



# THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the  
Wasco County Master Gardeners™ Association

Volume I, Issue I

## Welcome to our very first, our very own, Wasco County Newsletter!

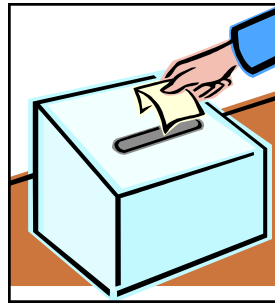
Thank you, everyone who  
submitted title suggestions.

**Lana Tepfer** wins a cool  
tote bag for her winning  
entry **THE DIRT SHEET**



## Wasco County Association Officers for 2008-2009

Proving that Master Gardeners  
are an unusually agreeable bunch  
of people, elections were success-  
fully held at the fall meeting of the  
WCMG Association... without any  
campaigning, debates, yard signs,  
or allegations of voter fraud! The  
following will serve as officers  
throughout 2009.



### OMGA REPRESENTATIVE

**Lana Tepfer**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 1988

### PRESIDENT

**Lee Bryant**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 2003

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Val Tenney**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 1998

### ALTERNATE OMGA REP.

**Lauretta Piatt**  
Of Maupin  
MG since 2006

### TREASURER

**Cheri Austin**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 1994

### SECRETARY

**Sheila Tegen**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 2007

### HISTORIAN

**Ronnie Smith**  
Of The Dalles  
MG since 2004

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OFFICER REMARKS	2
POLK FALL FLING	3
FESTIVAL OF TREES	3
D.I.G. UPDATE	4
MESSAGES	5
PUMPKIN PIE CAKE	5
CALENDAR	6

## Fall Association Meeting Program: "Food Preservation for the New Kitchen"

So... you've been pickling, canning and making jellies since you were a kid, right?  
Think you know how to preserve food? Think again!

Sandy Sargeant presented an informative program on food preservation at the Fall Association meeting held at the home of Pam Manning. Many of us were surprised at the new safety guidelines. Vinegar isn't as acidic as it used to be, tomatoes aren't as tart, paraffin is no longer an accepted sealant for jams and jelly jars, and the pressure cooker is frequently advised for final processing rather than a simple boiling water bath. Look on-line at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fcd/foodsafety/foodpres.php> or in the new book, *BALL Complete Book of Home Preserving*.

# The Dirt Sheet

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## January Association

### Meeting:

- ✓ We will invite the public to this event to give them a preview of what Master Gardeners are all about
- ✓ Be thinking about the concept of "Victory Gardens."
- ✓ Do you remember your parents or grandparents discussing the Victory Gardens they were encouraged to plant during World War II?
- ✓ How those gardens stretched their grocery dollar (and ration tickets) while they were raising families during hard times?
- ✓ Master Gardeners would like to be able to advise homeowners on the development of veggie patches to improve nutrition, save a dollar or two, and enjoy working their soil.
- ✓ Think about it: be ready to share your memories and ideas.

## President, Lee Bryant

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be your president for the upcoming year; additionally I would like to thank Etta Meyers for serving as president this past year.

This will be the first year that we will have our own newsletter, so I hope that everyone will contribute at times through the year. I look forward to several exciting projects in the

coming year, which we will share in future issues.

With each newsletter I plan on sharing either a garden tip, or a cooking tip. As many of you know cooking and gardening are great passions of mine.

I found a great quote on the Internet in a garden newsletter from back East. Yogi Berra said, "Baseball is 90 percent mental, the other half is

physical."

Like baseball, we as Master Gardeners are now in the mental part, sharpening our knowledge by attending classes. Don't forget to prepare for the physical half by exercising and keeping our bodies strong to avoid injury when we do begin gardening in the spring.

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## Past-President, Etta Myers

Another gardening season is winding down. Time to clean up the garden, rake the leaves, and wrap things up for another year. It is also time for graduation and I hope to see everyone there.

Bring your favorite potluck dish and be ready for some fun on October 21st at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. It is always a great occasion as all Wasco County Master Gardeners are recognized for their achievements.

I would also like to share with you what a great experience it was to attend the Polk County Master Gardeners Fall Fling in Dallas in September.

It is a one-day event and this year featured speakers covering edible gardens, birds and pollinators.

Every presentation was excellent and offered new ideas on earth-friendly gardening.

Unfortunately, Polk County is facing a funding crisis and the future of their program is uncertain at this time.

If they are able to offer it again next year, I would encourage anyone who can to attend.

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## Polk County Fall Fling, by Lana Tepfer

If you've always wanted to go to mini-college but just can't spare the time for 3 or 4 days away from home I can certainly recommend the Polk County Master Gardeners Fall Fling.

Recently Etta, Cheri and I attended the 6th annual seminar in Dallas. An all day affair, it included snacks and lunch, three wonderful classes and an optional seminar at the end of the day. The cost was only \$25 and an extra \$10 for the optional seminars. A far cry from the \$200 you would need for mini-college.

The first class was called Birds from the Inside Out by Dan Gleason, a retired U of O professor, which covered most birds we would encounter in Oregon and some information about each.

After a break we were treated to a talk and presentation by Rosalind Creasy who wrote the (again) timely book Edible Landscapes 20 years ago. This book is now being re-written because of renewed interest. She lives in Los Altos, CA, south of Palo Alto, so imagine the neighbor's surprise when she tilled up her front lawn and planted a vegetable garden there! She now does edible theme gardens and usually rips the entire thing out every 6 months and re-plants. A sideline of this process is a whole new income stream as a garden photographer.

After lunch Matthew Shepherd of the Zerces Society spoke about all types of bees and how to attract them to your garden.

In addition to the classes, OSU had sent their traveling garden bookstore like we have at mini-college. There were also several vendors, garden artists and plant sellers. Polk County had some displays as well.

My optional workshop was how to make a cold frame from PVC pipe and fittings. We actually made a small cold frame to take home. Mine will shelter a stray cat in my backyard for the winter.

Please think about attending mini-college next August or the Fall Fling in September to add to your MG education and keep you up to the minute on gardening.

*"... so imagine the neighbor's surprise when she tilled up her front lawn and planted a vegetable garden!"*

## Volunteers Needed for MG entry into Festival of Trees

Ready and eager to jump into the holiday season?

The Christmas tree that Master Gardeners entered into last year's festival, decorated by Lee Bryant and Cheri Austin, brought several hundred dollars in auction, money donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Besides the obvious benefit to some local family, this is a nice way to get our organization's name in front of a pub-

lic who may not otherwise be aware of the work Master Gardeners do in the community.

Wasco County MG Association has no funds set aside in this year's budget to purchase decorations, but a tree is available if volunteers will step forward to gather ornaments and decorate an entry.

Tree decorating will take place in the Civic Auditorium, December 3, with the show

opening on December 5.

Call President Lee Bryant at 541-296-2964 if you have decorations to donate or if you are otherwise interested in working on this important project.



Festival of Trees  
December 5, 2008

# The Dirt Sheet

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

The Imagination Garden Project is a partnership between the Wasco County Master Gardener Association, North Wasco county School District 21, and the Wasco County OSU Extension offices of Horticulture, 4-H Youth Development, and Family / Community Development. The garden will be developed in phases on land adjacent to The Dalles campus of Google, Inc.

In August, Charlotte Link and Marcia Strader met with Chuck Ashley of The Dalles Concrete. Mr. Ashley graciously offered to sponsor the entire interlocking block barrier along the Riverfront Trail. The Dalles Concrete will be producing the blocks and delivering them to the site. Each of the approximately 40 blocks required weighs approximately 4,000 pounds, and they will be stacked to a height of 48 inches. Later in August, Charlotte and Marcia met with Randy Munsen Paving at the site. Mr. Munsen offered to provide the site preparation and the installation of the interlocking block barriers. He will provide a crew to remove

grass, level the installation area, supply aggregate rock for stabilization, and install the blocks.

On Sept. 10, Charlotte, Chuck Ashley of The Dalles Concrete, Etta Myers, and Lee Bryant met with our new contacts at Google to review the project and a timeline. Google provided lunch inside the complex and Charlotte presented the project display board to our contacts and many interested Google staff. After lunch, the group toured the site and reviewed Phase One construction plans. Our Google contacts will be pursuing several action items that are necessary before construction can begin.

Later that week, Charlotte met with Meredith Meskin of Ever Summer Gardens, LLC, owner of the hydroponic basil greenhouse next door to the Imagination Garden. Ms. Meskin has granted us permission to use the empty lot between her greenhouse and our site for construction staging and future parking. Charlotte also met with Kyle Weston, a metal art

sculptor. He will be designing and fabricating the Riverfront Trail access gate into the garden. He would like to sponsor the gate as his community service to the garden.

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte met with Cindy Brown from the Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program and Erwin Swetnam from The Dalles Disposal. Cindy's program would like to be an official sponsor/ community partner for the Imagination Garden. They would like to provide components of the composting demonstration area, including tumblers, worm bins, and signage. DEQ requires that the Tri-County Waste Reduction / Recycling Program provide a composting demonstration site as well as making compost bins available to residents. Our partnership will provide education to all who visit the garden.

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte gave a presentation on the garden to the VISTA 19 Girl Scout leaders. The Girl Scouts will be holding a contest to design the garden logo. They will also be involved in construction of the raised beds and the

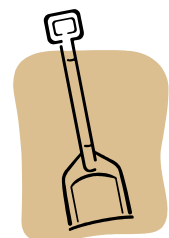
mosaic tile mural on the Riverfront Trail side of the interlocking block barrier.

Charlotte has also secured the sponsorship of the entire drip irrigation system and its installation for all the raised beds to be developed in the garden.

We are very excited about all the community partners that have embraced the Imagination Garden concept. We hope to have many more sponsors and community partners soon. The Imagination Garden still need several components, including a tool shed, pergola, potting shed, pathway materials, benches, water features, wheelbarrows, shovels, seeds, soil, raised bed construction materials, and many other items.

Most importantly, this project needs your support.

To volunteer for this important project, please contact Charlotte Link at [terralink@gorge.net](mailto:terralink@gorge.net) or at 541-296-5045.



## Thank You, Mentors by Janet Probstfield

Dear Mentors,

I appreciate the time and effort you have all put forth to be Mentors this year.

Graduation is a time for mentors to be proud of their accomplishment of mentoring a new trainee through their first year in our Master Gardener Program.

Your final goal is reached as our new trainees complete their year by attending our graduation, receiving their certificate and badge, and becoming certified Master Gardeners!

Thank you for being a part of our committee.

Janet Probstfield,  
Mentor Chairperson



## Pumpkin Pie Cake

Back in the days when I was a working mother, I didn't have time to make pastry as often as my family wanted pumpkin pie.

I got this recipe from an equally busy co-worker.

Try this fast and tasty alternative to pumpkin pie.

Mix together until smooth:

4 eggs, lightly beaten  
Large can of pumpkin  
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 can evaporated milk  
1 cup brown sugar

Pour into greased 9" by 13" pan. Sprinkle one box of dry yellow cake mix over pumpkin batter. Drizzle two sticks of melted butter evenly across top. Sprinkle with one cup chopped almonds.

Bake one and one-quarter to one and one-half hours at 350°



## From the Editor: New Beginnings, by Val Tenney

Just over two years ago, my husband and I left our large house and its well-developed yard to move into a small home in a retirement community. Some of my favorite roses and perennials came with me, but mostly we started fresh, a tiny plot on thin soil.

Starting over again. Lay in the soil amendments, build a new strawberry bed, plant an apri-

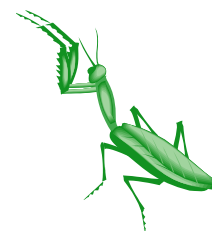
cot tree. It's hard work and everything takes time to establish. Once in awhile, I've felt sorry for myself.

Today as I took a break from this newsletter, I went to clip a rose from a recently-installed arbor and found a praying mantis egg-sack tucked behind a leaf. !!! Our new garden has been consecrated; I'm home.

My German grandmother arrived on Ellis Island nearly 100 years ago. I have a dresser scarf she embroidered. In German it says, "All change is hard."

New gardens, new newsletters, new egg sites; emigrating half-way around the world.

Sometimes it helps to take the longer look.



## The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County  
Master Gardener™ Association

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### 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 - Fourth Quarter 2008

Oct 21 Tuesday	6:00 pm St. Paul's	Graduation and Recognition Night Bring a potluck dish and your best friend
Nov 1	St. Helens	OMGA 4th Quarter meeting
Nov 4	America	Vote!
Nov 11 Tuesday	11:00 am Downtown	Veterans' Day Parade
Nov. 17 Monday	valya@gorge.net	Deadline, newsletter submissions
Nov. 18 Tuesday	2:00 pm Ext. Office	Executive Board Meeting Members welcome at all Board meetings
Nov 28 Friday	6:00 pm Downtown	Starlight Parade
Dec 5 Friday	The Civic Auditorium	Festival of Trees

### Find Us Online

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



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