

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 6

May 2007

May 12th ~ Spring Garden Fair ~ 10-3 Garden Gifts & Plant Sale Demonstration Garden Open House

Hood River Extension Office Grounds

CGMGA Master Gardeners are digging, dividing and potting favorite perennial plants: herbs, bulbs, house plants, ground covers, succulentsand tomatoes and flowers. We are sewing, crafting and polishing up gift items for the gardener and arranging flowers....just in time for Mother's Day. A gift to say thanks to a garden buddy is always timely!

This event is to be much more than just a fund-raiser for the public; it is meant to be an educational and sharing event for Master Gardeners too. If you haven't spent much time in the Demonstration Garden, this is a great opportunity to visit and learn. The Herb Garden should be in prime form, the Native Garden is still young and all plants are labeled. You can learn about the plans for the proposed Japanese garden and about the June Garden Tour. The compost area and bioswale explain ecological common-sense that makes you feel like a genius!



More information on page 4.

Hypertufa Planter Class

Presented by Wasco County Master Gardener Association

When: May 26, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Wasco Co. Soil & Water Conservation District Parking Lot

2325 River Rd., The Dalles

Cost: \$25.00

Registration required—Call Cheri Austin 767-1450—Limited to 30

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Officers

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President Elect - Kathy
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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

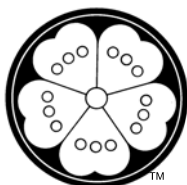
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Our Mission

- 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

Hood River and the gorge are absolutely beautiful this time of year. My husband and I just returned from a week in Las Vegas (a meeting) and were so happy to drive home through the gorge and back to Hood River. The new leaves on the trees are such a vibrant green and so many perennials are blooming in Hood River. Las Vegas had some wonderful jasmine blooming, but go beyond the hotels and it is a desert.

Central Gorge Master Gardener Association had its first quarterly meeting on the 11th of April. It was a well attended meeting and we were all treated to a wonderful slide show by Kathy McGregor of the flowers of Spain. Kathy's photographs were beautiful! Looking at the beautiful flowers and all the gorgeous balconies filled with flowers made me want to visit Spain.

The Spring Fair plant and gift sale is the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 12th. Anny VanNatta and her group have been working hard potting perennials and putting together other garden treats. We hope everyone will come and find something to take home!

I hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful spring weather and the beautiful area in which we live!



Central Gorge Master Gardener of the Year Nominations

It is again that time of year when we are looking for that special Master Gardener that contributes an extra effort to make our organization successful, meaningful and fun. If you know someone deserving of this award, please submit their name and your reasons for their nomination to Elizabeth Daniel at the Hood River County Extension Office or by e-mail, elizabeth.daniel@oregonstate.edu. Nominations must be received by May 15th.

— More CGMGA News on page 4 —

Do You Know People Like This?

According to Peter H. Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, many of us suffer from an insidious condition called "plant blindness." We barely notice plants, can rarely identify them and find them incomparably inert. Do you think that you will ever see a coma as vegetative as a tree? "Animals are much more vivid to the average person than plants are," Dr. Raven said, "and some people aren't even sure that plants are alive."

Natalie Angier, *NY Times*, April 17, 2007

Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

It's hard to believe it is almost May. Our new Master Gardeners are hard at work with Seeds and Soils and Junior Master Gardeners. Both projects are moving along and will be completed by the end of May. If you didn't attend our quarterly meeting, you missed a wonderful program by Lynn and Marlene Long. Ask someone who attended what you missed.

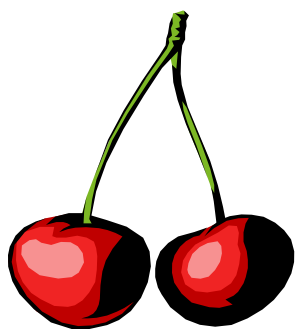
Our plant clinics are going well. I have openings on May 17, 22, and 31. If you can fill a spot please call me.

Mark your calendars for May 26. Jack Archer will be teaching a class on how to make Hypertufa Planters. This is a fundraising project and is open to all Master Gardeners and the public. The class is limited to 30. Registration and payment is required. If there is enough interest there will be another class.

The Garden Tour is fast approaching, if you haven't signed up call Glenda Ryan. Your participation is required. Hope to see you at Cherry Festival

Highlights of WCMGA Quarterly Meeting Ronnie Smith, Secretary

Twenty-one members attended the quarterly meeting on April 10, 2007. The raffle held during classes earned more than \$200. Charlotte Link reported on Junior Master Gardening program and the Hazardous Waste Day on March 31. Jack Archer will teach a Hypertufa class in May. Lynn Long gave each person a copy of a new publication called *Master Gardener* that members can subscribe to.



Lynn and Marlene Long showed slides and items that they brought home from Kyrgyzstan, where they traveled to share knowledge of cherry production. They told us about the hospitality and archaic conditions that people work under. They lack knowledge and tools and are just learning that the crops that they grow are also grown in other parts of the world. Everyone could see that we sometimes take a lot for granted and that we are very lucky that we do have the knowledge and tools available when we need them.

Wasco County Master Gardener of the Year

Etta Myers and Lani Tepfer, chairs of the Wasco County Master Gardener of the Year award, say to look for a letter from them soon with nominees and information on voting for the Master Gardener of the Year. The award-winner receives a scholarship to Mini-College.

— More WCMGA 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, Extension Agent

Find Us Online

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

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

or

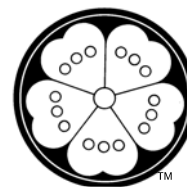
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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

Judy Davis, editor
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541-478-0133

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

Printed on recycled paper.



More Central Gorge Master Gardener Association News

More Info on Spring Garden Fair Hood River Extension Office Grounds May 12, 10-3

The Plant clinic will be set up to help with garden questions.

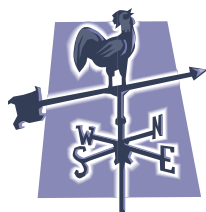
And for a little extra fun and incentives, there will be raffle prizes! (Books, tools, plants and more....Your choice!) EVERY CGMGA Master Gardener in attendance will get a free raffle ticket when they check in at the "volunteer check in." Master Gardeners from Wasco County or other associations will get three free tickets! More can be purchased at 3 for a dollar. Participating Master Gardeners can purchase items during the sale but will receive discount coupons for the afternoon.

And to top it off, participating Master Gardeners, earn Pay-back hours. We hope that every CGMGA member will help in some way. If you have a favorite time and day that you want to work, please email Anny* to sign up. Set-up Friday is 10 - 6ish and Sale is Saturday 8 to 4:30ish. (People who have already signed up should have received an email or call in April for confirmation.) Please save volunteer hours by not waiting to be called.

Also, people who have plants that they intend to bring, please let Christine* know their identifying information and numbers (estimate OK), ASAP. CGMGA members, refer to the April 16th email, titled "FW:Plant Work Party" (plant sale announcements), for important details. Other ways to help, and an update, will be emailed to CGMGA members in May's first week.

*To volunteer and/or donate, contact Anny VanNatta at gardenanny@coho.net or call 503-452-1848 (let it ring, leave message if I can't answer).

**Plant info to Christine at bluestone@gorge.net or call 509-493-3325.



There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities at Gorge Grown Farmers' Market

Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.

Hood River Middle School

May 24 – plant sale and early farmers' market

June 14-October 4 – farmers' market.

Gorge Grown Farmers' Market seeks Master Gardener volunteers to share their knowledge with residents while tabling from 4-7 p.m. during the market, Thursday May 24 and Thursdays June 14-October 4, 2007. Three-hour plant clinic booth shifts during the market season are open to all interested Master Gardeners.

This volunteer opportunity provides a chance to improve disease and pest diagnosis skills, enjoy soothing, market music by local musicians, purchase loads of fresh produce and meet local farmers, and prospect for yourself a market opportunity.

Gorge Grown Farmers' Market presents a great market for Master Gardeners to sell excess fresh produce during the growing season. Interest in buying locally grown food and supporting local farmers is growing. This is a great way to unload excess food to willing buyers. Any produce left at the close of the market can be donated to FISH Food Bank or to Gorge Grown Food Network's initiative to prepare four free, community meals this summer in partnership with Soul Café in Hood River. Four Gorge Grown Sundays will utilize excess local food to prepare community meals free and open to the public the last Sunday of each month June-September.

Sign up to volunteer at the Gorge Grown Farmers' Market plant clinic booth by calling Katie MacKendrick at 541/490-6420 or emailing katie@gorgegrown.com.

Gorge Grown Food Network looks forward to seeing more Master Gardener volunteers involved in the Gorge Grown Farmers' Market this year. This is a great way to fill your volunteer hours and support your community.

Hazardous Waste Recycling

The next Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Day in Hood River County will be held at Hood River Garbage on May 12. Call 541-506-2636 for exact times and locations.

Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, poisons, and many other hazardous materials can be safely disposed of by bringing them to these collection days.

Junior Master Gardener News Chenowith Elementary School Charlotte Link

The Junior Master Gardener class is having a fabulous year. Many of our past students have returned this year to continue learning about gardening. As I write this we are in the middle of our second week of classes. With 39 students applying for the class, I was pleased to report we would be able to offer two classes this year.

The students have enjoyed making pinecone birdfeeders, and packaging compost from the "Gold Mine." The "Chenowith Gold Mine" compost will be sold at The Dalles Chamber of Commerce Farmer's Market on April 20th. The money raised will be used for the annual end of the year party on May 23. Please support the JMG fundraiser and purchase a few bags for your garden.



This year along with the composting class, our JMG will be making worm bins, planting flowers in old shoes for their Mom's for Mother's Day, learning about seeds and planting flowers. A pond maintenance class will also be offered later in May. The pond classes are always a big hit with the kids.

The school has received a grant for purchasing flowering plants for the students to plant around their school, in their containers and in the school's garden. A new arbor will also be added to the school's garden. Each JMG will also receive seed packets to take home and plant.

The JMG program at the Chenowith Elementary School is growing. Without the dedication and support of the Master Gardener volunteers, this program wouldn't be this exciting for our JMG. We all know the power of inspiration and our students as well as our volunteers are inspired. They are excited to come to

class, they are excited to learn and most of all.....they are having fun!

Thanks, again, to everyone.

Hazardous Waste Recycling

Wasco County Master Gardeners helped at Hazardous Waste Recycling days in The Dalles on March 31 and Maupin in April 21. Pat Bozanich, Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator for Wasco County sent the following thank you for help at The Dalles event.

Hi Everyone,

Thanks for helping make the Saturday, March 31, household hazardous waste collection event a great success. We kept 6,270 pounds of hazardous material from entering our landfills and watersheds – more than three tons! We surveyed and shared information about safer alternatives with people in 99 vehicles – that is great outreach. Traffic in the morning was constant, but it slowed down for the final couple hours, I hope those of you on the later shift didn't get too bored.

I couldn't have made all these contacts without you; even without my sprained ankle I would not have been able to keep up with the crowd. Thanks for your help, hope to see you all at another event!

Cheers, Pat



Next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in The Dalles will be held in conjunction with The Dalles Annual Community Cleanup, May 5, 2007, 9 am-3 pm, at The Dalles Armory. For more information on cleanup day, contact The Dalles Disposal.

OMGA News

Happy Spring Everyone!

It's time for the "big" issue of the *Gardener's Pen* featuring Mini-College registration forms. DEADLINE is May 10th. Please forward all materials and photos (especially photos!) of all the plant sales and spring events to me by this date for inclusion in the June issue.

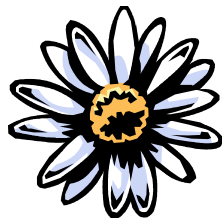
Any questions? Just call me at 503-368-3688 or e-mail is best -- laura@nehalem.tel.net

“Reflections In The Garden” Annual Garden Tour Saturday June 16, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Hood River

Six gardens were chosen for this year’s tour. We will have an opportunity to tour the selected gardens during the pre-tour on **Sunday June 10** from 2 p.m to 5 p.m.

Gardener leaders will be contacting the people who signed up for work in one or more of the gardens. The garden leaders are Christine Bluestone, Cindy Collins, Donna DesRochers, Jennifer Harty, Audrey Schneider, and Sandi Rousseau.

The plant sale at The Learning Garden will be organized by Rita Saling. Volunteers will be needed to help set up tables and price plants the day before the tour.



Pat Morrison is in charge of refreshments. Three dozen cookies or a \$6 donation can be contributed.

Pat Schmuck will write our newspaper articles for The Hood River News and The Dalles Chronicle. April Lee will photograph the gardens for the newspapers. Jennifer Harty will record the garden tour announcements for the radio stations and along with Dede Garcia, Val Tenney and Cheri Austin will have a live discussion about the tour on the local radio stations. Stay Tuned!

Shirley Chrisman is hosting the garden owner appreciation party.

Scott Fitch and Steve Galon are in charge of traffic flow and signage. Contact Glenda if you would like to assist Scott and Steve in placing the signs on tour day.

Elizabeth Daniel is putting together the garden tour map.

The 2007 garden tour committee is chaired by Glenda Ryan. The co-chairs are Jennifer Harty, Audrey Schneider, Margo Dameier and Shirley Chrisman. Co-chair Val Tenney will be leading the 2008 garden tour in The Dalles.

Cards will be sent out with information on the pre-tour. Garden assignments and schedules will be in the upcoming June newsletter. Contact Glenda at 509 493-1407 or at glenda@gorge.net if you would like to volunteer. There is still plenty of time and available space. Remember that this qualifies for payback hours.

Thank you for volunteering your time during the Garden Tour.

Roasted Sweet Potato and Orange Salad

Here’s a colorful salad that can be made with fruits and vegetables that are in season at the grocery store. Perhaps you have some like spinach in your garden too. I increased the proportion of sweet potatoes from the original recipe as people at a potluck said this was the best part of the salad. Be sure to keep things in good-sized chunks.

Salad

- 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, unpeeled and crushed
- 2-3 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into ¾-inch pieces
- 4 oranges, peeled, segmented, and cut into pieces
- 1 red pepper, diced
- ¼ cup toasted nuts (pine nuts, walnuts, pecans)
- 4 ounces baby spinach

Dressing

- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon coarse mustard
- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine rosemary, olive oil, garlic, and sweet potatoes. Spread on a baking sheet and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from oven when sweet potatoes are baked; cool. Discard garlic. Combine with other salad ingredients.

Whisk together dressing ingredients. Drizzle over salad and toss gently. Makes 10 servings.

Chives

Chives, *Allium schoenoprasum*, are the only allium, or onion family member, grown specifically for its edible leaves. Chives are the only herb always referred to in the plural. That’s because they grow in tight clumps, like tufts of grass. For a continuous harvest from one clump, cut up to one-quarter of the clump to an inch above the ground each week. By the time the last part of the clump has been cut, the first part will have grown back. The flowers are also edible, but so strongly flavored, its best to break them into florets and sprinkle them lightly on soups or salads.



Miscellaneous Thoughts on Lawns

Lawns—love them or hate them? Or something in between? The following comments on lawns come from books in the Hood River Master Gardening Clinic Office or available at the public library.

Lawns are for people. No other surface feels so good under bare feet or works as well for a game of croquet or touch football or for children to run and tumble on.

Sunset Lawns and Ground Covers (1981), page 4.

The lawn is the framework for the entire landscape, so it is important to keep in looking nice.

Ed Hume, *Gardening with Ed Hume* (2003), page 171.

Many homeowners are unabashedly proud of being able to grow a handsome lawn. You have seen them in their yards every weekend, carefully mowing, watering, and watching for weeds. As they know, growing a lawn can be a rewarding venture in gardening, even in the early



stages. Lawns are relatively fast growing and give you the pleasure of a new landscape in a matter of weeks. And with proper care, your lawn will last for years.

All About Lawns (1985), page 5.

You make think that lawns are flat or gently sloping areas covered with grass. That's not really true. Most lawns are large black holes down which their owners dump amazing amounts of money, water, chemicals, fertilizers, and time, hoping to make their lawns picture-perfect.

Michael Munro, *Northwest Landscaping* (1992), page 159.

The lawn, rather than the cottage garden, became the national landscape icon for Americans. In a land of wide-open spaces, the lawn is a miniature range or prairie. It makes every house into a model homestead and fulfills the American homeowner's nostalgic yearning for an idealized frontier life.

Andrew Schulman, *The Northwest Cottage Garden* (2004), page. 11.

According to a report from the University of Arkansas, lawn care accounts for more than sixty-one billion dollars worth of business each year in the United States. This same report notes that there are over 5,000,000 acres of lawn in the U.S., both residential and commercial.

Tom Ogren, *What the Experts May Not Tell You About Growing the Perfect Lawn* (2004), pages 4-5.

More than half of the water consumed by a typical single-family residence is used to irrigate the lawn.

John M. O'Keefe, *Water-Conserving Gardens and Landscapes* (1992), page 11.

While people often laugh at the notion of planting weeds on purpose, it is clear to me that many gardeners welcome the idea of ecologically stable lawns that will persist with fewer inputs than pure grass lawns while still providing functional turf.

Tom Cook, "Low Maintenance Turf?" in *Turfgrass Culture in the Pacific Northwest* (2000), page 75.



Newsletter By Mail Or Online?

We use two methods to deliver this newsletter to Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener Association members, OMGA officers, and other MGAs.



1. The traditional method is through the mail. This costs about 50 cents an issue for mailing and paper.
2. Getting an email message that the newsletter has been posted on the Hood River and Wasco County extension websites. This doesn't work for everyone. Not everyone uses computers, some computers and Internet connections are too slow, and some people just like getting the newsletter in the mail.

Currently about half of our newsletters are distributed by each method. About 60% of the CGMGA members, 30% of the WCMGA members, and 100% of OMGA officers get the email message. If you currently get a paper copy and would consider the online method, check out the newsletter at the websites listed on pages 2 and 3. If this works for you, send me an email at rjdavis1@mac.com telling me you are willing to subscribe via email. I'll send you an email each month.

Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

May 2 (Wed.)	10 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension Office. All members welcome.
May 12 (Sat.)	10-3	Spring Fair and Plant Sale, Hood River Extension office. See pages 1 and 4.
May 15 (Tues)	3 pm	Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting. Wasco County Extension Office. All members welcome.
May 21 (Mon.)	8:00 pm	Deadline for the June newsletter.
May 26 (Sat.)	9-1	Hypertufa Planter Class. See page 1 for location and registration info.
June 7 (Thurs.)	9 am	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension Office. All members welcome.
June 10 (Sun.)	2-5 pm	Pre-Tour of Garden Tour for Master Gardeners. See page 6.
June 16 (Sat.)	10-4	Garden Tour “Reflections in the Garden” in Hood River County. See page 6.
August 1-4		Mini-College at OSU. The June OMGA <i>Gardener’s Pen</i> will have class information and registration forms.

