

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 8

July 2007

SUMMERTIME

Time for Picnics....

Central Gorge MGA quarterly meeting and potluck picnic is Saturday July 14th at 5:00 pm at Pat Schmuck's home. Master Gardeners and their spouses from both Central Gorge and Wasco County are invited. This is wonderful opportunity to visit with friends and see Pat's beautiful gardens. Pat's home is at 2980 Reed Rd. in Hood River. Parking is very limited and it is suggested that those attending meet at the Oak Grove Park at 5:00 PM for carpooling.



Wasco County MGA annual picnic is Saturday August 11 at 11:00 am at the Rorick House in The Dalles. Bring your own lawn chair and silverware. Bring a dessert, main-dish, or salad for the potluck. Paperware, water and lemonade will be provided.



...for County Fairs...

Hood River County—July 25-28

Wasco County—August 16-19

And for Eating Great Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.



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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

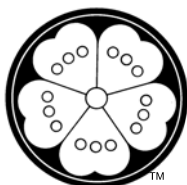
Find Us Online

This newsletter is available
online in the Master Gardener
section at:

[http://
extension.oregonstate.edu/
hoodriver/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/)
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 the president of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association, I would like to commend Glenda Ryan and her committee for all their hard work on this year's Garden Tour. Saturday June 16th was slightly cool, but all in all a nice day for an extremely nice tour. All six gardens had some type of water feature as well as beautiful gardens. There were some very large gardens as well as some smaller gardens, but all shared the common thread of water. Glenda not only chaired this year's tour but also built the lovely brick fountain at the Learning Garden. Her beautiful pots of various plants and flowers surrounded the fountain and blooming water lilies and other pond plants filled the water.

Although the number of attendees was down this year, no doubt due to higher gas prices and competing garden tours in Portland, the garden tour was delightful. We were treated to beautiful gardens, excellent educational spots, delicious home made cookies and a plant sale that offered an array of well presented plants, all from Master Gardener's gardens.

I would like to thank all the Master Gardeners from both the Central Gorge Association and the Wasco County Association for all their hard work on this yearly shared venture. I'm sure we all look forward to next year's tour in Wasco County.

CGMGA Executive Committee Meetings

Central Gorge Master Gardener Association Executive meetings: Wednesday, July 11 at 10:00 AM at the Extension office. Bring a sack lunch. At 12:30 PM, after the meeting, we have been invited to attend the final presentation of design plans for the Japanese Heritage Garden by the designer Sada Uchiyama.

The August meeting is Wednesday the 8th at 10:00 AM at the Extension office.



Note From Your Editor

Debbie McDonald's submission of a note about the National Arbor Day Foundation website (see page 6), prompted me to think about trees when I needed a little more material for the newsletter. The result is a quiz on native Oregon trees (see page 5). Does something in this newsletter prompt you to think about something else? Please consider writing it down and submitting for future newsletters.

Recipes: I am especially looking for recipes using summer's bounty of fruits and vegetables for the August and September issues. See Marleen Long's recipe on page 4 to prompt your thinking. Thanks, Judy Davis, editor

Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

Greetings, my article will be filled with updates and reminder this month.

As summer begins, so do the different harvests and vacations. This also means several openings in the plant clinic office. The schedule is posted on line and is included with the newsletter. If you can help fill any of the open dates, call me to schedule a time.

Your first Volunteer payback log sheet is due June 30th. Please submit to the Wasco County Extension Office by then. I will give a reminder call on July 5 if yours has not been received.

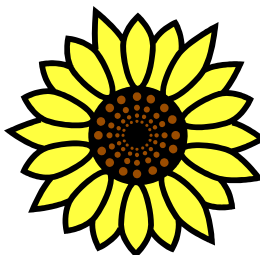
Due to busy schedules we have not been able to reschedule the Hypertufa class. We hope to reschedule in the spring.

Our annual picnic is set for August 11 at the Rorick House. Mark your calendar for this day to attend.

The Wasco County Fair is August 16 -19. Think about entering flowers or produce from your garden this year. I would like to see more Master Gardeners exhibit.

A second reminder. I have moved and my new home phone number is **541-298-8943**. This is also our business line, Austin Well Drilling, and it is okay to leave a message. New mailing address is 3393 Sandling Rd. W. The Dalles, OR 97058. Please update your directories. The Dallesport line has been disconnected.

Have a happy Fourth of July.



Highlights of WCMGA May Executive Board Meeting Ronnie Smith, Secretary

- Val Tenney is chair of next year's garden tour. She is currently organizing a committee and looking at gardens. Contact Val if you have ideas or want to help.
- The Wasco County Master Gardener of the Year has been selected and will be announced at the Annual Picnic on August 11.
- Graduation has been tentatively set for Tuesday, October 23, from 6 to 8 pm. This will be a potluck dinner. Ronnie Smith is chairing this event.
- A discussion about the future of Seeds and Soils classes was tabled until the next meeting.
- Charlotte Link is organizing a committee to develop a plan for a possible community garden. She is seeking grants and donations. Contact Charlotte if you would like to get involved.
- Next executive board meeting is July 10, 3 pm, at the Wasco County Extension Office. All Welcome.

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

Find Us Online

This newsletter is available online in the Master Gardener section at:

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

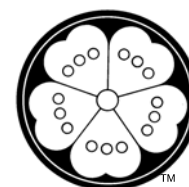
or
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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

Judy Davis, editor
rjdavis1@mac.com
541-478-0133

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

Printed on recycled paper.



Volunteering By Debbie McDonald

In the June/July issue of *Horticulture* magazine, there's an article about a west Texas oasis that was created by a woman who had little gardening experience. She had visited a xeriscape demonstration garden at the Air Force's Midland headquarters that was created and maintained by local Master Gardeners. She said that her eyes were opened to the possibilities when she saw that garden and she immediately enrolled in the Master Gardener program. Her training has since enabled her to transform her property into a literal oasis in the middle of Odessa where the locals say "you can't grow anything there."

This story touched me because I know spring and early summer are hard times to be working on MG projects when our own gardens need tending. And, at times, we all feel as though what we have to offer isn't quite good enough, or it won't matter if we shrink from volunteering this one time. But I think this woman's story is positive proof that it does matter.

We gain a great deal from our training and one of the program's objectives is to educate the public. The *Horticulture* article illustrated how a visit by the public to just one garden changed a woman's life. I don't know that each contact we have with the public will have such a dramatic impact, but certainly the time and effort of Master Gardeners in our communities is appreciated. Moreover, each time you as a Master Gardener have contact with the public, you are appreciated.

So, fearlessly and with renewed energy, pin on that orange Master Gardener badge and volunteer to work in whatever way you can this year – work parties, writing, speaking, taking pictures, folding newsletters, bringing your own fresh ideas to long established projects or by starting something new – because you have something to contribute that is unique and appreciated.

At the start of summer, when the balmy air begins to beckon, we all tend to find ourselves spending additional time in the back and front yards of our homes. As this expansion into the outdoors occurs, we are left with the quandary of creating an outdoor living space that is comfortable and functional without compromising simplicity.

Establishing the purpose of your outdoor living space will determine its contents and design. Set aside sections of your outside area to represent each function you desire. When choosing plants and other items to complement your space, remember to look for things that will harmonize with the climate in which you reside.

From *Home by Design* (submitted by Ronnie Smith)

OMGA News Mini-College Registration Correction

A correction is need on the Mini-College Registration Form:

Leadership Forum Registration page....Last class in session 2 should read "Giving Presentations". "Project Goal Setting" is not being offered. If you have already sent in your registration and you selected "Goal Setting" and would prefer "Presentations" or you would rather select "Presentations" than other topics in session 2, please contact the registrar by e-mail or phone.

Pat.Patterson@oregonstate.edu or
Linda.Renslow@oregonstate.edu

1-800-872-8980 ask for Linda or Pat; office hours are Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 pm.



Firecracker Cherry Walnut Salsa

Marlene Long submitted this recipe that she clipped out of *The Dalles Chronicle* several years ago. Marlene says she really likes it.

2 cups Oregon fresh sweet cherries, pitted and quartered
1/3 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup fresh white or yellow corn kernels, or frozen kernels, thawed
1 or 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and finely chopped (2-4 Tbls.)
2 Tbls. chopped fresh parsley
2 Tbls. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbls. grated fresh gingerroot
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 cup chopped toasted walnuts

In medium bowl, combine cherries, onion, corn, jalapeno pepper, parsley, balsamic vinegar, gingerroot and salt. Stir and toss together with spoon to mix ingredients evenly. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Just before serving, stir in walnuts. Makes about 3 cups.



What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Oregon Native Tree Quiz

The following questions, except #10, are based on information in *Trees to Know in Oregon*, OSU publication EC 1450.

1. Which maple has the largest leaves of maples anywhere in the world?
2. Why is there a hyphen in Douglas-fir?
3. Which pines growing in our part of Oregon have the following number of needles per bundle?
 - A. two?
 - B. three?
 - C. five?
4. Which native conifer is deciduous?
5. Which spruce grows in the Oregon Cascades?
6. What is the most common broadleaf tree in Western Oregon?
7. Which tree occurs in more states than any other tree?
8. Which national champion big tree grows in Hood River County?
9. Which national champion big tree grows in Wasco County?
10. What are the Oregon and Washington state trees?



See bottom of page 8 for answers.



Rachel Carson Remembered By Donna Enz

As Master Gardener's we learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The roots of this philosophy lie in the pages of a book published in 1962.

Most of us who grew up in the 50's and 60's most likely remember the name Rachel Carson. Some of us may not place the name right away, but it is familiar. So it was for me on April 14th when I watched a short TV narrative highlighting her life and legacy. It was the anniversary of her death in 1964 at the age of 56. This was 18 months after her extraordinary book *Silent Spring* was published.

As I watched this short biography I remembered as a child seeing this book in our home. After the death of my mother I inherited many of her books. I wondered if it was

among the things that I kept. A quick search revealed that indeed it was. I began to read with astonishment about the world when I grew up and realized how through this book one woman influenced social change in American life.

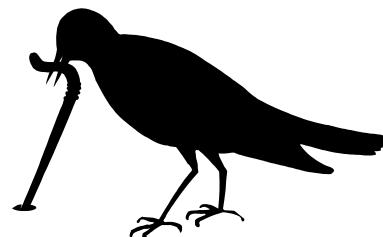
After W.W. II the miracle of chemicals created a mind set that mankind could control the natural world with chemical impunity. As a trained scientist, nature author and marine biologist, Ms. Carson quickly realized that we were headed for disastrous results. Not only were the chemicals killing animal life right down to the smallest organisms that are found in the soil, she also questioned the chemical residues on the food we were eating. In 1962 there was a tendency to brand people who demanded that their food be free of insect poisons as "fanatics or cultists". The fact was in 1962 the United States Public Health Service sampled random restaurant and institutional meals. Every meal sampled contained DDT.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1970. The mission of the EPA is "to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment--air, water, and land--upon which life depends." This was a direct result of the work Rachel Carson had done. Although established during the Nixon administration, it had its start during the Kennedy years. In 1972, a decade after the publication of *Silent Spring*, the EPA banned DDT. Amazingly Diazinon was only taken off the market in 2003. That is 31 years after Ms. Carson wrote of its deadly effects on birds, fish and other aquatic life.

In 1958 she began to collect data on chemical catastrophes. She spells out the consequences in this book. It was bold and startling and changed the practices of the agricultural use of herbicides and pesticides. She was attacked by the chemical industry and some in government as being an alarmist. Oh people complained when entire populations of birds were wiped out in an effort to eradicate a single insect that was damaging stands of commercial timber. There were many silent springs in the 1950's and 60's.

Silent Spring is written in precise yet poetic language that can inspire generations to come. It will make you acutely aware of how vulnerable every creature is to even the smallest amount of chemical that is inadvertently released.

Much work is still needed. As Master Gardeners it is our job to make sure every contact has the knowledge to handle the multitudes of deadly chemicals still on the market. IPM is the best weapon we have to encourage gardeners to try the least toxic methods first. If this doesn't work, have them read *Silent Spring* and remember Rachel Carson.



2007 Garden Tour By Glenda Ryan

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped on the garden tour. Jennifer Harty, Audrey Schnieder, Shirley Chrisman, Margo Damaier, and Val Tenney served on the garden tour committee and were an enormous help to me.

A big Thanks to the garden leaders, Christine Bluestone, Cindy Collins, Donna DesRochers, Jennifer Harty, Audrey Schneider, Sandi Rousseau and all of the Master Gardeners who volunteered their time at the various gardens on our "Reflections in the Garden" Tour. The weather was a bit chilly and very windy at some of the gardens, so many thanks to the volunteers who braved the 'Arctic Chill' to take tickets and assist the visitors.

Special thanks to Scott Fitch, Steve Galon, and Elizabeth Daniel for organizing and placing the garden tour direction signs throughout Hood River, and to Scott for picking them all up after the tour.

Thank you, Rita for a very successful plant sale, and to the Master Gardeners who contributed all of the beautiful plants.

To all the Master Gardeners who contributed the large assortment of delicious cookies and to Pat Morrison for putting together the lovely refreshment presentation, thank you for a job well done.

Thank you Pat Schmuck for the garden descriptions, and April Lee for the lovely photos that accompanied the newspaper article. We chose April's beautiful water lily photo for the poster and booklet.

Now it is time to start planning for next year. Val Tenney will head up the 2008 tour in Wasco county. If you want to help with next year's tour contact Val.

Again I would like to thank all the wonderful, hardworking Master Gardeners who helped on this project.

Garden Tour Plant Sale By Rita Saling

I want to thank all of the folks that helped make the Garden Tour Plant Sale such a resounding success. In particular, I want to recognize my set-up committee: Pat Morrison, Virginia Fitzpatrick, David Smith, Shilah Olson, Tracey Janik, Jack Brook, Gemma Furno, Sandi Rousseau and Glenda Ryan. We really appreciated having some "heavy lifters" to carry the tables up and down from the basement. There were enough clean-up folks to make the job quick, too.

The people who worked the sale also did a great job: Anne Saxby, Jack Brook, Judy Maule, Jordan Kim, John Stevens and Tracey Janik.

Many of the plants were left over from the May sale; so another thanks goes out to the "plant minders" who brought us back beautiful, full pots of healthy plants. And I especially want to mention those who went the extra mile by starting many popular annuals from seed. They arrived in beautiful shape and made the Central Gorge name look so good. Glenda and Virginia were the stars that brought some special pots that netted us good dollars and really showed off Master Gardener skills.

We netted approximately \$850, which will stay in the Central Gorge coffers. Thanks again, everybody. We were a great team.



Websites You Might Find Interesting



Joshua Drake submitted this URL with a futuristic view of growing food. Check it out! <http://www.verticalfarm.com/>

Debbie McDonald submitted the following: Need to identify a tree? The National Arbor Day Foundation has a very nice online "tree" to help you identify trees. It may also be ordered as a pamphlet for \$3.00. Give this website a try - <http://www.arborday.org/trees/treeID.cfm>

Do you find other sites that might be of interest to fellow Master Gardeners? Send them in to me for inclusion in future newsletters. (rjdavis1@mac.com)

"Love of flowers and all things green and growing is with many men and women a passion so strong that it often seems to be a sort of primal instinct, coming down through generation after generation...". (From A Woman's Hardy Garden, by Helena Rutherford Ely, 1903)

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENERS' HARDY GARDENERS WORKSHOP

FOOD, FLOWERS, FRUIT AND FUN
AUGUST 25-26, 2007
HOOD RIVER, OREGON

STARTING AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 25
AND ENDING ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 AT NOON



- Meet at the Hood River County Library and see the newly landscaped garden, with a stone tree sculpture. Hear stories of the past. A continental breakfast will be served and vans will be available for transportation to the other locations.
- Visit The Gorge White House which features wines of the Columbia Gorge, with a special lunch in the rose garden.
- Learn about growing organic crimini and portobello mushrooms at Hood River Organics.
- Visit one of the largest cherry orchards and most beautiful gardens in The Dalles for wine tasting and a glorious dinner.
- Visit the largest organic garden in Hood River County with Sunday brunch at the home of a Master Gardener.
- Visit a lavender farm with a fantastic view, fields of lavender, and products made of lavender.
- Buy apples and pears from local vendors in the wonderful Hood River Valley.
- Be an overnight guest at the home of a Hood River Master Gardener.
- Bed & Breakfast and hotel information will also be available.

REGISTRATION FORM: Register Early (Strict Limit – 30 people)
Cost: \$60 per person/\$110 for two on same registration form.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ e-mail _____

I (We) would like to stay at the home of a Master Gardener

Please send hotel/bed and breakfast information

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

Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

July 10 (Tue)	3 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting. Wasco County Extension. All welcome.
July 11 (Wed)	10 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension. Bring a sack lunch. See page 2 for additional information. All welcome.
July 14 (Sat)	5 pm	Central Gorge MGA Quarterly Meeting and Potluck Picnic. See page 1.
July 30 (Mon)		Deadline for the August newsletter. Due to my personal schedule, this newsletter will be produced a week later than usual. Please submit material by Monday evening to help me get it out as soon as possible.
Aug. 1-4		Mini-College at OSU. The June OMGA <i>Gardener's Pen</i> has class information and registration forms.
Aug. 8 (Wed)	10 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension.
Aug. 11 (Sat)	11 am	Wasco County MGA Picnic at Rorick House, The Dalles. See page 1

Answers to Oregon Native Tree Quiz (see page 5)

1. Big-leaf maple
2. It is not a true fir (not a member of the *Abies* genus).
3. a. lodgepole, b. ponderosa, c. western white and whitebark
4. Western larch
5. Englemann spruce
6. Red alder
7. Quaking aspen
8. Rocky Mountain maple (42 in circumference, 63 ft tall, 26 ft crown spread)
9. None. No state champions either.
10. Douglas-fir (Oregon) and western hemlock (Washington)