

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 4

March 2007

Signs of Spring

A couple of Master Gardeners responded to a request to identify signs of spring.

Carolyn Wright lists some of what she pays attention to:

- The days don't just get longer in the afternoon, but it starts getting light earlier in the morning.
- My snowdrops are blooming.
- Other bulbs are showing up.
- The hellebores start to bloom.
- The sedum have tight rosettes of leaves at the base of last year's stems.
- When cutting off last years stems, there are fat green buds at the base of the stems.
- Seed packets and primroses show up at Fred's.
- Temps start to warm up and the wind returns.
- Time to plant peas!

Debbie McDonald says:

The garlic has been up in the Learning Garden herb garden for several weeks. My own garlic at about 2000 feet altitude is just coming up.

Last fall I tried an experiment. I planted pea, spinach, radish and beet seeds to see if they would over winter and come up earlier than I would have gotten into the garden to plant. I'm happy to report that the spinach seeds have sprouted. The spinach plants from last year also over wintered and are showing signs of growth for an early fresh salad addition. Since the spinach seeds in the garden sprouted, I decided to expand my experiment by freezing for two days spinach seeds that I had soaked in fish emulsion. I moved them to the refrigerator for three days, and have now planted the seeds in a container outside. I want to see if they grow at about the same rate.

The saffron crocuses are also about two inches high. Although I know today's sunny, warm weather is not normal for February, I'm out in a tank top weeding the raised beds. I love this time of teasing and discovery!

What are you seeing? Flocks of robins? First bulbs blooming? Blustery weather?

What's Inside?

2	Central Gorge MGA News	5	More Wasco County MGA News
2	Getting Information to All Master Gardeners	5	Dates of Last Frost
3	Wasco County MGA News	6	Calendar of Master Gardener Events
4	More Central Gorge MGA News	6	Master Gardeners Receive Discounts

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:

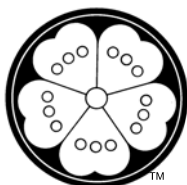
[http://
extension.oregonstate.edu/
hoodriver/](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/)

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

Every day that's beautiful in Hood River raises my hopes that spring is on the way. I guess it may be a bit early, however, and there will be more rainy days before we really start to enjoy spring. Just west of here on the Oregon coast we noticed little buds on the bushes and lots of blooming daffodils. One resident told me that she even had hummingbirds returning. So, I guess spring really isn't that far away for us either!

Classes are going well in Hood River. We have new instructors this year as well as returning instructors. Everyone toured the Master Gardener projects on Saturday, February 10th. The weather wasn't very nice, but the tour generated lots of interest from this year's trainees.

New Master Gardeners have started Plant Clinic training with their mentors or other returning Master Gardeners. Elizabeth reported that questions are coming into the clinics already. Once again we are staffing the clinics on Monday and Thursday. This year Master Gardeners from CGMGA will be giving plant clinics at several places both in Hood River as well as in Cascade Locks and Stevenson.

Have a good month and keep watching for signs of spring! There will be an association quarterly meeting in April, but details are still being worked out.

More CGMGA News on page 4.



Getting Information to all Master Gardeners

Judy Davis, editor

This newsletter reaches all Master Gardeners in both associations with your news of events and activities. The newsletter is now produced and distributed in the time period between the monthly executive committee/board meetings and the end of the month. The aim is to get out timely information to everyone.

To give everyone notice of your event, activity, or project, please think about submitting basic information for the calendar and/or a short article two or three months in advance. Then follow-up with your main article in the appropriate month. The current schedule for producing the newsletter is:

Newsletter Issue	Deadline (by 8 pm)	MG Receive (approx)
April	March 19	March 23
May	April 23	April 27
June	May 21	May 25
July	June 18	June 22

Thanks for helping make the newsletter informative and interesting for all the Master Gardeners.

Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

Spring is just around the corner, and so is the garden season. Our different projects will also begin soon. First on the list is soil testing. This project will begin in March and continue through October. The cost will remain \$15.00 per test. Soil will be tested for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, humus, pH, and texture. Testing forms will be available on our website.

Plant Clinics will begin in April. Clinics will take place at the Extension Office every Tuesday and Thursday through October, Fred Meyers every Saturday through mid August, and The Farmer's Market on the first and third Friday of each month through October. Signups will be available in class.

Other spring projects include Junior Master Gardeners and Seeds & Soils. Charlotte Link and Pam Manning are the coordinators. Both are fun, exciting projects, and participation is required. There are other projects on the horizon, and remember if you have an idea for a new educational project, contact any board member or Lynn Long.

If you didn't get your raffle tickets last week in class, don't worry. They will be available for sale every week until the end of classes. What raffle you ask? The raffle is a fun fundraiser for the Association. We are raffling off a garden tote filled with **new** garden related items. Each week new items will be added to the tote. The drawing will be the last day of class before our test review. If you would like to donate new items contact Cheri Austin. Remember the more tickets you buy the better your chances of winning. The cost of tickets is \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. All money raised will go into our general fund.

Reminder, we really need your help to setup in the mornings for class and cleanup afterwards.



Executive Board Meeting Highlights Ronnie Smith, Secretary

1. The Farmers Market in the Dalles will run from April 15th to October 15th. It will be on Fridays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, at The Dalles Chamber of Commerce. There will be a Plant Clinic on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.
2. The Garden Tour this year will be in Hood River on Saturday, June 16th. Details will be forth coming.
3. Rose Pruning Clinic at Sorosis Park will be on March 10th, from 9:00am to 1:00 pm.
4. The next Executive Board Meeting is on March 13th, at 3:00 pm, at Extension Office Conference Room. All are welcome.
5. The next Wasco County Master Gardeners Association quarterly meeting will be on, April 10th, at 6:00 pm, in the home of Charlie and Ronnie Smith. The address is 317 West 21st Street, The Dalles. Light refreshments will be served.

More Wasco County News on page 5.

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

Find Us Online

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

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

or

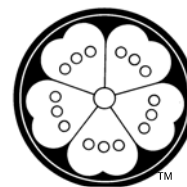
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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.



More Central Gorge Master Gardener™ Association News (Continued from page 3)

Spring Fair & Plant Sale May 12 Hood River Extension Office By Anny VanNatta

Here are some ideas for preparing for the plant sale.

When you are thinking of dividing or eliminating plants in your garden, consider donating them to the plant sale. Ask your friends too! Either pot the starts yourself, temporarily plant them elsewhere in your garden (to be potted closer to the sale date), put them in a bag or box for someone else to pot, or ask for someone to come and get them from you.



Do you have a greenhouse, and/or ability to care for potted plant donations before the sale?

Ideas from last years sale:

- Perennial starts in standard nursery pots
Herbs, shrubs, ground cover, bulbs
Lavender, Mums, Hellebores, Rhubarb
- Annual starts from seed (gourmet salad blend)
- House plants
- Prepared herb, flower, or strawberry planters
- Books, tools and garden items (gently used OK)
- Decorative Gift Baskets for plants as gift and décor.
- Crafted items like garden aprons, garden totes, planters, birdhouses, etc.

Here are ways you can begin now:

- Save and clean plastic nursery pots! 2-inch, 4-inch, 1-gallon, some larger
- Donate potting soil
- Divide or layer perennials in your garden
- Propagate from cuttings
- Start some plants from seed
- Save small baskets that hold one or two 4 X 4 inch pots
- Save decorative pots and small planters
- Save mugs or items with gardening designs

Ideas, questions and volunteers are encouraged. Please contact Anny VanNatta at gardenanny@coho.net, or call 503-452-1848 .

Japanese Heritage Garden Project By Rita Saling

The Japanese Heritage Garden Project was officially launched with a display at the first Day of Remembrance held February 18th in Hood River. We were able to speak with a number of Japanese Americans and others about the project. Their response was positive in all respects.

I want especially to thank Virginia Fitzpatrick, who supplied us with 50 beautiful coleus plants to offer in return for donations. The plants really made the display. Also, Anne Saxby, Kari Boss and Judith Nelson who manned the table with me deserve many thanks for giving up a holiday Sunday. Debbie McDonald and Elizabeth, you were indispensable as far as getting the brochure together. Thank you both.

The Columbia River Fellowship for Peace, represented by Theresa North, came by the table and offered their support in way of a donation as soon as we can give them a specific need to fill. Rod Tochinhara of Drakes 7 Dees also offered a donation of plant material when we are ready. Cash donations came to \$70.

The audience numbered over 100. The speakers emphasized the suffering of the interned Japanese families. Thus our garden becomes a timely effort in memory of both the Issei (Japanese immigrants) and Nisei (the first generation born in America) who lived in the Hood River Valley.

WE ARE ON OUR WAY! THANKS ALL !

Wanted 'Garden Blunders—Dead or Alive' By Pam Crider

Pam asked that this message be repeated as no one has confessed to knowledge of any blunders.

Information needed for a Community Education class I'm leading late in March. I know none of us Masters are guilty of any garden blunders. If you have any tales from Plant Clinic or gardening friends that you would share, I would love to hear them. The blunder and the proper method to deal with them would be wonderful. Thanks much, Pam.

3281 Dethman Ridge Drive
Hood River OR 97031-8527
541-387-2245
pamcrider@email.com

More Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association News (Continued from page 3)

Junior Master Gardener News Chenoweth Elementary School The Dalles, Oregon By Charlotte Link

ARE YOU READY? It's almost spring! And our Junior Master Gardeners are anxious to grab their gloves and get started. I hope all of you will have an opportunity to join us in the garden.

Last week, I met with the new Principal, Matt Ihle, to discuss the Junior Master Gardener program and establish a schedule for the 2007 program. Matt is the son of 2006 Master Gardener of the Year, John Ihle.



Class enrollment forms will be mailed to parents

on March 13, 2007. The class will be limited to 20 students, grades 3-5. All boys and girls are encouraged to participate.

Classes will begin Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 2:25 pm – 3:25 pm. The class will meet every Wednesday and Friday through May 23, 2007 in the main courtyard of the school as weather permits or in the school library. May 23rd, the final day of classes, the students will enjoy a garden party and receive their Junior Master Gardener certificates.

This year, JMG will learn about Plant Growth and Development, Soil and Water, Ecology and Environmental Horticulture, Insects & Diseases, Fruits and Vegetables as well as other fun activities in the garden. Once again, they will be packaging compost for sale from "The Gold Mine." The 2005 JMG class named the compost area "The Gold Mine" packaging the "gold" for sale to other Master Gardeners. Please support the JMG program and purchase a few bags of compost for your garden.

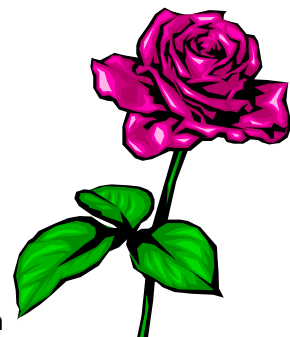
Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate. Donations of old garden gloves, size small or medium, small handheld garden tools and gallon size Ziploc baggies are welcome. For further information, please contact Charlotte Link at 541.298.5045.

Get ready Junior Master Gardeners! Grab your gloves and let's get dirty!

I hope to see you all in the garden!

Rose Pruning Clinic March 10, 9 am—1 pm

Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District and Oregon State University Wasco County Master Gardeners are coordinating again this spring to present a Rose Pruning Clinic at Sorosis Rose Garden. Rose Lady Donna Sauncy will be training on Saturday, March 10, from 9 am to 1 pm. All participants must bring their own clippers, loppers, and sturdy gloves and must be on time to hear the training information before beginning hands-on work in the garden.



*May your life be like a
Wildflower
Growing freely in the
Beauty
And joy of each day.*

Native American Proverb

Dates of Last Frost

Average dates for last frost in our area from 2006 Master Gardener Calendar. (Does anyone remember the source of this data?)

April 15th – The Dalles
April 18th – Arlington
April 27th – Mosier
April 30th – Carson
May 1st – White Salmon
May 4th – Hood River
May 14th – Pine Grove
May 20th – Husum & Goldendale
May 28th – Condon
May 29th – Antelope, Moro/Wasco, Dufur
June 8th – Parkdale

Submitted by Debbie McDonald.

**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

March 7 (Wed.)	5:00 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting , Valley Christian Church
March 10 (Sat)	9:00 am	Rose Pruning Clinic at Sorosis Park, The Dalles. See page 5.
March 13 (Tues)	3:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting , Wasco County Extension Office
March 19 (Mon.)	8:00 pm	Deadline for the April newsletter.
April 5 (Thur.)	9:00 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting , place TBD
April 10 (Tue.)	6:00 pm	Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting home of Charlie and Ronnie Smith. More information will be in April newsletter.
April 23 (Mon.)	8:00 pm	Deadline for the May newsletter.
May 12 (Sat.)		Central Gorge MGA Spring Fair and Plant Sale , Hood River Extension office.
June 16 (Sat.)	10-4	Garden Tour “Reflections in the Garden” in Hood River County.

Master Gardeners Receive Discounts

Cameron and Larry Kaseberg, who presented the irrigation and pond class in Hood River wanted to let you know that by showing your badge or membership card, you will receive a 10% discount on purchases at Wheatacres in The Dalles. Also Apple Green in Hood River gives a discount to Master Gardeners with a badge.

Are there other businesses that give Master Gardeners discounts?