

# GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 13

December 2007

## Thanks to Everyone Who Contributed to the Newsletter

About 50 Master Gardeners and Extension Staff have contributed articles or other assistance to the newsletter during 2007. Thanks to all of you for making the newsletter informative, timely, and interesting. There won't be a newsletter without you.

Judy Davis, editor

Candy Armstrong  
Cheri Austin  
Melissa Bickle  
Christine Bluestone  
Lee Bryant  
Cindy Collins  
Pam Crider  
Margo Dameier  
Elizabeth Daniel  
Joshua Drake  
Emilou Ely  
Scott Fitch

Dede Garcia  
Colleen Garrabrant  
Jennifer Harty  
John Ihle  
Jordan Kim  
Joanne Kiyokawa  
Charlotte Link  
Lynn Long  
Marlene Long  
Katie MacKendrick  
Bill Marick  
Kim McCullough

Debbie McDonald  
Kathy McGregor  
Etta Myers  
Lois Nelson  
Shilah Olson  
Patricia Paige  
Peggy Peterson  
Lauretta Piatt  
Janet Probstfield  
Glenda Ryan  
Rita Saling  
Ann Saxby

Pat Schmuck  
Audrey Schneider  
Ronnie Smith  
Marcia Strader  
Roxy Templin  
Val Tenney  
Lana Tepfer  
Tammy Tripp  
Anny VanNatta  
Carolyn Wright

*Thank You*

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## 2007 Officers

President - Dede Garcia  
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

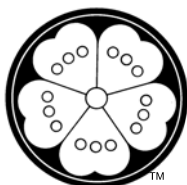
## Find Us Online

This newsletter is available  
online in the Master Gardener  
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or  
[http://  
extension.oregonstate.edu/  
wasco/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/)

## Our Mission

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



## Thoughts From Your President Dede Garcia

As I begin to write this column, I realize that as President of Central Gorge Master Gardener Association, this will be my last column. The gavel will pass to Kathy McGregor at the end of December. Kathy is an energetic and extremely capable President Elect and will be a wonderful President. I feel very comfortable turning over the leadership of this Association to her. She has innovative ideas for the future of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association, and I wish her the very best.

I would like to thank all of the Executive Board for their support and help with this, the first year of the new association. They have all made the transition not only painless but very successful. Elizabeth Daniel, our Program Director, is a super person to work with and a great director. She has wonderful ideas for the Master Gardener program and is supportive with all the Association activities.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the members of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association for their support throughout the year. You are all a wonderful group of dedicated gardeners and friends that have been a pleasure to work with.

I look forward to many years with the Master Gardeners and wish everyone in this great program the very best.

## Save the Date Rising Moon Festival Is Planned for August 16, 2008 by Margo Dameier

After a one year postponement, the First Annual Rising Moon Festival is being planned for Saturday, August 16, at The Learning Garden on the OSU Extension grounds in Hood River. This event is designed to provide community outreach and education as well as having a good time and raising funds for Central Gorge Master Gardener Association projects. All Central Gorge Master Gardeners are invited to assist in the planning stages for this event and are requested to be present to help on the day of the festival.

The First Annual Rising Moon Festival will feature food, music and fun while a full moon rises over the Hood River Valley. Additional information on how you can be involved in this festival will be available at the Master Gardener orientation class in Hood River on January 9, 2008.

## Hood River classes start Wednesday, January 9. Look for a class list in the January newsletter.

*For the past 40 years of my life I have broken by back, my fingernails, and sometimes my heart, in the practical pursuit of my favorite occupation.*

Vita Sackville-West, in an *Observer* article, 1958

## Thoughts From Your President Etta Myers

Another year is almost gone. The saying may be trite, but it is certainly true: how time does fly! Another class has graduated and what a fun program we had. Many thanks to Val Tenney for her very clever idea that Master Gardeners are all “plantaholics” and very much addicted to our gardens. It was hard to know when the planned skit ended and the spontaneous participation began. If you weren't able to attend, you missed a very fun evening plus a lot of wonderful food. Our reputation for having the best cooks around just continues to grow.

Our next meeting will be January 15 at the PUD meeting room. Please put it on your calendar now. Think about who will be inviting to join us to become a Master Gardener. Classes will be starting February 13. We have opportunities this year for some new projects, but what we can do may be limited by the number of people we have to work on them.

Until we meet again, have a very happy holiday season.

## Update On Children's/Community Garden Near Google Campus By Charlotte Link and Marcia Strader

The OSU Master Gardeners and OSU Extension 4-H are excited about the opportunity to partner with Google to build a Community Garden with a focus on youth at a site adjacent to the Google campus. Currently, the project is waiting for the legal portion of the arrangement to be reviewed and finalized. Upon favorable execution of the contract, the committee will review the entire process and begin the next phase of the project. Please stay tuned for further developments. If you would like to become involved, please contact Charlotte Link. Remember that you can earn payback hours for participation in this project. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

## South Wasco County News by Lois Nelson

Master Gardener Plant Clinic and Maupin Dig & Hoe Garden Club are taking part in the Christmas Bazaar at the Barlow Gate Grange in Wamic on Saturday, November 24th. It is the only Christmas Bazaar in South Wasco County that we know of. There will be 25 vendors and also a visit from Santa Claus.

In the morning maple bars with hot chocolate or coffee are on the menu. Later there will be chili, chili dogs, hot dogs and drinks. Also the Pine Hollow Fire Department is having a bake sale with assorted goodies.

This is a great opportunity for us to meet and educate the public as to what we are doing as Master Gardeners and garden club members.

All proceeds are directed to the Lenore Walters Scholarship Fund, which is a Grange Project each year. This helps assist local students with their scholastic pursuits.

## 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

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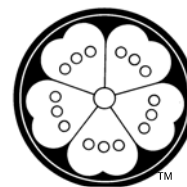
or

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

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

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541-478-0133

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



# Japanese Heritage Garden Update

By Rita Saling

With much ado and slipping, sliding and dripping, a few of us started the sod removal at the Japanese Heritage Garden site last week. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative, but we persevered and were able to remove approximately half of the sod. What a mess, but such a feeling of accomplishment at the end of a couple of hours. I am hoping we will get a few more volunteers to complete the job.

A nice group showed up in October to remove plants for the plant sale.

Here's a draft time line for the next few months, to give you an idea of activities coming up that might appeal to you. The \* indicates that we have completed that activity, or have a commitment from someone to take care of this.

## Fall 2007

1. Prune Norway spruce.\*
2. Apply for Hwy 14 permit to mine boulders, rock in the gorge
3. Remove and store drain rock from beside building and portion of Hellstrip
4. Grade east side of site for retaining wall
5. Get permits for Willow Pit (Stepping Stones)

6. Work party to secure stepping stones
7. Locate and bring retaining wall rock to site; build wall
8. Remove sod from site\* (partial)
9. Design irrigation system\*
10. Lay out design with stakes and flags.\*
11. Remove plant material from upper level, pot for plant sale.\*

## Winter 2008

1. Locate truck, crane operator and crane to load/unload rock
2. Move rock and boulders to site if weather permits
3. Revise main lines of existing irrigation system
4. Stockpile paving stone
5. Remove plant material from next to building; remove lilac roots
6. Locate plant material sources for spring planting, i.e. trees, shrubs for hedges
7. Contact Tsuruta, Japan as resource for tea plants
8. Make presentations to locate lantern, basin donations

As you can see, this is a pretty ambitious schedule for some not so glorified work. Because weather will be a big factor in what we can do, nothing is definitely scheduled right now. Please feel free to contact me at 509-427-8754 or [rsaling@saw.net](mailto:rsaling@saw.net) if you would like to be included in any



## Newsletter Changes

By Judy Davis, editor

### Change in Formatting

I was inspired by another newsletter I receive as a pdf. file to revise some of the formatting of our newsletter. The objective is to make the newsletter easier to read online.

Instead of running a half-page article, like the one above, down a column it now appears on either the top or bottom of the page. This way an online reader—at least one who zooms in to the size of type that I find it comfortable to read—can read the whole article without scrolling down to the bottom of column and then back up to the top of the second column. You will note this change on this and other pages.

Some scrolling is probably still necessary for full-page articles.

Do you like this change? Do you have other ideas for making the newsletter easier to read online? Please let me know.

### Newsletter Deadlines

Due to the holidays and some winter travel plans, the schedule for the next several months will change a bit. Here are the dates I have in mind:

Newsletter	Due Date	Mailing Date
January	Jan. 1	Jan. 3 or 4
February	Jan. 28	Jan. 31
March	Feb. 25	Feb. 28

# OMGA November 2007 Meeting

## By Cindy Collins

The OMGA quarterly meeting was held Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> at Valley Christian Church here in Hood River. We had a beautiful sunny day and bright white mountains with a new layer of snow. The valley looked as beautiful as it can at this time of year. The meeting was well attended; only three chapters were unable to attend. Everyone seemed to like their favors; a beaver pear ripening bag filled with three pears—green Anjou, red Anjou and Forelle.

The meeting always starts with the two-minute chapter reports. Some of the highlights noted were:

Jackson County has an apprentice system where new Master Gardeners work with a particular gardener on a particular project. Their members liked this so much that they created a senior apprentice for those gardeners who wanted to continue with the program past the first year.

Ann Ruby's German Green was the winning tomato in Marion County's tomato tasting contest.

A lot of chapters reported on how much food they had grown and donated to local food banks over the year. This is something we don't do and could think about.

Then we moved into the business part of the meeting

### Newsletter

OMGA would like to reduce their postage costs for their newsletter. If a member would like to receive the newsletter online, we can tell Patty Driscoll.

### Mini-College

Mini-College is the big event that OMGA puts on every year. There are a number of committee chairs that are not yet filled. If anyone is interested they can contact Gail Langellotto. The empty chairs are: Chapter display, Silent Auction, Photographs, Sponsorship, and Decorations for the banquet.

### Budget

OMGA has been making about \$5000 a year from Mini-College and some of the activities associated with Mini-College like the silent auction. There was some concern about this, given that OMGA is a non-profit organization. Most people would rather it made Mini-College more affordable. Instead of a balanced budget it was proposed that the budget actually show a loss next year of \$2500 due to less income from Mini-College.

### Gail Langellotto: Program Coordinator

There is a new web page that will be launched soon.

There will be a survey of Master Gardeners. It will assess the knowledge and skills that we have. It will be available on line. Master Gardeners will be sent a letter with instructions on how to access the survey.

Gail has updated an online Master Gardener course.

Gail is talking about moving Mini-college around. Initially she wants to keep it in Corvallis just because it will be easier for her to come up to speed, but after a couple years she would like to find other locations to host it.

Editor's Note: The food was very good too.

## OMGA Seeks Logo for 2008 Mini-College

**We invite our creative Master Gardeners™ to design a logo that captures the 2008 Mini-College theme of "Going Green On Our Silver"!** This event will be a time of celebration, because 2008 is the 25th anniversary of the Oregon Master Gardener Association's Gardeners Mini-College! This event also presents a wonderful chance to recognize the various activities of local Master Gardener chapters that help to protect our planet and sustain our natural resources.

The logo contest is open from December 1 to December 31, 2007. The winning design will be announced in January 2008. The contest winner will receive an OSU T-shirt, a discount coupon towards their Mini-College registration fee, and will be featured on the Mini-College website.

Please submit image entries to: Tam Martin, [tamm@hammondnet.com](mailto:tamm@hammondnet.com). Questions may also be directed to Tam Martin, 2008 Mini-College co-chair, at 503-317-2227 or [tamm@hammondnet.com](mailto:tamm@hammondnet.com).

All Master Gardeners™ are encouraged to enter! Family members can also contribute. However, children under age 18 must have a parent or guardian's permission to enter. Multiple entries are allowed, so please feel free to enter as many times as you like.

# Conservation Gardening

## by Shilah Olson

*The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago - the second best time is today.* Anonymous

We garden for many different reasons. Gardens can produce fresh, healthy food and improve the beauty of our homes. They provide a chance to relax and to reconnect with nature. It seems that even when we toil for hours on end in our gardens, we come away refreshed. There are several conservation practices that we can use to make our gardens sustainable and more productive.

The first thing to do is to step back and look at the big picture. Gardens are small ecosystems managed by us for a specific goal. Consider what your goals are for your garden, both short-term and long-term. How much have you done to achieve your gardening goals? How much more do you need to do? It may be helpful to draw a map or layout of your garden. You may also want to write down your plan, take pictures, or keep a gardening journal. When you develop your conservation gardening plan, you should consider the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that will interact with your garden.

Soil is the foundation of a healthy, productive garden. Soil tests give us a baseline to understand the texture of the soil, pH, available nutrients and organic matter, and the proper combination of fertilizers to apply. The life in the soil, from bacteria to earthworms, help aerate the soil and make nutrients available to plants. We can improve the biology of our soil by reducing tillage and increasing organic matter. Compost can be incorporated into the soil without tillage simply by laying it down like mulch. Earthworms and other soil life will move up into it and work it back down into the soil.

Water conservation saves time, money and energy, and can improve the health of plants. Some water-wise gardening tips include (1) grouping plants with similar water, soil, and exposure needs; (2) selecting plants that are adapted to your site; (3) watering deeply and less often; and (4) mulching to reduce evaporation. Irrigation systems can be tailored to fit your garden needs. For example, drip irrigation is better on clay soil while a spray system is better for sandy soil.

Air considerations include chemical drift, undesirable air movement, and temperature. Pesticides can drift if they are sprayed on a hot or windy day, resulting in damage to neighboring plants, animals or humans. Always follow the label when applying pesticides. Undesirable air movement can be altered through the establishment of a windbreak. Windbreaks can change the microclimate, making it more favorable for certain types of plants and potentially regulating the temperature on the site. Windbreaks can also make effective spray barriers when designed correctly.

Plants are the most obvious component in any garden. They may be beautiful or tasty, and they help make fresh air. Researching the requirements of the plant you want to grow can save a lot of energy in the long run. Things to consider include hardiness zone, frost, rainfall, soil, and sun exposure. It is important to control unwanted plants and especially noxious weeds to reduce competition with your plants.

Animals, including insects, are attracted to gardens for obvious reasons. Some may be pests, but many are beneficial. The best way to prevent problems is exclusion, which works with larger animals. A tall chicken-wire fence will usually do the trick. For insect pests, the best defense is maintaining healthy plants. In addition, attracting predatory insects to your garden can help keep the unwanted bugs in check. You can attract beneficial insects and pollinators by (1) growing insectary plants as nectar and pollen sources, (2) creating alternative habitats, (3) providing water sources, and (4) using selective insecticides rather than broad spectrum ones. Remember, many chemical sprays work on both bad and good bugs.

It's up to each of us to decide on the best ways to improve the productivity and sustainability of our gardens. We can be more effective by taking a little time to develop a garden plan, taking into consideration the soil, water, air, plants, and animals. After all, we must remember to stop once in a while, smell the roses, and contemplate the big picture.

## Garden Book Recommendations from Elizabeth Daniel



*Gardening in the Inland Northwest* by Tonie Jean Fitzgerald (2001). Washington State University Extension publication MISC0304. Advice on growing vegetables and fruits east of the Cascades.

*Lasagna Gardening* (1998), *Lasagna Gardening with Herbs* (2004) and anything else by Patricia Lanza. . Easy to read, practical advice on gardening.

*The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan (2007), Penguin Books. Read about our food systems—both conventional and organic.

## Festive Cranberry Recipes

Contributed by Carolyn Wright and Judy Davis

### Cranberry Apple Relish

4 cups cranberries  
2 apples pared & cored  
2 oranges, seeds removed  
1 lemon, seeds removed  
sugar to taste

Quarter the apples, oranges & lemon. Put all fruit through a food mill to grind up (or chop with a food processor). Mix thoroughly. Add sugar to taste.

### Tropical Relish

4 cups cranberries  
1 lemon, quartered & seeds removed  
1 can shredded pineapple (unsweetened)  
sugar to taste

Put cranberries and lemon through food mill/processor. Add pineapple and sugar and mix thoroughly.

### Cranberry-Apple Cake

#### Topping

½ cup brown sugar  
1 tbsp. cornstarch  
¼ tsp. cinnamon  
1½ cups fresh cranberries  
1½ cups chopped peeled tart apple (like Granny Smith or Newton Pippin)  
½ cup orange or apple juice

Combine brown sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon in medium saucepan. Stir in cranberries, apples, and juice. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat, stirring. Con-

tinue to cook until the mixture thickens and berries soften, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.

#### Cake

1½ cups whole-wheat pastry flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
¼ tsp. salt  
1/8 tsp. baking soda  
¼ cup canola oil  
3 tbsp. butter, slightly softened  
1 tsp. freshly grated lemon zest  
¾ cup sugar  
1 egg  
¾ cup milk  
2 tsp. vanilla

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Coat a 9-inch springform pan with cooking spray.

Whisk flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda together in a medium bowl. Beat oil, butter, and lemon zest in large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, until well combined. Add egg and beat until the batter is smooth. With the mixer on low speed, beat in half the flour mixture until just incorporated. Gradually beat in milk and vanilla. Add the remaining flour and beat until a smooth batter forms.

Scrape the batter into the prepared springform pan, spreading to the edges. Spread the topping in an even layer over the batter.

Bake for about 40 to 50 minutes until the top is puffed in places and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Let stand on a wire rack until cooled to warm, about 20 minutes. Run a knife around the edge of the pan, remove the pan sides, and cut into wedges to serve.

## Garden Book and Periodical Recommendations From Carolyn Wright



"Green Prints, The Weeders Digest" quarterly, subscriptions \$22.97/year . Call 800 569 0602. It's not a how to, but rather a bit of why garden. If you've read *Chicken Soup for Gardeners* that gives you an idea of Green Prints. Pat Stone was one of the Chicken Soup editors, and is the editor of GP.

*The Gardener's Year* by Karel Capek (1929), Univ. of Wisconsin Press. Available as a Modern Library Edition (2002)

*Merry Hall* by Beverly Nichols, (1998) Timber Press

*The Essential Earthman* (2003) and *One Man's Garden* (1992), both by Henry Mitchell, a former garden columnist for the Washington Post; Mariner Books of Houghton Mifflin Company

*Tools of the Earth* by Jeff Taylor, (1998) Chronicle Books

**Central Gorge and Wasco County  
Master Gardener™ Associations**  
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### Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

Dec. 11 (Tue)	3 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting.</b> Wasco County Extension Office. All members welcome.
Dec. 12 (Wed)	3:45 pm	<b>Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting.</b> Hood River Extension Office. All members welcome.
Jan. 1 (Tue)		<b><i>Deadline for the January newsletter.</i></b>
Jan. 15 (Tue)	6 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting and Program.</b> This meeting is a good opportunity to introduce prospective Master Gardener's to the Master Gardening program. Northern Wasco County PUD meeting room. Details in the January newsletter.
Jan. 16 (Wed)	5 pm	<b>Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting</b> at Valley Christian Church before the evening's class.

### Mark Your Calendars for Master Gardening Events in 2008

May 31 (Sat)	<b>Annual Garden Tour.</b> Five gardens in The Dalles will be featured this year.
July 23-25 (Wed-Fri)	<b>Mini-College at OSU in Corvallis.</b> The theme of this 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mini-College is "Going Green on Our Silver."
Aug. 16 (Sat)	<b>Rising Moon Festival in Learning Garden,</b> Hood River Extension office. See page 2.