

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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Junior Master Gardener Program Candy Armstrong

We finished Junior Master Gardeners on Thursday, May 28th, at Chenoweth Elementary school. A big thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who were willing to take a leap of faith and show up to help us keep this vital connection going.

We had two sessions for two separate groups this year. We limited the group size to no more than 25 and opened it to 5th and 6th graders only. We had 21 sign-up for the Tuesday sessions and 16 for the Thursday sessions. Not bad considering the dates fell before and after a long 4 day weekend.

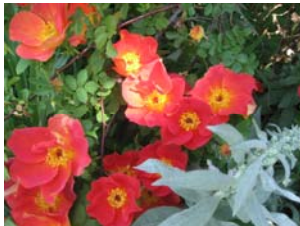
Lessons learned from the past helped us craft this year's classes to simple, easy to get into activities that could be quickly explained and lead by any Master Gardener brave enough to show up and take on a group.

The first week we divided the students into three groups and rotated them through a session on designing a garden, inviting wildlife into your living space (thank you Lee for the pine cone bird feeder activity!) and learning how to recognize and properly weed your garden (remembering that: "a weed is just a plant out of place").

The second week we rotated through three sessions again, this time finishing our garden designs, and learning about beneficial insects. We had a face painting activity at this station and Trudy Townsend was on hand to put whatever kind of insect or "critter" students wanted on their face. The girls favored flowers and lady beetles, the boys chose spiders and elaborate snakes. The final station was learning how to plant annuals in appropriate settings (very difficult on a 92 degree day).

At our final class we handed out certificates of completion to all students. The third year students received a small gardening tool, a pair of gardening gloves and a packet of seeds. We celebrated with lady beetle punch and cupcakes grouped and decorated to look like a dragonfly. Cindy Miller, my Administrative Assistant, took pictures, but I don't have them to share at this time. (Ed. note: we'll try to have them next month)

Again, thank you to all of you who were willing to take time out of your busy lives to help us keep this program going.



Austrian copper rose



Clematis 'Ville de Lyon'



Oregon sunshine



camas lily

The Dirt Sheet

Between the Rows – Lee Bryant

At last summer has arrived. Not once for the next 4 months am I going to say it's too hot. It just seemed that one day was nice and the next day cold. Here's to the hot days of summer.

What a wonderful Spring Fair we had. In case you have not heard we had receipts of more than \$2,500.00. I would like to thank everyone for their help with this project. We are looking forward to our bulb sale in the fall. The bulbs have been ordered; we will be talking more about that, as the time gets closer.

You know you're a "Plant-a-holic" when...

The pages of your garden catalogs are stuck together with drool.

You spend your grocery money on plants, and then convince your mate that "Rice & Beans" are the new fad diet.

You look up 'Plant-a-holic' in the dictionary, and see a picture of yourself.

All the nurserymen in the greater Gorge area know your first name and growing conditions.

You have enough loose potting soil in the trunk to replant at least two 6-inch pots.

You receive more than 20 seed and plant catalogs.

You go "dormant" during winter.

You never met a plant that you didn't like.

You wish to be "composted" when you die.

You need a machete to get to your front door.

If more than two of the above applies to you – Seek professional (another MG) help ASAP!!!!

By Angela Bridges

Rotini with fresh Vegetables and Herbs

- 1 box Whole Grain Rotini
- 1 Leek or small white onion finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic finely chopped
- 1 large carrot, thinly sliced
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1 cup green peas, fresh or frozen
- 1-cup water
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 5 basil leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp mint (4 leaves) chopped
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/3-cup extra virgin olive oil

Cook pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, place half of olive oil and chopped onions in skillet, sauté for 5 minutes over medium heat. Add garlic, carrot, broccoli and green peas. Season the vegetables with salt and pepper and sauté for 5 minutes. Add a cup of warm water and continue simmering until vegetables are just crisp. Add the tomatoes to the rest of vegetables. Drain pasta and toss with vegetables. Add herbs, remaining olive oil and Parmesan cheese, toss and serve. Good cold or hot.



The Dalles Farmer's Market opened on May 30th in City Park. Come here Saturdays for lots of fresh local produce and more. A good place to see fellow Master Gardeners!

Insects in the Garden Lynn Long

Not all tiny creatures are bad for the garden. To naturally limit garden pests, manage your garden to foster ladybugs, hover flies, lacewings, damsel bugs, assassin bugs, soldier beetles, parasitic wasps and spiders. These beneficial creatures will help control garden pests such as aphids, caterpillars, thrips, corn earworms and mites.

To attract and keep an arsenal of natural enemies of pests around, limit the wide use of broad-spectrum insecticides to control garden pests. Chemicals such as diazinon, acephate (Orthene), and carbaryl (Sevin) kill pests and beneficial predators alike.

Use selective and non-persistent 'biorational' pesticides like soaps, oils and microbials such as B.t.

Also, according to Oregon State University entomologist Jack DeAngelis, it is best to avoid purchasing and releasing batches of ladybugs into the garden. These beetles are collected from wild populations where commercial collectors may destroy natural habitat while gathering these creatures.

"Off-road vehicles are sometimes used to get to ladybug collecting sites that are generally in otherwise pristine areas," said DeAngelis. "And in the process of collecting, packing, storage and release, many beetles are so injured they are no longer effective predators. Many are killed as well."

Plus, artificially-introduced lady beetles rarely stay around. "Once moved, lady beetles no longer function very effectively as predators," he said. "Unless they are released into an enclosed space like a greenhouse, those beetles that survive will likely fly off before doing much good."

The best way to keep a good level of natural predators around is to have a good array of plants that they can use for food and shelter. Certain plants are known to naturally attract beneficial insects to a garden. Some provide food, especially nectar and pollen for the 'good' insects. Other plants provide shelter and

overwintering habitat.

Provide food or shelter for beneficial garden predators by planting yarrow, wild buckwheat, white sweet clover, tansy, sweet fennel, sweet alyssum, spearmint, Queen Anne's lace, hairy vetch, flowering buckwheat, crimson clover, cowpeas, common knotweed, caraway and black locust. A mix of these plants ensures a good mix of predators.



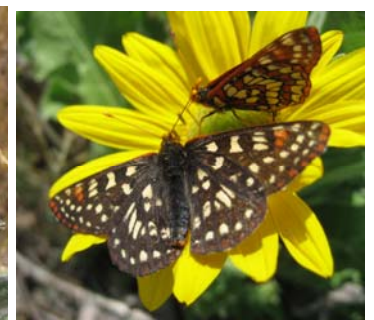
wild buckwheat – [Eriogonum douglasii](#)

Certain predators can be effective and may stay around; including lacewings, predatory mites, aphid predators and parasites, and predatory bugs, which can be purchased from biological control supply houses. "Lacewings are probably the best general purpose predator for home gardens," said DeAngelis.

As a Master Gardener you know that not all insects on your plants are bad. The good guys are worth keeping around and encouraging.



Blues on [Phacelia](#)



Checkerspots on Oregon sunshine

1st Annual WCMG Spring Fair Successful

Thanks to a great hard working Spring Fair Committee and plenty of volunteers the event came off with hardly a hitch. The perfect May day brought out sunshine-seeking gardeners to our fair all day long.

In addition to the plants donated by WCMG members for our plant sale, we brought down over 170 flats of annuals, perennials, vegetables and pots from the NORCOR greenhouse. MG volunteers grew seedlings in the NORCOR greenhouse, sold orchard ladders, raffled a ladder bench, made scarecrows, helped children make pine cone feeders, prepared educational material. Each project generated more income for the treasury. All in all we took in over \$2,000 on that day alone.

The inclusion of local businesses, NORCOR Kids for Klimate flower sale, and the food sold by The Dalles Wahtonka Ski Team stand helped create a fair atmosphere. Special thanks to Marian Rohde, Jack & Anna for their educational presentations. Even the plant clinic was busy answering sixteen queries. The project was a huge success and I want to thank everyone who participated.

Peggy Peterson
Spring Fair Team Leader

May 13 Field Trip



at J & K Growers in Dallesport

Secret Gardens Saturday, June 13, 2009

The Central Gorge Master Gardeners proudly present this year's garden tour – Secret Gardens. The tour features seven diverse gardens from both sides of the Columbia River—Hood River and White Salmon. An English Rose Garden, a professionally designed shade garden, Monet's garden and a musical garden are some of the wonderful gardens showcased this year. Our ever popular plant sale during the tour will get you started off in the right mood!

The tour runs from 10 am – 4pm, tickets can be purchased for \$7 in advance in Hood River at Waucoma Bookstore, Good News Gardening and Columbia Arts Center; in White Salmon at Trellis Fresh Flowers, and at Dickey Farms in Bingen. Tickets are \$10 the day of the tour.

Peonies as Cut Flowers Judy Davis

I got some advice that surprised me about how to keep cut peonies fresh when I visited my mother in Minnesota at the end of March. It was the weekend when her Master Gardener Association puts on the annual "Let's Get Growing" day of classes. A commercial organic peony grower offered this advice:

Cut the flowers in the early morning and let them rest in the shade for half an hour (no water yet). Recut 1 inch off stems and place in lukewarm water with floral preservative. Keep in a cool dark spot until the next morning. Then arrange the flowers by recutting the stems and putting in luke-warm water with floral preservative. For longest life recut and change water daily.



The Dirt Sheet

The DIG Update Charlotte Link

Hello everyone from The DIG! If you haven't had a chance to visit The DIG lately, please take a moment to stop by and enjoy the garden.

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Spring Fair and Plant Sale that contributed plants for The DIG. Beautiful tomato plants, peppers, sunflowers and more are currently basking (or is it basting) in the sunshine and warm wind. Of course, the garden is a learning project so we are learning about the wind issues on a daily basis.

On May 16th, The DIG celebrated Oregon's 150th birthday by hosting the SOLV sponsored "Take Care of Oregon Days" event. Six Master Gardener volunteers and four community volunteers worked together for two hours planting the Farm area while others finished the composting area. Every participant received a reusable grocery bag from the Oregon 150 team and gardening gloves from the Oregon Lottery. A drawing was held for the Columbia Sportswear jacket and stainless water bottle provided by the Oregon 150 team. Thank you to all our volunteers.

A \$100 grant was received from SOLV which was used to construct three additional raised garden beds. Katherine and Robert Joy from the Oregon Volunteers group and the Oregon 150 team stopped by the garden to take pictures and learn more about The DIG. Lori Russell, a local freelance writer, interviewed all the participants. Look for the article about The DIG and our Master Gardener volunteers in the July issue of [Ruralite](#).

On May 21, drip irrigation was installed by Today's Rays, with Bryant Pipe supplying all the irrigation components for the garden. What great sponsors, Bryant Pipe and Today's Rays! The scarlet red runner beans, bush beans, peas, cabbage, Swiss Chard, beets, sunflowers, zinnias, marigolds, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers and garlic chives are growing at The DIG. Plants from the American Center for Sustainability, J. & K. Growers as well as plants from Tom Stout and the MG Plant Sale are growing beautifully at The DIG.

So much is happening at The DIG, it's hard to keep up! Every day, people walk by the garden, or bicycle or run by along the Riverfront Trail. They stop to chat and ask questions about the garden.

Last week, a weather station was donated to The DIG, more plant starts were delivered by the American Center for Sustainability, and the shed was inspected so I am optimistic it will be completed before school is out for the summer. Coffee grounds for composting are coming from Cup of Mud and Google. The rustic baby cradle made from old tree branches was donated by my neighbor for the garden. He stops by regularly with other "garden items" for the garden: an old garden cart, old wooden boxes, an upside down tomato growing system, cyclone fence mesh and of course, many empty containers.

Tracey Carlson and Tonya Brumley's Girl Scouts will be planting seven of the raised beds at The DIG very soon. Volunteers will be needed (more payback hours!, contact Charlotte) to assist with teaching the girls about lasagna gardening, seed germination, and planting vegetable starts.

Lynette Black and Marcia Strader completed the PUD Grant and the Gardenburger Grant applications. Marcia and I attended the PUD meeting on May 26th to provide a brief presentation about the garden. With PUD Grant requests over \$115,000 and only \$30,000 available, I am optimistic as well as have my fingers crossed for the garden. The pergola over the teaching circle would be a huge benefit for the garden. Milt Skov, a member of the PUD Board of Directors and a past Master Gardener, spoke in support of our organization and the Plant Clinic as well as our annual Master Gardener training.

Upcoming Events at The DIG:

The DIG will be hosting the Northern Wasco County Park and Recreation Day Camp on June 22 - 26th from 9 am-12 pm. Lolly Tweed and Brad Mulvihill will be providing the educational activities and leadership for the children age 7-12. And the Day Camp is another opportunity for payback hours! Please contact Lolly or Brad to volunteer today!



Brad & Lolly

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Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

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OSU Extension Staff

Lynn Long

Find Us Online

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

Calendar

June 13	Garden Tour, Central Gorge MGs*
June 22 – 26 9-12	Day Camp at The DIG*
June 27	Deadline for July newsletter*
June 30	Turn in Payback time sheets (Nov – June)
August 5-8	Mini-College 2009 , Corvallis

*Activities or projects offering payback hour opportunities

"We cannot solve the problems of mankind by arranging flowers; we cannot turn back the tides of war nor set a term to the follies which provoke them. But we can bring a little peace into our own hearts, and shed a little light throughout the domestic circles in which we move and have our being." Beverley Nichols

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

This year's theme for mini-college is Backyard Food Solutions. Local. Sustainable. Secure. Applications will soon be out for the 2009 Gardener's Mini-College at O.S.U. Look for the applications in the June issue of the Gardener's Pen, the O.M.G.A. state-wide newsletter.

Many classes are offered that will enable us to garden better and to help train beginners who may be gardening for the first time ever. Our economic times are forcing many people to cut back on their food budgets, especially fresh fruits and vegetables. Nutrition is the farthest thing from their minds.

Come and learn about edibles landscapes, small space and container gardening, backyard vineyards and home winemaking. There will be classes on preserving foods from your garden as well as backyard chickens. Of particular interest to me this year are cover crops and season extenders for Eastern Oregon. There will be many workshops such as advanced parliamentary procedures, long-range planning and time management.

Cost for the entire package which includes meals and housing (as well as the classes and other activities) is \$245. There are different options for those who do not want stay on campus.

A bunch of us go down on Tuesday evening at our own expense so we are ready Wed. to hit the ground running. We usually have a nice dinner at The Gable's in Corvallis and talk over our expectations, schedules, displays and the door prizes we distribute each year.

Why not plan on attending this year? It's the perfect "staycation". For more info on any phase of mini-college contact Lana Tepfer, Cheri Austin, Ronnie Smith, Etta Myers or Lee Bryant.

See you there?

Lana Tepfer