

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

Volume 2, Issue 1

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OUR HATS ARE OFF TO YOU... YOU.... AND YOU... AND YOU!!!!

Wasco County Master Gardener™
Graduation and Recognition Night

Potluck Dinner

October 27 – 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
The Dalles, Oregon

Please bring a potluck dish & serving utensil

Graduating Master Gardeners are encouraged to be creative and make a Graduation Cap

THERE WILL BE A “TO DIE – FOR” PRIZE!!!!

Mark your calendar, watch for your invitation and plan to attend.

THIS NIGHT IS FOR YOU

Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless!



Fall Bulb Sale

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 3. That is the date for our first bulb sale. There will be new and unique varieties available as well as some old standard ones. If you have extra bulbs after you have divided yours, consider donating them. The sale will be held at the Farmer’s Market in City Park (located across from the State Office building at Union & Sixth Streets in The Dalles). Hours of the Farmer’s Market are 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, so come early for the best selection.

Cheri Austin



Helianthus annuus - sunflower red sun



Sedum matrona -



Solidago sp. - goldenrod



Aster occidentalis - western mountain aster

Between the Rows – Lee Bryant

The planting season is winding down (although you could be putting in a winter crop such as Kale) and we are starting our garden clean up. Last Friday (Sept. 18), we had a wonderful time with cleanup and working at The DIG. Here are a few pictures of that work (see page 5 for more).



Marlene, Joan & Charlotte harvesting produce

I hope each of you have had a good year and enjoyed the fruits of your labor. I must say that I have enjoyed my garden so much more than in years past; I know that is because of my square foot gardening and the raised beds in my regular garden. It is so much more enjoyable when a person can keep up. But the past few weeks with my broken foot I have had to depend on my husband to do all of the garden stuff.



Lee's square foot garden box



I would like to thank each of you for the many things that you have done for Wasco County Master Gardeners and I know that our community has benefited from all of your hard work. As I look back on the year, it is hard to believe that this will be my last time writing for the newsletter as your president, but I will still at times contribute some-thing to the newsletter. I hope all of you will think about doing so, too.

Even though this year in Master Gardeners is ending and we have by now turned in our last payback log for the year, we can continue to work on projects through the winter. Your hours accumulated will become the beginning of your hours for the New Year. We will again be working at the green house at NORCOR for the spring plant sale and there are more things in the works there. That is a great place to place yourself in the long winter months when we really want a garden fix. I myself plan to be there.

Our new members will soon be graduating to seasoned master gardeners; we look forward to their continued support and friendship. Please plan on being at the graduation and recognition night, to show your support to the new master gardeners and our master gardener program.

I know that we are all looking forward to a new year with our new slate of officers and I feel confident that this coming year will be the best ever.

Do not fear going forward, fear only to stand still.
Chinese Proverb

Yellow Jackets By Lynn E. Long

Outdoor activities and yellow jackets seem to go hand in hand this time of year. A friend from Idaho recently wrote Marlene and me an e-mail asking for help with "bees" that were eating her apples. We told her that it was unlikely the attackers were bees but most probably yellow jackets that are looking for food and water this time of year.

There are several different kinds of yellow jackets in Oregon. Not all will crash your barbecue. Some are forest species. Many prey strictly on other insects such as houseflies and mosquitoes.

The most common picnic-crashers are the western yellow jacket and the common yellow jacket. Both are scavengers and both have an eye on your hamburger.

These species live in paper-lined underground nests. A queen begins nest-building in the spring. She hatches out a starter set of workers, and never leaves the nest again. Her role now is to lay eggs. By the end of the summer, yellow jacket nests may contain thousands of workers vigorously defending their nest and queen. This is when they are most troublesome and dangerous.

Unlike honeybees, yellow jackets don't store food in their nests. They hunt for the food they need as the nest develops. During the early summer months, yellow jacket workers seek out meat-based foods to feed the developing young. Later in the summer, yellow jackets' tastes switch to sweets. They begin to search out rotting fruit and sugars such as the apples on our friend's tree.

By August or September, nest development turns toward creating queens and males. By October, the new fertilized queens fly off to find a protected spot to spend the winter. Those males and the workers that kept the nest humming all summer will die with the first frosts. Only new queens survive the winter.

The old nest is abandoned and not reused the following spring. So the nest you find now will be deserted in a couple of months, which may be little comfort to you during your picnic.

Traps can provide some relief by temporarily drawing the yellow jackets away from your picnic table. Set the trap up away from where you will be eating. Worker yellow jackets are lured into the trap by the smell of food and can't find their way out. Synthetic baits are most effective, but you can also use meat or fruit juice as bait.

If you find a yellow jacket nest in your yard first, consider if it is a hazard. Most nests pose little threat unless you interfere with them.

If you decide to spray, use only an approved wasp and hornet spray. Read the label, it is the final word on what does or does not constitute a legal and safe application.

Treat nests at night when all workers are inside and relatively calm.

DO NOT pour gasoline into ground nests – it is dangerous, environmentally harmful and illegal.



An interesting tomato from The DIG!

OMGA Dues Increase for 2010

Starting in 2010, our annual dues for OMGA will increase from \$5 to \$7 per year. This was voted on at the November, 2008 OMGA Board of Directors meeting, which required a year to notify everyone of the increase.

Lana Tepfer

Update on The DIG (The Dalles Imagination Garden) by Charlotte Link

It's Fall in The Dalles Imagination Garden! Time for Clean up and Composting!

Friday, September 18, 2009. What a beautiful summer day to work in the garden! A big thank you to Lynn and Marlene Long, Lee Bryant, Cathy Dowrey, Joan Hudson, Peggy Peterson, Charlotte and Dave Link, Lolly Tweed, and Brad Mulvihill as well as Denise Tuel for volunteering on a Friday. The volunteers harvested all the vegetables, gathered and tagged each soaker hose before they were stored for the winter, chopped up all the plant debris and placed it in the composting area. Dave and Brad transported (in a front end loader) as much of the sod and soil from Meredith Martin's lot as possible to build the crop circle. All the produce was donated to the Food Bank.

Lana Tepfer, Etta Myers, and Cheri Austin had recently attended a seminar and learned about a new gardening method (see article on pg 5) which The DIG volunteers agreed to try. It was to clip off the plants rather than pull them out of the ground. What a great idea and what a time saver for a gardener! Thank you Lana, Etta, and Cheri!

Meanwhile, before the crop circle could be constructed, Garry and Peggy Peterson designed it on paper then transferred the design concept to the garden in fluorescent red paint. Garry proposed removing the dead tree (after all, we are Master Gardeners!) before building the crop circle. Garry and Peggy removed the tree and what an experience that was!

"The tree pulled out in the exact shape of the pot that held it originally. The tree was root bound and there was a pool of smelly rotten mud flowing out of the root ball. The roots were all brown except where they were woody. You could see they planted the tree about 8" above the root flare. No wonder the tree died." said Peggy. They also folded the water line back upon itself and taped it closed. I hope everyone will stop by the garden and see the beautiful crop circle.

Next, the irrigation will be installed over the fall/winter so the crop circle will be ready to plant next spring. It was a very busy three hours but everyone remained focused and the project was finished on time. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

By the time you read this article, Girl Scout Troop 103, which is lead by Tonya Brumley, will have harvested the One-Ball pumpkins (squash) and the Burgundy Bush Beans which they started from seed last July. If I remember correctly, it was 104 degrees that day and the girls had a great time creating the lasagna bed, planting the seeds, watering each other, and creating grass seed "Plant People" to take home with them. A big Thank You to Lana for assisting the girls with harvest of their produce. What a fun project and the girls are planning to grow more vegetables next year.

Thank you to Lana and her friend Mary for tackling the composting area. Please think of The DIG composting area for depositing your extra (clean, chopped up) fall leaves. Lana says no peach, dogwood, or walnut leaves, please. There is plenty of space available for more leaves, kitchen scraps and grass clippings. Contact Lana for more information about the composting area. As always, thank you for your support of The DIG!

The next committee meeting will be held Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00 pm at the Extension Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend. Meetings will be held every first Tuesday of the month at the Extension Office Conference Room at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. PLEASE NOTE: The November 3rd meeting will be held in Room 3.201 on the main level of the Health Sciences Building (HSB) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.



Charlotte tackling clean up in the "Farm" area

Between the Rows, cont.

I have always known that Kale is good for you, but have never really liked it until I tried this recipe.

COCONUT CURRY WITH GREENS

1 small onion, chopped
 2-3 cloves garlic, chopped
 1-inch piece of fresh ginger grated or chopped fine
 1 teaspoon salt
 1-2 teaspoons curry powder
 2 medium sliced carrots
 1 bunch (up to 4 cups) kale
 1 can garbanzos, drained
 1 can (14oz) diced tomatoes, drained
 1 cup raisins
 1 can coconut milk

Place onion, garlic, ginger, salt and about ¼ cup water in a medium sized kettle, cover and simmer for 3 minutes.

Add the sliced carrots: cover and simmer for 5 more minutes.

Add the chopped greens and simmer 3 more minutes, adding a little more water if needed.

Add beans, tomatoes, curry power, milk and raisins. Heat and serve over rice.

Makes 8 cups



"Just as fall is a time for letting go, for riding with the slow, melancholy yet beautiful decline toward the inevitability of winter, it is also a time for loosening up rigid color rules. Nature combines cobalt skies, red and yellow leaves and purple asters; the gardener does well to take inspiration from these stunning scenes."

Lauren Springer, [The Undaunted Garden](#)

More pictures from The DIG work day



Peggy in the center of the crop circle



Peggy and Brad work on construction of the crop circle

Fall Gardening Clean-Up Tip

by Lana Tepfer

Isn't fall a great time to work in the garden? I want to share with you some new gardening methods Etta, Cheri and I learned about at the Polk County Fall Fling. We had a great teacher for a soils class. He spoke about how roots encourage the fungal threads (mycorrhizae) that help bind soil particles together and make soil nutrients more available to plant roots. But, when we clean up our gardens in the fall, we rip out the plants including the rooting structures that hold our soils together. His advice is to simply cut off the plants you want to remove at the soil line and leave the roots intact. The worms will usually clean up the roots through the winter and what they don't eat can be easily removed in the spring when you get ready to plant. Charlotte and her volunteers tried this at the DIG clean up so we will see how it goes in the spring.

He was also very adamant about tilling as little as possible to preserve that soil structure. This gives you all winter to think about new planting methods and to build up your soils with organic matter.

The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

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

Calendar

September 30		Payback sheets due
October 2,3,4	9-3	Milestone Nursery (Lyle) native plant sale
October 3	8-1	Fall Bulb Sale, City Park, TD
October 6	1pm	The DIG meeting
October 27	6pm	Graduation!
November 3	1pm	The DIG meeting



GARDEN QUESTIONS

Ok everyone, Charlotte sent in the following list of questions that she found in the September issue of "Bird and Blooms" magazine, which she thought would be interesting for all of us to answer and put in future newsletters. So, these are all the questions, and how about for next month everyone considers the first three and sends in your answers for the November newsletter. We'll cover the remainder in future issues.

1. If money and time weren't factors, what feature would you add to your garden?
2. What gardening chore do you hate?
3. What's your best money-saving secret for the garden?
4. If you could have only one flower in your garden, what would it be?
5. What's your idea of a dream garden?
6. If there were no weeding or chores to do, how would you spend a day in the garden?
7. What plants never fail you?
8. What's your favorite bird?
9. What bird is most entertaining in your garden?