscaping with Less class taught by Anne Saxby, Jordan Kim and Steve Castagnoli.

More CGMA News on page 4.

Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

August has arrived and so has the heat. This also means our gardens will be in full production. My garden area has not been established yet, but I did manage to grow tomatoes this year. I have 6 plants in straw bales, and they are producing. My biggest challenge now is deer. Nothing seems to scare them.

The updated plant clinic schedule is posted on the web. There are still several openings. If you can help to fill them call me, not the extension office, to schedule a time. My number is 541-298-8943 or 541-993-6251.

It is time to begin call backs of our past plant clinic clientele. Please work on these when there is no other plant clinic business.

MaryAnn Pauline's husband was in a very serious tractor accident. Your cards and letters would be appreciated. Her address is:

MaryAnn Pauline
P.O. Box 189
Dallesport, WA 98617

I hope to see you at the fair.

Annual Picnic, Saturday August 11, 11:30 am-2 pm



The Annual Picnic will take place at the Rorick House, The Dalles. This is a fun social event and it is a great time to meet families and catch up. Bring your own lawn chair, plates, and utensils. Bring a dessert, main dish, or salad for the potluck. Water and lemonade will be provided.

Wasco County Fair, August 16-19

Plant Clinic Schedule for the fair:

- August 16 A.M. Shift - Etta Myers & Stephanie Drew P.M.- shift Carol Jones & Emylou Ely
- August 17 AM - Gary & Roxy Templin - PM - Lois Nelson & Tammy Tripp
- August 18 AM - Val Tenney & Candy Armstrong - PM - Lee Bryant & Sheila Tegen
- August 19 AM - Pam Morgan & Joan Hudson - PM - Lois Nelson & Emylou Ely



Morning shift is 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Afternoon shift is 1:00 to 4:00. Thursday is family day and admission is free. A pass will be mailed to those working other days.

More WCMGA news on page 5.

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
Program Chair - Marcia Strader

OSU Extension Staff

Lynn Long, Extension Agent

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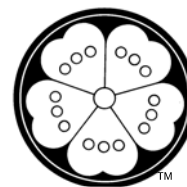
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Our Common Ground Joint Newsletter of Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener Associations

Judy Davis, editor
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541-478-0133

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

Printed on recycled paper.



Japanese Heritage Garden Update By Rita Saling, Project Chair

I am happy to let you all know that the Japanese Heritage Garden design has been completed by Sadafumi Uchiyama of Portland and accepted by the Learning Garden Steering Committee. We think it is a wonderful plan, simple and elegant, very representational of all Japanese gardens. Mr. Uchiyama has brought to this small site many of the cultural influences that make Japanese gardens so unique.

Our next step is a formal groundbreaking ceremony at the Extension Center, which we are planning for early October. Please plan to attend if you can. Following that, we will begin the site preparation work (getting rid of those darn lilacs and moving other plants), hoping to be ready for some spring planting.

We have heard from a number of community businesses, offering both services and materials. As the project gains momentum, I am sure we will get further response. The Hood River News had a garden feature article on July 28 too. Also, we are applying for grant funding, which your contributions have made more accessible.

The next time you are in the Extension Office, you can see the design in Elizabeth's office. Thank you again for your time, financial contributions and support of this project.

Hardy Gardeners Workshop Food, Flowers, Fruit, and Fun August 25 (10 am) to 26 (noon)



There still are spaces in this weekend of gardening field trips, wine-tasting, and visiting with fellow gardeners. Cost is \$60 per person or \$110 for two on the same registration. For details see the July newsletter (which is available online at the Wasco County Extension website if you no longer have a copy)

Contact Pat Schmuck to register:
2980 Reed Road, Hood River, OR 97031
patschmuc@aol.com or 541-386-5189

More CGMGA News By Elizabeth Daniel

Hood River County Fair. Central Gorge Master Gardeners Dede Garcia, Jordan Kim, Renee Renninger, Christine Lange and Elizabeth Daniel designed and implemented the floral and educational display in the center of the floral building at the fairgrounds. This is the 8th year that Master Gardener's have been responsible for the display.

4-H Jr. Master Gardener programs. The 4-H Jr. Master Gardener after school programs at Mid-Valley Elementary School in Odell and Cascade Locks Elementary School are over for the year. The Cascade Locks Jr. Master Gardeners 4-H Club led by Virginia Fitzpatrick and Tracy Janick entered projects in the Hood River County Fair where they received several ribbons.



On the Washington side..... Several plant clinics were held in Skamania County, Washington, by OSU Master Gardeners - Central Gorge Chapter. There are several Central Gorge Chapter members from North Bonneville, Stevenson, Carson, White Salmon, and Bingen, Washington. Pat Morrison was the project leader for these clinics.

Central Gorge Master Gardeners led by Pat Morrison showed about 100 second graders from Stevenson, Carson, and Cascade Locks how to plant plants in the flower boxes at the Skamania County Fairgrounds.

Grilled Eggplant

Eggplants are famous for soaking up the oil, but this is a delicious way to cook them without all the fat. We eat these often. We like to grill more than we need for a meal and use the leftovers the next day in sandwiches. The same technique can be used with many vegetables—onion, peppers, summer squash, asparagus, green beans, etc.

Cut small Japanese eggplants lengthwise in half. Cut bulbous eggplants in 1/2 inch thick slices. Brush all surfaces with olive oil (or olive oil mixed with a finely minced clove of garlic).

Grill on a moderately hot grill until done, turning once or twice.

Submitted by Judy Davis



Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

Sam Keen

Highlights of WCMGA July Executive Board Meeting

Ronnie Smith, Secretary

Funds total \$3,585.29.

Sheila Tegen is chair of Graduation. This will be held October 23 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Peggy Peterson and Janet Probstfield are the nomination committee looking for officers and other leaders for 2008.

It was decided to continue the Seeds and Soils program but to try to move it to early April before the start of Junior Master Gardeners. Pam Manning estimates that at least 200 hours are involved in taking this program to all grade schools in Wasco County.

Display materials, including plants growing in shoes and clogs, are ready for Mini-College. Items for door prizes and raffles have been donated.

Roxy and Gary Templin, along with other members from South Wasco County, are organizing the Wasco County Fair booth display.

New ideas for Master Gardener activities and programs are being sought. Please let Lynn Long know of any ideas.

Next board meeting is August 21 at 3 pm at the Extension Office. All are welcome.

Summer Squash Casserole

A quick way to dress-up summer squash adapted from *Joy of Cooking*.

3 cups summer squash slices
1 egg yolk
1/4 cup yogurt
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp paprika
1 tbsp chopped chives or other herbs
1/4 dry breadcrumbs
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese



Simmer squash in a small amount of water until tender, about 5 minutes. Drain.

Combine egg yolk, yogurt, salt, paprika, and chives. Mix with drained squash. Put in a baking dish. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and cheese. Bake at 375 degrees until the top is browned or microwave for about two minutes.

Serves four.

South Wasco County Update

By Laretta Piatt

Plant Clinic is being held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month with the last clinic on August 8th. The local Master Gardeners will also help out at the Wasco County Fair in August.

Master Gardener Carol Jones chaired a committee partnered with the Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club and the Duffur Valley Garden Club to restore the horticulture building at the fair grounds this summer. A group of hard working ladies washed the walls and the shelves for the exhibit area to prepare them for a new coat of paint. After everything was clean and dried, Anna Nolen and Jack Archer came in with the paint sprayer and painted the floral prep room. The members of The Duffur Valley Garden Club came over and painted the shelves for the floral display area. There will be a new light fixture installed by fair time. I think everyone who will be entering flowers and plants will be pleased with the prep room.

Time to brag now...

My Walla Walla onions have been enjoyed by many friends and family. The other onions are now drying for winter use. I have had several pickings from my pole beans, and have canned 14 pints after sharing a few messes with family. More sharing to come from the beans. Next, the tomatoes are getting close. I have picked 5 tomatoes so far with more to come and to share with friends. This is a great time of the year when flowers and vegetables are in abundance.

More South Wasco County News

By Roxy Templin

Our South County contingency will be providing Plant Clinic/Information Booths for a couple of upcoming events in our area.

Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1 & 2 – we will have a booth at the Barlow Trail Rendezvous Days being held in Wamic. This is a great event celebrating the Barlow Trail. There will be a Parade, Quilt Show, Fun Run, Kids Walk and Fun Day. For additional info about this event you can contact Lois Nelson at 541-328-6490.

We will also be at Riverfest in Maupin, Saturday, Sept. 15. This event will have a full day of fun to include a giant water slide & bouncy house for kids, food, wine & craft vendors, live music, tethered air balloon rides (weather permitting) and more. For additional information regarding this event, you can contact Frank or Susan Kay at 541-395-2222. Stop by our booths at these two events to say Howdy!!

**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

Aug. 1-4 (Wed-Sat)		Mini-College at OSU.
Aug. 8 (Wed)	10 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension. All welcome.
Aug. 11 (Sat)	11:30am	Wasco County MGA Picnic at Rorick House, The Dalles. See page 3.
Aug. 16-19 (Thur-Sun)		Wasco County Fair. See page 3 for clinic schedules.
Aug. 21 (Tue.)	3 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting, Wasco County Extension. All welcome.
Aug. 25-26 (Sat-Sun)		Central Gorge MGA Hardy Gardeners Workshop. See page 4.
Aug. 27 (Mon)	8 pm	<i>Deadline for the September newsletter.</i>

Polk County Master Gardener's Association Fall Fling, Sept. 8, 2007

- Taste Fall-fruited Berries and Grapes That You Can Grow in Your Own Yard with Dr. Bernadine Strik, OSU Professor of Horticulture
- 25 Trees Under 25 Feet with Kym Pokorny
- Lovely Lilies with Anne Jaeger
- Afternoon workshops (additional charge)
- Demonstrations, Plants, Garden Products



At Dallas High School, Dallas, OR
8:15 am-4 pm

\$20 registration includes lunch. Registration deadline is August 31, 2007.

More information at 503-623-8395 or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/mg.php>