

GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 11

October 2007



Central Gorge Master Gardeners
Invite you to attend the official groundbreaking
for the

Japanese Heritage Garden

October 4th, 2007
1:30 p.m.

OSU Extension Service Office
2990 Experiment Station Drive
Hood River

Reception to follow

Graduation Ceremonies

The gardening year is coming to an end and so are the year's Association activities. It is time to celebrate the work of all Master Gardeners. Each Association is planning an evening of food, fun, and recognition.

Wasco County MGA
October 23, 6:00 pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Potluck Supper and Graduation Ceremony.

Central Gorge MGA
October 24, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Valley Christian Church
Social Hour, Potluck, Brief Association Meeting, and Graduation Ceremony

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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

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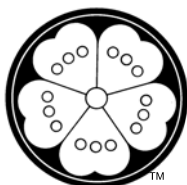
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Our Mission

- 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

Suddenly it seems like fall has arrived. Cool nights and chilly mornings are a welcome change from the heat, but I hate to see summer coming to an end. With the arrival of fall comes a number of activities for the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association.

The first event this fall is the groundbreaking for the Japanese Heritage Garden. It will be held Thursday, October the 4th at 1:30 PM. Plans are well underway as I write the column and it should be an enjoyable afternoon for all. Everyone is invited to attend.

Next on the agenda is the quarterly Association meeting and Graduation. This will be held at Valley Christian Church on October 24th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Kathy McGregor, our President Elect, and Elizabeth are planning the graduation activities.

OMGA's quarterly meeting is Saturday, November 10th and will be held in Hood River. The Valley Christian Church has been reserved. Central Gorge chapter is excited to be able to host this meeting. Wasco County Master Gardeners will be providing the morning snacks and the Central Gorge Master Gardeners will be preparing the lunch. We're planning a Mexican menu for lunch. Everyone is invited to attend the OMGA meeting.

Last but not least, we should remember that fall is also a great time to think about dividing your perennials and potting the plants for next year's plant sales. It is never too early to get started!

Have a great month.



August Hardy Gardeners Workshop Successful By Pat Schmuck

"Words aren't adequate to express the wonderful weekend...It was a truly memorable couple of days. I came away with a new appreciation for the Hood River region and the fantastic, entrepreneurial people who make it great."

Megan Stenberg from Cornelius, OR

Those remarks nicely summarized our two days exploring FOOD, FLOWERS, FRUIT AND FUN. Fantastic food with lunch at the Gorge White House, dinner at Barbara and Bob Bailey's Orchard View Farms, brunch at Pat and Dick Schmuck's home. Flowers at all the gardens including Linda Floyd's beautiful home and bed and breakfast. Fruit (are mushrooms a fruit?) at the marvelous Hood River Organic where we learned about mushrooms and visited their Riverside Farms. And fun all the time including learning about the feisty ladies who started the Hood River County Library in 1913 (ask about that story!).

And we even made some money to contribute to Central Gorge Master Gardeners. Thanks to many Central Gorge Master Gardeners who contributed their time and cookery skills.

Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

Greetings from Sandlin Road.

Looking out the window and drinking my morning coffee, I see signs that fall is upon us. The mornings are definitely cooler. I am also looking at several new challenges I am facing since moving into a new home. Here are a few in no particular order:

1. Designing a new landscape
2. Deer
3. Very bad soil (sand is better)
4. Deer
5. Snow (yuk)
6. Deer
7. Water (Its hard to believe but even a well driller's wife has water issues)
8. Deer
9. Shorter and later garden season
10. Deer
11. Handicap accessibility
12. Deer
13. Poison Oak
14. Deer
15. Scrub Oak
16. Deer



As you can see I have a problem. These seemingly cute creatures are everywhere. They even come to the front door. My 3 month old kitten doesn't care for them much either. Every time he sees them at the sliding doors, he is ready to fight. I know what is at the top of all my lists!

If you were unable to attend the quarterly association meeting a change to the By-laws regarding the annual budget was discussed. Currently the bylaws read:

Article VII - Section 1

An annual budget proposal reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee, will be presented for comments, revisions and approval at the **Fall** WCMGA meeting.

The change would read: An annual budget proposal reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee, will be presented for comments, revisions and approval at the **Winter** WCMGA meeting.

This change would bring our bylaws more inline with OMGA. A vote will be held at graduation on Oct. 23. Bylaws are printed in the Survival Guide pages 15 - 20.

The officers for 2008 were also announced as follows:

President: Etta Myers
President-elect: Lee Bryant
Secretary: Ronnie Smith
Treasurer: Cheri Austin
Historian: Sheila Tegan
OMGA Representative: Val Tenney
Alternative OMGA Rep.: Lana Tepfer

(Column continued on page 4)

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

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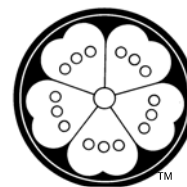
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

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.



Cheri Austin's Column (Continued from page 3)

Congratulations to all and thank you to the nominating committee.

A reminder: your final time sheet is due by September 30th. Please get them in ASAP. If you want to send them by mail:

OSU Wasco Co. Master Gardeners
400 East Scenic Dr. Suite 2.278
The Dalles, OR 97058
ATTN: Cheri Austin

Or fax them to 541-298-3574

Have a great month.

Bakers Needed for OMGA Meeting By Lana Tepfer

On Nov. 10th Central Gorge Chapter (Hood River) will be hosting the OMGA quarterly meeting for the day. As many state reps and officers travel from afar on the meeting day, Wasco County MG's will be providing morning snacks for the gathering time before the meeting. We are in need of homemade cinnamon rolls, coffee cakes, muffins and sweet breads to serve. Please call or e-mail Lee Bryant if you can provide a morning snack. There will likely be 40 to 60 people at this meeting; so we will need several. Someone will pick them up, as they need to be in Hood River by 9:30 on the day of the meeting.

These meetings are open to all OMGA members (that means you!). Take advantage of the close proximity of this meeting and plan to attend. The meeting is at the Valley Christian Church in Hood River. It starts at 10:30 sharp and will last until approximately 3 p.m. (You do not need to stay for the entire meeting.) Chapter reports are the first thing in the morning and they are very interesting. Come and hear what other MG groups are doing and meet our new statewide MG coordinator, Gail Langelotto.

Plant Clinic Experiences at Local Events By Lois Nelson

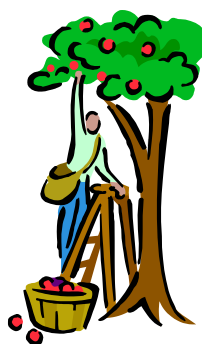
The 15th Annual Barlow Trail Rendezvous Days were held on Labor Day Weekend in Wamic, OR. The event included a parade on Saturday morning, breakfast at the Grange Hall put on by the Pine Hollow Fire Department, a Saturday night dinner at the American Legion, two quilt shows, a Walk/Run, and a Box Dinner by the ladies of the Grange which was followed by entertainment by the Blacksmith and Mountain Men, and an old fashioned horse and carriage ride through the town of Wamic.

There were also vendors located in the covered basketball court and that's where Master Gardener Lauretta Piatt ran the Master Gardener's Plant Clinic. Master Gardeners Emilou Eli and Eva Piatt accompanied her. Lois Nelson was a "floater" as she was also Co-Chairman of the Barlow Trail Rendezvous Days. This Plant Clinic ran from 11:00AM to 3:00PM on Saturday and 10:00AM to 2:00PM on Sunday and was well received by the public.

On September 15th we were set up at the Riverfest in Maupin, OR, which is also an annual celebration. We shared a booth with the Maupin Dig & Hoe Garden Club that was selling their cookbooks, which were hot off the press, so to speak. This was the first event where the books were sold.

The night before, when I was closing up my greenhouse, I saw a large Common Black Ground Beetle on the floor. He looked like a great specimen to take to the Plant Clinic at the Riverfest. Master Gardeners Lauretta Piatt, Carol Jones and Lois Nelson explained to the people looking in the big jar holding this large beetle that he is a beneficial and eats the bad bugs—so please don't harm him. Lauretta named him "George" and he became the star of our plant clinic. He was released back into the garden when I returned home with him.

I am a new Master Gardener and have enjoyed all of the Plant Clinics that I have participated in.



"The old saying is, 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away.' But it's becoming increasingly apparent that growing the apple tree or even just looking at it occasionally can accomplish much the same thing. Few things so clearly aid both physical well-being.

Just walking through a garden can reduce blood pressure. If you pick up and use a shovel or hoe, you gain strength benefits. If you use those tools with some enthusiasm or determination, you also get aerobic benefits similar to those in jogging or working out with exercise equipment."

Richard Mattson, professor of horticulture and coordinator of the horticulture therapy program, Kansas State University

Jimsonweed Alert

By Candy Armstrong, Master Gardener & Superintendent, North Wasco County School District

North Wasco County School District is working with law enforcement to get out the word about the harmful effects of Jimsonweed. We have had two recent incidents of young people using Jimsonweed as a drug. One had to be hospitalized and was in ICU for a couple of days.

It is my understanding that people have crushed the leaves and/or the seeds and brewed this weed as a tea. We are concerned that some young people may be "pushing" this as a drug.

The information I have on Jimsonweed includes:

"Jimsonweed is a member of the Datura genus of plants. The effects of all species of Datura are similar when ingested. Small doses drain energy and make the user feel tired. Larger doses cause hallucinations. Symptoms of Jimsonweed consumption can include intense thirst, headaches, nausea, fever, high blood pressure, dry mucous membranes, difficulty swallowing and speaking, blurred vision, sensitivity to light, hyperthermia (heatstroke), confusion, agitation, combative behavior, and hallucinations. These effects can occur within 30 to 60 minutes after ingestion. Symptoms can continue for 24 to 48 hours because the alkaloids present in Jimsonweed slow the digestive process. Even prolonged breathing of the fragrance from Jimsonweed flowers can produce mild symptoms, and less than 5 grams of leaves or seeds eaten by a child will usually be fatal. There is no antidote for Jimsonweed poisoning. Treatment normally includes pumping the patient's stomach and administering activated charcoal to absorb contaminants."

We are trying to get the word out on how harmful this



common weed is. Recently our County Weed Control office located and removed a patch of Jimsonweed. One worker had an allergic reaction to the weed because there was a space between his gloves and shirtsleeve where the plant came into contact with his skin. So if you try to pull or destroy a patch, you need to wear protective clothing.

Thanks for your help in getting the message out.

Oregon Agricultural Quiz

Answers to the quiz in the September newsletter

All answers are from a flyer called *Oregon Agriculture: Facts and Figures* that is produced annually by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The latest version is from June 2007 and reflects data from 2006. Some of the answers will vary from year to year, as production and prices of various commodities go up and down.



1. Oregon is the #1 or #2 producer of more than 20 agricultural commodities? What are they?

Oregon has a diverse agricultural sectors that is reflected in the answers to this question. The picture of the barn and silo as icons of agriculture was deliberately misleading. (In case you are wondering, I don't know why seafood is included.)

In 2006 Oregon was #1 in the production of blackberries, hazelnuts, loganberries, black raspberries, ryegrass seed, orchardgrass seed, sugarbeets for seed, crimson clover, fescue seed, red clover seed, prunes and plums, Dungeness crab, potted florist azaleas, Christmas trees, and herbs dried. Oregon was #2 in the production of boysen and youngberries, peppermint, sweet cherries, hops, processing snap beans, spearmint, and red raspberries.

2. What are the top five agricultural counties measured by gross farm and ranch sales?

Marion County was #1 and had \$585,255,000 in sales in 2006. Next were Clackamas (\$394,556,000), Washington (\$321,692,000), Umatilla (\$289,434,000), and Linn counties (\$282,043,00).

3. Do Wasco and Hood River counties rank in the top, middle, or bottom third of Oregon counties in terms of gross farm and ranch sales?

Middle – Wasco County was 18th out of 36 with \$66,097,000 in sales. Hood River was 21st with \$57,701,000.

4. What were the top three Oregon agricultural commodities in 2006 (based on value sold)?

First – Greenhouse and nursery production - \$932,484,000

Second – Cattle and calves - \$489,998,000

Third – Grass seed, all - \$481,572,000

The rest in the top 10, in order, were hay, milk, wheat, potatoes, Christmas trees, onions, and pears.

Calendar of Master Gardener Events and Activities

Oct. 4 (Thur)	1:30 pm	Groundbreaking for the Japanese Heritage Garden at the Learning Garden. See page 1. (Note change in time from what was announced in September newsletter.)
Oct. 10 (Wed)	3:45 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension Office. All welcome.
Oct. 22 (Mon)	8 pm	Deadline for the October newsletter.
Oct. 23 (Tue)	6 pm	Wasco County MGA Graduation. St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Potluck supper.
Oct. 24 (Wed)	5 pm	Central Gorge MGA Quarterly Meeting and Graduation. Valley Christian Church. Potluck supper.
Oct. 29 (Mon)	8 pm	Deadline for the November newsletter.
Nov. 10 (Sat)	10:30 am	OMGA meeting in Hood River hosted by CGMGA. Valley Christian Church. All Master Gardeners welcome and encouraged to attend.
Nov. 14 (Wed)	3:45 pm	Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting. Hood River Extension Office. All welcome.

