

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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2009 Annual Summer Potluck Picnic

At Dry Hollow Vineyards

July 12, 2009 1-4pm

Bring: 1 dish to pass – green leafy salad, side dish, and/or dessert. (Be creative and include something growing in your garden in the dish.) Also bring your family/friends!

Bratwurst (including a vegetarian version) with onions & peppers will be provided. (please let us know how many of you are coming!)

Wine tasting will be available.

There is seating outside and inside, but please bring lawn chairs so there is plenty of seating available if needed.

Please RSVP by July 7th to:

Therese Leon @ 248-214-5366 or thereseL366@hughes.net

Dry Hollow Vineyards is located at 3410 Dry Hollow Lane. From downtown The Dalles take Brewery Grade south to Dry Hollow Road. Follow Dry Hollow Road a couple miles (past the school, past 3Mile Road, past Olney Road) and turn right on Dry Hollow Lane. The wine tasting room is on the south (left) side of the road – follow the signs.

Map and directions also available at www.dryhollowvineyards.com



Hemerocallis 'Siloah Melvin McConnell' - daylily



Tradescantia - spiderwort



Lilium columbianum
Columbia or tiger lily



Penstemon rupicola – rock penstemon

Between the Rows – Lee Bryant

I do believe summer is here at long last. Last week at The DIG the children were there!!!! What a wonderful event that was, many thanks to Lolly and Brad, two new MGs that headed up this Parks & Rec. program. They did a wonderful job along with all of the MGs that helped them.

As you all may know by now that I really love stories so I am always on the look out for a story that teaches a lesson.

One fine October day, my friend and I were cutting down an extensive perennial garden that followed a picket fence around the borders of the lawn in front of a client's house, and the substantial, wide bed we were working in ran along the outside of the fence on one side of the front garden.

We were more than half finished when a woman came out from the house next door across the strip of lawn between my client's garden and the row of trees that marked the property line. The woman said hello, we responded, and she looked interested in what we were doing, asking, "Why are you cutting down that garden?"

Pausing in my labor, I said, "Well mostly it's so that things look neat and clean for the change of seasons, but also if there happen to be any insect pests or diseases in any of the plants, removing the vegetative top growth would get rid of them before they could winter over and become established in the garden."

But, I continued, "since we're removing all this vegetative growth from the beds, there is no material to rot back into the soil and replace the nutrients that were used for its growth."

So in order to avoid starving the soil and its microorganisms, we would be putting on a couple of inches of compost mulch. We will apply the mulch to protect the roots of the plants from the freezing and thawing that happens as the seasons change into winter and back again to spring, and then once we rake off the chunky debris from winter, next spring we will cultivate the mulch into the soil.

I paused, thinking that I'd covered all aspects of her question pretty well (*the story teller must have been a MG*), she said "Yes, but that's my garden!"

CREAMY BASIL DRESSING

Makes 1 cup

This recipe tastes best after marinating in the refrigerator for 24 hours; it will last 7 to 10 days in the refrigerator. It's great as a vegetable dip, topping for a baked potato or mayonnaise replacement.

3 T lemon juice

2 T fresh basil, chopped

½ t dry mustard

1 medium garlic clove, minced

3 T olive oil

¾ cup soft tofu, broken into pieces

In food processor or blender, combine the lemon juice, basil, mustard, and garlic. Process until smooth. With machine running gradually add oil. When oil has been completely blended in, add tofu and blend until smooth. Season to taste with salt. Cover and refrigerate, stir well before each serving. It will thicken when chilled. Can be thinned with a teaspoon or so of water if needed.

From: Choices Quick & Healthy Cooking by Cheryl Thomas Caviness



Basil is listed as a companion plant for beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collard, kale, marigold, pepper, and tomato. A great plant for your garden!

By July some of the annuals you planted this past spring may start to look a bit tired. Give fading annual flowers in the home landscape their second wind with a summer application of fertilizer.

The fading of annual flowers during summer is not a natural event. Most annuals will bloom throughout the summer if properly cared for. This means removing spent blooms and fertilizing every several weeks, or using a slow release fertilizer according to label directions to provide a continuous supply of nutrients throughout the season. This will prevent the yellowing of leaves and the fading of flowers that may be occurring in your garden.

By early summer, the fertilizer that was mixed with the soil when the annual was planted has been used up. A side-dressing of fertilizer applied every six weeks or so after planting will do wonders.

During the hot, dry summer weather too much fertilizer can injure plants. Apply about 2 pounds of a garden-type granular fertilizer, such as a 5-10-5 combination, per 100 square feet of area. This is approximately 1 teaspoon per square foot.

Water-soluble fertilizers can also be used. Some manufacturers recommend mixing small amounts of water-soluble fertilizer with the water for each irrigation. Follow manufacturer's directions since others require application at up to four-week intervals. Be sure that the plants to be fertilized are not wilted and that the soil is not dry. Water thoroughly the day before and again after the fertilizer has been applied.

In addition to fertilization, removing faded blooms will improve the plant's appearance, and at the same time prevent their energy from going into seed production. This will also help to keep the plants from getting leggy by causing them to branch more readily, providing new shoots for additional flower production.

A group of Master Gardeners and Garden Club members met at Maupin City Garden at Henry's for a cleanup day to get the garden ready for the Memorial weekend celebration. We removed about a pick up load of weeds and worked on the irrigation. There was a leak found at the timer site, so it was determined to remove the timer and just turn the water on manually as needed.

Later in the month we placed four flower arrangements at the base of the Blue Star Memorial and placed American flags throughout the garden. Annual plants were planted in a circular area for a fresh color look. It was quite an honor to decorate the garden to thank those who have given so much for our freedom, so we may stop and smell the roses. (See pictures on pg 6)

South County will be having a Farmers Market this summer for the first time. It will start July 5th and go to Sept. 13th on Sundays from 9:00 – 12:00 at the Maupin Library. Master Gardeners will have a table for a Plant Clinic during the Farmers Market.

We will also have the Plant Clinic at the River Festival in September, as well as holding the plant clinic every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Information Center, from 12:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon.

The vegetable gardens in South County are starting to show signs of growth, they like the warm weather we are having. Tomato plants have blossoms and maybe a few small fruits. Corn and carrots are up and the garlic is sending out seed heads. So it is getting exciting to walk through the garden.

Note: when I wrote this in the morning we were having nice weather, but later in the afternoon we had a real bad electric storm. The wind blew, heavy rain, lightning, thunder, we had it all. Now the tomato plants look tired and the pepper plants are hanging their heads. Hopefully tomorrow will be nicer and the plants will get another chance to stand tall again.

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THE DIG DAY CAMP by Marcia Strader

Under the very capable leadership of Lolly Tweed and Brad Mulvihill, The DIG hosted a morning Day Camp from June 22 – 26 for 10 student participants of the Northern Wasco County Parks & Recreation Exploration Day Camps Program. With the help of many MG volunteers, plus two Parks & Rec staff members, students learned about seeds, soils, weeds, botany, planting vegetables, and many other aspects of gardening.

On the first day, we were surprised by a special visit from U.S. Congressman Greg Walden, along with Dana Schmidling of the Chamber of Commerce, Dave Karlson of Google, and several other DIGnitararies in their entourage. A field trip to the Hydroponics Greenhouse owned by EverSummer Gardens was very educational, as was a field trip to J & K Growers in Dallesport. Gary Reed, also known as the “Insect Man,” made a great presentation showcasing many different insects as well as a tarantula and an iguana. Cindy Brown, Coordinator of the Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program, discussed composting and then the students created a layered compost pile in a holding bin. Cindy also donated dry eraser and cork boards for use at The DIG. We thank all the presenters and growers for providing excellent learning opportunities to the students.

Brad and Lolly did an excellent job of preparing curriculum, recruiting volunteers, scheduling field trips and presentations, and teaching the students about gardening. They have set a high standard for future Day Camps! Special thank yous go to our dedicated team of volunteers: Lee Bryant, Marian Rohde, Katherine Loek, Ronnie Smith, Cheri Austin, Peggy Peterson, Sharon Paz, Therese Leon, and Marcia Strader. We also wish to thank the Parks & Rec staff members, Anya and Erin, as well as Charlotte Link for their contributions to our very first Diggin’ The DIG Day Camp!



creating a compost pile



Cindy Brown



a surprise visitor



Gary Reed

The DIG Update Charlotte Link

Hello everyone from The DIG!

Congratulations to Lolly Tweed and Brad Mulvihill for a "Simply The Best" children's Day Camp at The DIG! The major focus of the Day Camp partnership with Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation was a fun event for the kids. And did they have fun! Thank you to all the Master Gardener volunteers for going above and beyond to make this event one that the kids will talk about and promote to their friends and family. Great job, everyone!

It's official. "On behalf of the board we are sorry The Dalles Imagination Garden project didn't quite qualify as economic development under the statute. If you should have other projects that might qualify as economic development in the future, we encourage you to apply again in 2010." I was heartbroken at first to be disqualified from the PUD grant criteria, but I quickly realized this is a huge learning process for all of us. Remember this garden is a learning garden and personally, I have learned a lot. Next year, we are planning to reapply complete with an awesome presentation!

If you missed the Sunday Oregonian, June 7, 2009 about "The Dalles Weathers Economy's Ill Wind," in the Business Section, E2, "When Google discovered The Dalles several years ago..... Google officials say they learned from the backlash, and make a point to be transparent when they open data centers. They have also gotten involved in The Dalles. Workers volunteer at cleanups or Habitat for Humanity; a garden at the edge of the property is public; grants go to the community groups." The garden referred to is our garden, The DIG! Look for other articles about The DIG appearing in the local news.

I would like to thank Sheri Esquivias for notifying me about the possibility of a plant donation for The DIG recently. The Central Gorge Master Gardener's Plant Sale during the Garden Tour was a huge success but they had many leftover plants without homes. Dave and I picked up over 100 plants ranging from grasses to fruits and vegetables all destined for The DIG. Thank you to the Central Gorge Master Gardeners for the beautiful plants growing at The DIG and thank you again to Sheri for jumping in to action to help the garden grow.

Recently, Heidi Kramer had the opportunity to learn hands on how to construct herb spirals and the benefits herb spirals provide as microclimates for plants. The DIG will be the perfect space for the herb spirals. Look for more information about the spirals during the summer and plan to attend Heidi's workshop on constructing herb spirals at The DIG.

If you haven't had a chance to visit The DIG lately, please take a moment to stop by the garden and see what's going on. We received a donation of two dry eraser boards and a large cork board. Bruce Schwartz, the Principal of the Seventh Day Adventist School stopped by the garden last week to present a check for \$50 for the construction of two raised garden beds for his students.

Lynette Black has been very busy with Camp Morrow but she contacted me recently about an opportunity that would be perfect for The DIG. Keelia Johnston, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute, is working with the Gorge Explorers Summer Stewards Program at the Discovery Center. Keelia and I have scheduled July 8th and 9th from 1-4 pm, for six high school students to construct more raised beds at the garden. Of course, we need more volunteers to help with the construction. If you have time available, I hope you will consider volunteering on July 8th and 9th.

The next meeting of The DIG Committee will be Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 1-3 pm in the conference room next to the Extension Office. I hope you will all plan to attend. We will be discussing the color choice for the shed, an update on the construction timeline as well as planning for the produce harvest. Please join us!

I hope to see all of you in the garden soon. Plant a seed and watch our community grow!



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Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

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Find Us Online

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

Calendar

June 30		Turn in Payback time sheets (Nov – June)
July 2	1-3	The DIG meeting*
July 12	1-4	Annual Potluck Picnic
August 1		Deadline for August newsletter*
August 5-8		Mini-College 2009, Corvallis

*Activities or projects offering payback hour opportunities



MINI-COLLEGE 2009 August 5- 8 at O.S.U. in Corvallis, OR

This year mini-college is all about backyard food solutions, food safety and victory gardens. In light of this the Benton County Food Bank is also staging a canned food drive for needy families in conjunction with mini-college.

Recent reports say that one in six Oregonians are now receiving food stamps or other food assistance. That equates to lots of kids going to bed hungry and whole families undernourished. Our state's unemployment is second highest in the nation so things are not likely to change soon. Please bring a donation of non-perishable foods with you to mini-college if you are attending or to someone who is. (For sure that is Etta Myers, Ronnie Smith, Lee Bryant, Cheri Austin and Lana Tepfer.)

The Benton County Food Bank will provide the containers and pick up all the food. No hard work for the MG's.

Mini-College Attendees get together:

If you are attending mini-college this year join us for an informal, no-host gathering the week before we go. It will be Thursday, July 30th at 5:30 p.m. at a restaurant location yet to be determined at press time. Come and have a glass of wine and appetizers or dinner. That will give us all a chance to catch up and compare notes on classes, etc. Contact Ronnie Smith or Lana Tepfer for further details on location. It will be a nice way to kick off mini-college activities.

Lana Tepfer