

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 2

January 2007

'Twas the Night After Compost

by Chery Sullivan

(Thanks to Scott Fitch for submitting this item.)

'Twas the night after compost
And all through the pile,
Creatures started to stir
As I watched with a smile

Organics had been tucked
In the pile with great care,
In hopes that good microbes
Soon would be there

I had mixed in the browns
With equal parts green;
With the right C:N ratio
We soon would see steam

Leaves, grass and twigs
Were chopped up with zeal,
Making the pieces bite sized
For microbial appeal

The pile was built up
To the top of the wall,
Just one cubic yard
Not too big, not too small

Then I added some water
Just a little, not too much,
Like a wrung out sponge
It was moistened just such

The pile will be turned often
So the microbes can breath;
They need plenty of oxygen
Or the good guys will leave

Now it's a well known fact
That most things will rot,
But if managed with care
This pile will get hot

A hot pile is important
And I'll tell you why;
The heat will kill weed seeds
And pathogens will die

ROCK ON microbes...
On beetles and bugs,
All are welcome in the pile
Even the slugs

I had built a fine home,
To encourage microbial action,
Knowing the finished compost
Will bring green thumb satisfaction

So dig away, plant away...
Plow away all,
Happy gardening to you
And GOOD COMPOST to all!



What's Inside?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 2 | Central Gorge MGA News | 5 | Festival of Trees |
| 2 | Japanese Garden Plans | 5 | Order Your Native Plants Now! |
| 3 | Wasco County MGA News | 6 | Getting to Know Sandi Rousseau |
| 3 | Wasco County Quarterly Meeting is Jan. 15 | 7 | 2007 Hood River County MG Classes |
| 4 | 2006 Hood River County MG Report | 8 | Calendar of Master Gardener Events |
| 5 | News from South Wasco County | | |

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Secretary – Audrey Schneider
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Cindy Collins
State OMGA Representative,
Alternate – Glenda Ryan

OSU Extension Staff

Elizabeth Daniel, Hood River
County Program Coordinator

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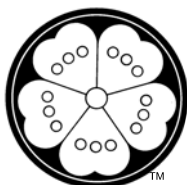
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Our Mission

- 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

2007 is just about here. The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association officially begins as a new chapter of the OMGA on January 1st. The newly elected slate of officers are: Dede Garcia, President; Kathy McGregor, President Elect; Anne Saxby, Treasurer, Audrey Schneider, Secretary; Cindy Collins, OMGA Rep; and Glenda Ryan, OMGA Alternate. The By-Laws were passed, and now we are official.

Classes for 2007 begin on January 10th. Once again they will be held at the Valley Christian Church on Wednesday evenings and some Saturdays. At this time we have twenty applications for new Master Gardeners. Every year proves to be more diversified than the previous year. This year we have a fairly even mix of men and women. Some are professional gardeners and others just have a serious interest in gardening. From their applications, it looks like they will be a great group of Master Gardeners.

A new project is in the planning stages at the Learning Garden. Rita Saling is heading the project of developing a small Japanese garden there. According to Rita it will be a way of "blending art, gardening and culture." Rita says that this garden is a "unique plan to pay tribute to the loyal local Japanese immigrants, and their children, who suffered internment during World War II." She is going to meet with Toru Tanaka of Portland Landscape Design on December 22nd to gather ideas for this garden. This is going to be a long term project that should be very exciting.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Japanese Garden Plans By Rita Saling

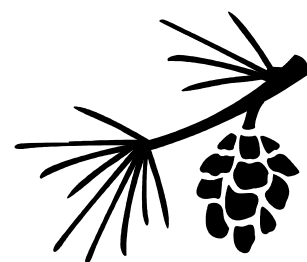
The Learning Garden has adopted a plan to develop a small Japanese Garden around the spruce tree in the lawn at the extension center. We hope this will provide a cultural opportunity to explore gardening as it applies to garden design in both spiritual and physical aspects. It will also give us the occasion to honor the Japanese-American community in a lasting way that has not been done here in the Hood River Valley.

We are hoping to partner with the Japanese-American community in the valley, as well as the Tsuruta Sister City Foundation.

The site of the garden will be the lawn and spruce tree bordered on the west by the parking lot, on the south by the eco-lawn, on the east and north by the cement walk that currently exists. It is an area approximately 50' x 50'. We are in the process of seeking a design consultant, and have hopes of breaking ground sometime in 2007, with a completion date yet to be determined.

This is a huge undertaking that will require some continuity and dedication on the part of the committee that is sponsoring the project. It is also a chance to provide a distinctive addition to the learning garden that will draw more visitors to the site.

(Continued on Page 6)



Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

Season Greetings!

The new year is quickly approaching and classes will be beginning soon. Mark your calendars for February 14, 2007, the first day of class.

You can expect your application in the mail the first week of January. Please take the time as soon as you receive it to complete and return it. I would like to avoid that phone call.

Our final project for the year was participating in The Festival of Trees. The artificial tree and ornaments were donated by Master Gardeners. Thank you to Shirley Bagge, Lee Bryant and Charlotte Link for their time and hard work. This project will continue with Lee Bryant as the leader. If you have something to donate for this project or want to help, contact Lee.

This last year has been one of change. This is a positive move for our chapter and will give us the opportunity for focus more on our community. As the new year approaches please be thinking about how you can be more involved with our association and community.

Enjoy the holiday season. I look forward to seeing and working with everyone in the new year.

Quarterly Meeting is January 15 at 6 pm By Marcia Strader

The Wasco County OSU Master Gardener chapter will hold its next quarterly meeting at 6 pm on Monday, January 15th, 2007, at the Northern Wasco County PUD Building. The address is 2345 River Road in The Dalles. The educational program, "**All About Lawns: Organic and Non-Organic**" will be presented by Cindy Brown of Hughes Feed and Grain. The program will be followed by our regular business meeting. Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served! Please plan to attend.

Some Highlights from Recent Wasco County Executive Board Meetings

Next Meeting—Tuesday, January 9, 3 pm, at the Extension Office.

Dues are increasing from \$5 to \$10.

The Dalles Farmers Market has asked for support from Master Gardeners. Cheri Austin will attend an upcoming meeting about the Market and take ideas about schedule, location, and plant clinics at the market.

Applications for new and returning Master Gardeners will be mailed the first week in January. New applicants will be interviewed in group interviews to get a better idea of who will best match the program. Publicity assignments were made.

More Wasco County News on Page 5

Officers

President - Cheri Austin
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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

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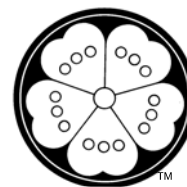
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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.



2006 OSU MASTER GARDENER™ REPORT

Hood River County - Central Gorge Master Gardener Association

By Elizabeth Daniel

As 2006 comes to a close, I would like to thank each of you for the great job you did as an OSU Master Gardener volunteer in 2006! There were 33 trainees of which 27 received Certificates of Completion. And there were 48 returning Master Gardeners of whom 38 received their Certificates of Appreciation. We completed 4,051 hours of volunteer time with 3,140 contacts plus over 130,000 contacts through newspapers articles and press releases, and radio shows and public service announcements (psa's) that are provided free for us by the local radio station and newspapers.

Below is an overview of most of the Master Gardener Projects and Activities in Hood River County - 2006:

Plant Clinics: 2006 brought additional opportunities for plant clinics in the Central Gorge area. We expanded the clinics at the Hood River Extension Office to all day Monday and on Thursday afternoons. Clinics were held weekly at Saturday Market and Thursday Grown in the Gorge Farmers Market in Hood River as well as monthly in Skamania County in Stevenson Washington. We also held plant clinics at Milestone Nursery, the Fall Harvest Craft and Fair, and at the spring plant sale.

Hardy Gardeners Workshop: This workshop was revived in 2006 after a two year absence. This two-day event was limited to 31 attendees and was a time of much discussion and opportunity to network with other gardeners from throughout the state. All meals and some lodging were provided by Master Gardeners.

Hood River Care Center Naturescape: an on-going community project since 1996. Upkeep in the garden and repair of irrigation system were completed in 2006. This is a joint project with Hood River Care Center and other community businesses.

Hood River County Fair: an on going project since 1999 that provides an educational floral display in the horticulture building during fair. In 2006, we again partnered with area garden clubs and Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District to provide this educational display.

Hood River County Library: Project began in 2003 with the development of a Xeriscape flowerbed in front of the library. Upkeep of gardens beds in 2006.

The Learning Garden at Mid-Columbia Agriculture Research and Extension Center. Project began in 2003 with construction of a low maintenance garden in the parking strip and the beginning of the compost demonstration area. 2004, the compost area was developed. 2005, the herb garden was developed and The Learning Garden

and a plant sale was on the annual Master Gardener's garden tour. In 2006, an irrigation system installed, a low maintenance – ecoturf lawn was planted, a native plant garden was designed and planted and two bioswales (rain gardens) were designed, built and planted. A spring plant sale and 3 compost workshops were held on site.

Hood River County Junior Master Gardener Program: 2006 Jr. Master Gardener program in two elementary schools in the Hood River valley. This is a partnership with 4-H and Master Gardeners.

Workshops: Many gardening workshops were held at local garden clubs and through Community Education on a variety of subjects.

Garden Highlights Newsletter: A 4-page gardening newsletter produced by Marty Miller that is an insert in the Senior Community Highlights newsletter from Mid-Columbia Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging. Marty has been putting this newsletter together for over two years. This newsletter is distributed through-out Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties of the Mid-Columbia area.

Other projects:

Our Common Ground – the newsletter for Master Gardeners in Wasco and Hood River Counties.

Master Gardeners worked at the rose gardens at Bonneville Dam to restore old roses and plant new roses.

Master Gardeners worked with Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District to bundle and prepare trees and shrubs for sale in March.

Master Gardeners are leaders for a 4-H gardening club in the Mid Valley.

Master Gardeners partnered with Skamania County Extension providing an educational display at the Skamania County Fair.

Additional Notes: 2006 was the second year that classes were offered in Hood River County. They were held on consecutive Wednesday evenings and every other Saturday. Master Gardeners in the Hood River Program formed their own association: The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association.

The last two years have been years of building and developing the program and projects. Our membership stretches west to Cascade Locks, Oregon, and Stevenson, Washington, south to Parkdale and east to Mosier, Oregon, and White Salmon and Lyle, Washington. We truly do cover the Central Columbia River Gorge.

News from South Wasco County By Laretta Piatt

In early 2006 the Master Gardeners of South Wasco County partnered with the Maupin Dig & Hoe Garden Club, the City of Maupin, community members and high school students to create, design and construct a community garden. The City Garden at Henry's is located on Highway 197 and Elrod Avenue in Maupin.

On November 5, 2006, a Patriotic Tree Planting and Dedication of the City Garden at Henry's was held. The tree is a Purple Robe Locust tree. It was donated by Laurel Patrick of Hood River Ornamental Nursery. This tree planting and dedication of the garden was attended by 50 people and honored our veterans and heroes. Anna Nolen, Master Gardener and garden club president, welcomed every one and introduced various speakers. The American Legion led by Dave Wilcox presented the colors and Pledge of Allegiance. Susan Kay read a letter from Mayor Dennis Ross. The interpretive sign, made by Emilou and Bob Elie and painted by Mary Ann and Jerry Paulson, was unveiled by District Director of Mt. Hood District Garden Clubs, Katie Olson, and community member, Bob Piatt. Pastor Larry Moynihan gave the invocation and the benediction. Dick Chamberlain, retired music teacher of Maupin played "Taps." Over all, this was a very well planned and moving dedication.

But, the South Wasco County Master Gardeners are not at rest. After a holiday luncheon on Dec. 6, we hope to bring in several new class members, about six. Many garden club members are very interested in the program as well as other non-members. We are excited to say the least.

Looking forward to seeing all for the new classes.

Festival of Trees By Lee Bryant

Wasco County Master gardeners donated a tree this year for Festival of Trees. With the donation of a tree and the leadership of Shirley Bagge, along with Lee Bryant and Charlotte Link a Christmas tree was decorated in shades of white and gold. The Theme of the tree was "Gardening in Miniature." The Festival of Trees this year supported Celilo Center, Life Works Comfort Care, and Hospice of The Gorge. It was a fun way to let folks know about the Master Gardener Program and also give something to the community. Our Tree sold for \$400.00 and was taken to the Veterans Home.



Lee Bryant, Shirley Bagge, and Charlotte Link

Order Your Native Plants Now! By Ann Saxby

Do you want to plants native trees and shrubs to screen your neighbors? Enhance your landscaping? Shade your creek? Provide a windbreak? Attract wildlife? Are you winterizing your garden beds while dreaming about what you'll be putting in them next spring? Well, you can get a jump start on your spring 2007 plantings by ordering native seedlings from the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District or Wasco County SWCD!

The districts are currently hosting their annual plant sales for seedlings to be planted in spring of 2007. These bare-root seedlings are 1-2 years old and will be delivered to the SWCDs in early spring. The orders will be filled in the order in which they were received; so get your requests in early to ensure availability.

Check out the Hood River SWCD's website at www.hoodriverswcd.org to download your order form and for more information on plant descriptions, suitability for various sites and wildlife usage. You can also stop by the Hood River SWCD office at 3007 Experiment Station Road, Hood River, to pick up an order form and additional plant information or call them at 541-386-4588. Wasco County SWCD can be reached at 541-298-8559 ext. 3 or at 2325 River Rd., The Dalles.

Japanese Garden Plans

(continued from page 2)

As project chair, I am looking for volunteers who are particularly interested in this style of garden or have had experience developing one. I am planning to do a few field trips (unfortunately not to Japan), with one in the works to visit Momiji-en in Corvallis this spring. We also hope to be visiting some of the local Japanese gardens, as well as meeting members of the Japanese community to explore their desires for the garden. *I am hoping that someone out there is experienced in writing grants and will volunteer to help on that level, as I am assured there are resources available*

If you find this a worthwhile project and have an interest, please contact me at 509-427-8754 or email me at rsaling@saw.net.



Getting to Know Sandi Rousseau Learning Garden Project Leader By Audrey Schneider

"Oh my gosh," I thought, as I turned from Willow Flat Road into the Rousseau driveway flanked on each side by a BIG ROCK. Steven Covey, renowned leadership expert, uses a rock analogy to talk about priority setting. Considering time as a container with limited space, he emphasizes we should put the "big rocks" in first to assure that we always have time for the most valued aspects of our lives. Those driveway sentinels resonated with my perceptions of Sandi Rousseau as I get to know her. First, she seems to be a person who's good at setting priorities and, second, she does indeed seem to have clearly defined her priorities: family, friends, community, and beyond. Sandi thrives on activity and involvement, but her love of the home she has created together with Tom, her husband of 29 years, is also obvious. Leadership, creativity, and caring all help to define Sandi.

Sandi's landscaping warmly welcomes visitors to her home. Once inside, you continue to enjoy the landscape as it blends into surrounding orchard, forest, and the panorama of the Hood River Valley below. Sandi and Tom purchased their O'Dell property in 2000 after she retired from the nurse practitioner career she began in 1972. They continued to maintain their previous home in Hillsboro, but after 2 years and "a lot of work keeping up

two homes" she and Tom decided that their hearts were here in the Columbia Gorge and they made a full time commitment. The Hillsboro home went on the market. "We love the Hood River Valley and really like the smaller community which neither of us had ever lived in before." Tom still commutes to work, staying in an apartment in Beaverton Monday through Thursday each week, but his retirement will come with spring. Sandi is already planning to get out the tandem bike which hasn't seen a lot of action for awhile.

But there's been no lack of action for Sandi. In addition to her gardening, she put miles on her own bike through the summer and fall and made tracks on hiking trails. A master swimmer, she works out at the Hood River Aquatic Center several mornings a week unless traveling to compete. As winter settles in, gardens and gardeners rest, and now Sandi can follow her passion for skiing. In spite of a serious ski injury last winter, she's ready to clock time on the mountain again. "I've skied for many years and that [accident] was a fluke." Sandi is a person who takes on life with confidence. She says, "I'm not a wild skier." She knows her ability and skis in control.

Like many of us gardeners, Sandi grew up in a gardening family. Her parents always had a vegetable garden. She began gardening while living in Hillsboro growing vegetables and landscaping the yard. "I've done more with perennials 'up here'." The property "had a bit of a perennial garden and so I've gradually changed and added, but I had a start." Though she's probably had her share of garden challenges, you'd never know it. The yard, as viewed in early November, could be a Sunset centerfold.

Sandi became a Master Gardener with the class of 2003. "I've had an interest in being a Master Gardener for years. I just never could do it with working full time. I thought it would be fun to learn more about gardening, and with retirement I had more hours to devote to volunteering." Indeed, she has "devoted hours." Her involvement of choice has been the Learning Garden. She has enjoyed playing a lead role in the various developmental phases inspired by the earlier named "demonstration garden." Recent additions include the herb garden, the native garden, the bioswale, and better signage for all components. The learning garden will be on the tour in June and, doing her part as project leader, you can count on Sandi to organize efforts to get the garden ready. Of course, she'll be among the first to get her hands in the soil.

But Sandi doesn't spend all of her time in the elements: soil, water, snow, wind, etc. She and Tom have been Ham radio operators since the 70's—which takes us full circle to Sandi's priority for establishing community with those near and those far. Look for Sandi as once again the community of gardeners in Hood River begins classes for continued learning and sharing. She'll be busy sharing her enthusiasm with all the new master gardeners.

2007 Hood River County Master Gardener Classes

'DRAFT'

**Wednesday - January 10 6:00 – 9:00	Introduction to MG Program Staff and Central Gorge Master Gardener Association Officers	
Wednesday - January 17 6:00 – 9:00	Entomology with Alison Walston	
Saturday - January 20 – 8:30 – 9:45 10:15 – 11:30 ----- 12:30 – 3:00	Composting – Scott Fitch (Hands on Follow-up class in April at OSU Extension Office <i>TBA</i> Irrigation Options for Home Gardeners and Design and Options for Water Features – Cameron Kaseberg, Wheatacres Irrigation	
Wednesday - January 24 6:00 – 9:00	Understanding Pesticides – Steve Castagnoli	
Saturday January 27– 8:30 – 11:30 12:30 – 3:00	Vegetable Gardening – Patricia Paige Gardening with Native Plants – Modene Miles, Milestone Nursery	
**Wednesday – January 31 6:00 – 9:00	Tools and how to care for them – Bob Denton of Red Pig Tools	
Wednesday – February 7 6:00 – 9:00	Botany – Susan James	
Saturday – February 10 **8:30 – 11:30 12:30 – 3:00	Plant Pathology – Melodie Putnam Tour MG Projects – Care Center, Library and Learning Garden - Project Leaders	
**Wednesday – February 14 6:00 – 9:00	Integrated Pest Management for Gardeners – Steve Castagnoli Controlling Key Pests on Home Fruit Trees - Steve Castagnoli	
Wednesday - February 21 6:00 – 9:00	Backyard Berries – Joe DeFrancesco	
Saturday – February 24 8:30 – 11:30 12:30 – 3:00	Plant ID with Amy Jo Detwiler Perennials with Amy Jo Detwiler	
Wednesday – February 28 6:00 – 9:00	Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance – Steve Castagnoli Follow-up Class March 17 in the orchards at the Extension Office	
Saturday – March 3 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. **12:30 – 3:30	Pruning - Fred and Patricia Paige – <i>Hands on in John Ihles yard</i> Diagnosing Home Gardener Problems – Neil Bell	
**Wednesday – March 7 6:00 – 9:00 p.m	Plant Clinic lab Badge Ceremony and Potluck Elizabeth/Staff	
Saturday – March 17	Hands on Fruit Tree Care and Maintenance – Steve Castagnoli Location: OSU Extension Office	

****Classes required for returning Central Gorge Master Gardeners**

**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

Jan. 9 (Tues)	3:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting , Wasco County Extension Office
Jan. 10 (Wed.)	5:00 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting , Valley Christian Church
Jan. 10 (Wed.)	6-9 pm	Hood River County Master Gardener Training begins. See page 7.
Jan. 15 (Mon.)	6:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting. "All About Lawns." Northern Wasco County PUD. See page 3 for details.
Jan. 22 (Mon.)		<i>Deadline for the February newsletter.</i>
Feb. 14 (Wed.)	9:00 am	Wasco County Master Gardener Training begins.

For Sale: 2 -- 20'X60' commercial green house frames, plus propane heating until and vent fans. assorted water system equipment and 36 portable greenhouse benches (4'X12'). Make offer to Tom Linde 509-427-3642 or tl@gorge.net.

Bus Trip to Seattle Flower Show Opening Day, Feb. 14. Leave Portland at 6 am sharp, be at the show from 9 am to 5 pm. Questions call 530-777-6771 or 503-331-0824. To register send a \$70 check to Multnomah Master Gardeners, 4742 SE 39th Ave., Portland, OR 97202. Bus limited to first 50 paid passengers. Sponsored by Multnomah MGA.

