



THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the
Wasco County Master Gardeners™ Association

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring Fair Planning Begins

SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 9

CITY PARK, THE DALLES

PLANT SALE

GARDEN PLOTS

BOOTHS

LECTURES

VENDORS

GARDEN ART

REFRESHMENTS

ENTERTAINMENT



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Cold winds may be blowing and temperatures falling, but a busy committee has visions of spring dancing in their heads. Tasked with planning the spring plant sale, Sheila Tegen, Chair, and Val Tenney, Co-chair, let their imaginations run to a Spring Fair.

Community partners and vendors will be invited to help attract people and spread the word about gardening in Wasco County. Booths will be set up for art, refreshments, demonstrations, entertainment, and lectures, while the traditional plant sale will be broken into areas of special interest and enhanced with active garden plots.



Vegetable and ornamental plant varieties especially selected for our own soil and weather conditions will be started from seed in the greenhouse located at NORCOR by the juvenile residents there.

And please think “Spring Fair” when performing your fall clean-up chores. Pot

up your extra perennials as you divide them, and pop those pesky volunteer seedlings into an over-wintering nursery instead of tossing them on the compost pile.

If you start your own plants from seeds, plant a few of your favorites to share at the sale.

Have a special skill or bit of knowledge you would like to share at this Fair? Want to be part of the planning committee? Contact Sheila or Val. The Fair will be a teaching opportunity as well as fund-raiser. And a lot of fun!

WASCO COUNTY HISTORY BROUGHT TO THE GARDEN

A warehouse full of retired wooden cherry-picking ladders has been donated to Master Gardeners by Sheri Esquivias and her husband Enrique of Gary Curtis Orchards up Mill Creek Road. Once transformed by our own MG woodsmiths into arbors, trellises, bean or tomato supports, planting boxes, benches, or whatever, these recycled artifacts will be offered for sale at the Spring Fair and for as long thereafter as the supply holds. You will want to order your own before the public snatches them up. Contact Bill Marick.

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**Association Meeting:
Monday, Jan 12th,
6pm**

**Mid-Columbia Fire &
Rescue Training
Room
8th & Webber
The Dalles**

Our topic will be "Master Gardener Stories." Share an anecdote from your Master Gardener experiences or just listen to the stories of others.

Here are some story ideas:

Why are you a Master Gardener?

What is the most interesting question you have been asked?

What is the history of a project you have worked on? (Displays welcome)

What is the most unusual or amusing experience you have had as a Master Gardener?

Please invite people to attend who might be interested in becoming Master Gardeners so they can learn more about our experiences in the program.

Please bring a small plate of your favorite finger food.

President, Lee Bryant

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if you don't play together, the team won't be worth a dime!" Babe Ruth

Here we are in the fall of the year; I don't know about you, but I sure don't know where the summer went. The past month we were able to see our new Master Gardeners come forward and be recognized at graduation. Thank you, Ronnie Smith and your helpers, for a wonderful program. If you were unable to attend you missed a great meal and a fun program. At that program we had sign

up sheets for the coming year. Those who are currently signed up are at the bottom of this page.

Lots of things will be going on in the coming year. We have been asked to start a Jr. Master Gardener Program at Colonel Wright School; at this point we had to tell them no. We have yet to find a leader for the Jr. Master Gardener Program at Chenoweth School. That program has been

going for many years and is laid out for the next volunteer through the hard work of Peggy Peterson from last year.

I love the Anonymous quote: "Some people want it to happen, some wish it to happen, and others make it happen."

I am sure there will be Master Gardeners who will step forward and make all of the programs happen for us this year.

Program Volunteers for 2009 (so far)

Spring Fair

Sheila Tegen, Val Tenney, Sheri Esquivias, Bill Marick, Janet Probstfield, Dick Scherzinger, Bobbie Wojtecki, Cheri Austin, Ronnie Smith, Marian Rohde, Lois Nelson

Imagination Garden

Charlotte Link, Marcia Strader, Carolyn Wright

Master Gardener Journal

Emilou Ely, Carol Jones

4th Grade Seeds & Soils

Pam Manning, Sheila Tegen, Lois Nelson, Ronnie Smith, Marcia Strader, Bill Marick

Mentor Program

Janet Probstfield, Sheila Tegen, Ronnie Smith, Charlotte Link, Lee Bryant, Marlene Long

Garden Tour

Sheila Tegen, Cheri Austin, Lee Bryant, Ronnie Smith

Jr. Master Gardeners

Cathy Dowrey, Sheila Tegen

Association Membership

Carolyn Wright, Marcia Strader

Leaders are needed for the Fall Garden Tour, Jr. Master Gardeners, and Annual Picnic. Helpers are needed everywhere. If you don't see your name here but would like to get involved, contact Lee Bryant.

Oregon MG Association, 4th Quarter Meeting, 11/1/08, by Lana Tepfer

Much of this meeting was the wrap up of the 2008 mini-college. There were 335 attendees this year, a huge leap from 2007's 250. I'm convinced the theme "Going Green on our Silver" was a primary reason. The silent auction earned \$6,946.50, a record again. Send-a-Friend received \$1,084.36 in donations, mostly from the successful raffle they held. Book Store commission was \$800 and the leadership forum made \$38.98 in profit, a first. Once all the expenses were dealt with we made a profit of \$6,189.48 on Mini-College 2008.

2009 Mini-College will be August 5-8 with the theme, "From My Backyard," focusing on local food production.

There is a committee working on the possibility of doing 2011 somewhere besides OSU. They will have some concrete planning done for the March 2009 meeting in McMinnville. I reminded them how awful some of the other places we went to were and to remember that it is an older bunch that cannot walk miles between each class session when they are looking at possible sites.

OMGA decided to raise the state dues to \$7 for 2010. Some Chapters will charge for postage on newsletters not going by e-mail.

Lincoln County reports that they had a fall bulb sale that was way more successful than they expected and they will make it an annual affair. Polk County earned 90% of their annual funding by putting

on their Fall Fling.

Yamhill County had started landscaping and horticultural classes for 30 high school kids. This fall they had 80 students signed up and a second high school will be added next year. They received a GENE grant for a greenhouse and irrigation for their community garden.

Central Gorge's Rising Moon ceremony had 120 attendees and raised \$1,100.

Douglas County gets their biggest income from their annual plant sale. They also had a tomato taste-off with 36 varieties.

I tentatively signed us up to host an OMGA meeting in June 2010, if approved by the executive board.

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Just So You Know:

"Garden Highlights," a newsletter published by our very own Marty Miller can be found online at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco>; simply click on "Master Gardeners", then "Monthly Garden Highlights." The print version can also be found at select garden centers and businesses in the Mid-Columbia area.

"Sustainable Living on a Budget" is the title of a free workshop sponsored by Azure Standard, an online bulk and natural food outlet. Dec. 6, 1:30, at the College Auditorium in The Dalles. Money-saving, healthful, and efficient tips on staying green.

The Produce Basket in Dallesport will have winter crops such as lettuce, spinach, arugula, chard, kale, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, beans, and beets. HUBBARD SQUASH, ACORN SQUASH and BUTTERNUT SQUASH are ready now for Thanksgiving. There are still some white cooking pumpkins left also.



The Dirt Sheet

Update on The D.I.G. (The Dalles Imagination Garden) by Marcia Strader

Phase 1 of garden construction was completed on October 11th with the installation of the interlocking block barrier, sponsored by The Dalles Concrete. Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity removed 400 square feet of sod, and Tony Carothers Excavating provided site preparation as well as block installation. Randy Munsen Paving provided gravel. The installation was completed with help from Charlotte Link, Kyle Weston, and Tony Carothers, Jr.

Anne Coddling, a local landscape architect, will be working with Lynn Helyer's and Mark McCavic's construction students at The Dalles Wah-tonka High School to develop the overall garden design. In addition, construction

class students will be involved in the design and construction of our garden shed (s). Also at TDWHS, Penny Wallace of the art department is very excited about the opportunity for her students to design and install the mosaic tile artwork for the riverside portion of the interlocking block barrier. She will be working with Sonja Little of The Dalles Middle School to create a design incorporating our area's past, present, and future for a showcase mural. If you have any tile pieces you would like to donate for the mosaic, please contact Charlotte.

The garden team to discuss goals and upcoming events. The next meeting is Dec. 8th at 1pm in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to at-

tend. We also have developed the first draft of a brochure discussing the garden. A newspaper article about The DIG will be published in late January or early February. May 16th, 2009, is the official celebration day of Oregon's 150th birthday as a state. The DIG will be featured in Oregon's celebration with an event hosted at the garden on May 16th.

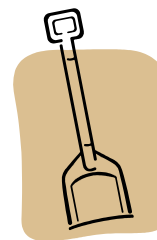
Charlotte and Marcia met with Scott Fitch of the MCMGA to discuss the composting demonstration area. Scott has taken the Master Composter training and will be a great resource.

Red's Trading Post has donated some historic farm implements that will become decorative accents for the top of the

Interlocking block barrier.

If you have not recently visited The DIG site, please go down there and see how great the blocks look! The location is in the Port District, at the intersection of Klindt Drive and Steelhead Way, near Ever Summer Gardens' hydroponic greenhouse and Randy Munsen Paving.

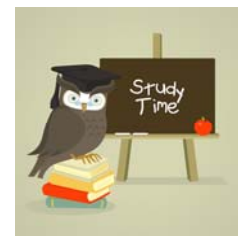
For further information, please contact Charlotte Link at terralink@gorge.net or at 541-296-5045.



Window Designers Needed

Lana Tepfer is seeking the help of someone who is creative to do our annual MG display in the window at the library in The Dalles to advertise our program and let people know about the classes and how to sign up. The display needs to be

in place on January 2 and taken down the last day of the month that the library is open. Contact Lana at mystrawberry@embarqmail.com or days: (541) 296-1233 or nights until 11 p.m. at (541) 296-9657.



South County News, from Anna Nolen

The long cold spring threatened a scant harvest, but we have enjoyed a great bounty throughout this lingering and lovely fall. The loon's enchanting calls can be heard on the lake from under early morning fog turned pink by the sunrise, and choruses of great horned owls fill our nights. It is always thrilling to watch the trumpeter swans return to the lake for their brief visits.

People are beginning to know that we have a Master Gardener Plant Clinic here in Maupin. Laretta, Emilou, Corrine, Lee, Jack and I worked the summer Clinic, and took it to the County Fair, too. Roxy and Gary, with some help from Jack and me, did the MG Fair booth, and this busy group helped with Fair registration, as well. Laretta and Lois gave presentations on

garlic and horseradish, and Emilou won the "Most Blooms on a Sunflower" contest. Jack and I again won "King and Queen of the Flowers." We enjoy the distinction but it would be nice to see more competition at the Fair from MG's in The Dalles. This last week, MG's and others gathered at our house to make wreaths and swags for the holiday season.

SEEDING TIP

Mix about 20% radish seeds in with 80% carrot seeds. Radishes are quick to pop out of the ground and mark where the slow-growing carrots are hiding. You can have the radishes out of the ground before the carrots need the space.

From the Editor: Winter's Long Night, by Val Tenney

My father came from Russia when he was seven. He loved to tell his own children the stories told to him of that frozen country. One of my favorites was about the hibernating peasants of northwestern Russia who simply slept through the winter, curled around their central stove where a large pot of soup sim-

mered. When a family member periodically rose from slumber, he put another log in the fire and dropped another cabbage into the pot.

As winter nears, I always think about those families, sleepers in partial hibernation who never worried about busted pipes, salt melt, snow shovels or tire chains.

Before the hard freeze comes, I still have to drain and store the hoses, take the end caps off all the drip irrigation lines, and crawl under the house to turn off the outdoor water.

The older I get, the more I think sleeping the winter away is a good idea. But I would get real tired of cabbage soup.

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Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

Val Tenney, editor
valya@gorge.net
541-993-0721

Officers

President — Lee Bryant
President-Elect — Val Tenney
Secretary — Sheila Tegen
Treasurer — Cheri Austin
Historian — Ronnie Smith
OMGA Rep — Lana Tepfer
Alternate OMGA Rep —
Lauretta Piatt

OSU Extension Staff

Lynn Long

Calendar - 2008 into 2009

Nov 28 Friday	6:00 pm Downtown	Starlight Parade
Dec 5 Friday	The Civic Auditorium	Festival of Trees
Dec 6 Saturday	1:30 - 3:30 CGC College TD Auditorium	Sustainable Living Workshop Free, sponsored by Azure Standard
Dec 15 Monday	2:00 Ext Off. Mtg Rm	Exec Board Meeting All MG's welcome to attend
Jan 7 Wednesday	6:00 pm Hood River	Central Gorge MG Training Classes begin
Jan 13 Tuesday	6:00 pm TD Fire Station	Wasco County MG Assn 4th Quarter Meeting
Feb 11 Wednesday	9:00 am St. Paul Church	Wasco County MG Training Classes begin

Find Us Online

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/mastergardeners/newsletters/MGNewsletters-OSUWascoCoExtService.php>



Oregon State University Extension Service
Master Gardener™ Program
400 E. Scenic Drive, Ste. 2.278
The Dalles, OR 97058