

# GARDENING, OUR COMMON GROUND

Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardener™ Associations

Volume 9, Issue 10

September 2007

## September-Early October Master Gardener Events

### Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting

September 26, 6:00 pm

Northern Wasco County PUD , 2345 River Rd., The Dalles

The program will be presented by Vicki Stone, owner of the West Second Street Garden Center in The Dalles. She will discuss fall perennial plantings. She will also give us an overview of what she learned at the August 2007 Farwest Show (the nursery and greenhouse industry trade show produced by the Oregon Association of Nurseries).

The association meeting agenda includes the annual budget (discussion and vote), official announcement of the 2008 association officers, and a discussion of classes and speakers for our 2008 training schedule. All are welcome, so please plan to attend! Coffee, tea, and water will be provided; please bring a plate of your favorite finger food.

### Groundbreaking for Japanese Heritage Garden

October 4th, 1:00 p.m.

The Learning Garden at the Hood River Extension Office Grounds

Mark it on your calendar, folks. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Japanese Heritage Garden is October 4. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend. It's a chance to show off the Learning Garden to the community and just schmooze, without having to answer garden questions. We will need a little help with set-up/cleanup, refreshments and table decor. If you can contribute cookies or beauty or elbow grease, please contact Rita Saling at 509-427-8754 or [rsaling@saw.net](mailto:rsaling@saw.net).

The next step will be removing plants from the site. We will plan a work party later in October or early November. We want to let the plants go dormant to increase chances of survival due to transplant shock.

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## Officers

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McGregor  
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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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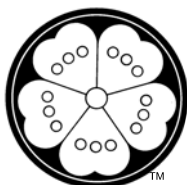
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online in the Master Gardener  
section at:

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

or  
[http://  
extension.oregonstate.edu/  
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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

It is hard to believe that I am writing for the September newsletter. Where has the summer gone? For me, having no garden except for a cherry tomato and a few flowers in pots, it hasn't been a very busy gardening summer. Next summer should be different as we should be in our new old house and the blank slate yard and garden will be beckoning. We're lucky to have four grand old oak trees, a beautiful Japanese maple, and five lovely hydrangeas that have survived the chaos of building.

I'm increasingly intrigued with the hydrangeas, have purchased books about them and plan to plant more next year. I was lucky to attend Mini-College this year and one home on their garden tour had an incredibly beautiful white hydrangea. I think it was a showstopper for everyone there. I believe the homeowner said it was *H. paniculata* "Grandiflora". I'll have to try to find that one.



Not only was the hydrangea spectacular on the Mini-College garden tour, all three gardens featured were beautiful. It was a very nice evening and walking from one garden to the next with the other MGs from Central Gorge was lots of fun. I can only hope that my garden will someday be a half as nice as those we visited. Mini-College itself was such a great experience and truly added to the enjoyment of my summer. I hope everyone can attend at least once.

Have a great rest of the summer and enjoy all your garden goodies!

## Highlights CGMGA Executive Committee Meeting Audrey Schneider, Secretary

1. Total assets as of August 7, 2007, were \$14,081.64.
2. The agenda included no new business for this meeting. Sandi Rousseau suggested we look into getting fleece shirts or jackets with the MG logo that members could enjoy wearing to meetings. Watch for more on this.
3. Old business was discussion of ongoing arrangements for the November 10<sup>th</sup> OMGA meeting that will be held in Hood River at the Hood River Valley Christian Church. Volunteers will be needed for various tasks. CGMGA members are invited to attend the luncheon.
4. Much of the meeting time was devoted to reports. Topics included OMGA, especially Mini College, the Hardy Gardener Workshop held August 25-26, Learning Garden, Care Center, Library, Plant Clinics and Markets. Most new information related to reports was from Mini College. Elizabeth said several ideas were discussed in a meeting of MG agents and program assistants. She says we will be hearing about concepts related to increasing community involvement, alternative models for delivering and marketing MG classes, a modification of our mentoring approach, possible alternatives to doing plant clinics for payback hours, and more. Stay tuned.
5. Under Announcements, Elizabeth noted appreciation for the efforts of Dede Garcia, Jordan Kim, Renee Renninger, and her husband Jim Deaton in helping her put together another great County Fair Exhibit. She requested we inform her of community members who should receive recognition of their efforts to benefit our association.

## Thoughts From Your President Cheri Austin

Several activities during the month of August have kept Wasco County Master Gardeners busy. First was Mini-College. Seven Master Gardeners enjoyed 3 full days of classes, garden tours and lots of food. Two classes that I really enjoyed were soils survey and seed saving techniques. I have now learned how to store my extra seeds for better results. Our chapter had a display booth and took second place. The theme of Mini-College was "Growing the Future", so our focus was on Junior Master Gardeners. Lee Bryant, Charlotte Link and Denise Ingebo were the coordinators. Congratulations Ladies!

The annual picnic was the following week. This year we returned to the Rorick House to enjoy the changes in the gardens and lots of good food and great company. Our Master Gardener of the Year was announced. This year the honor goes to Lee Bryant. Thank you Lee for your hard work.

The Wasco County Fair was our latest activity this month. The community booth was created by our south county Master Gardeners with Gary and Roxy Templin as coordinators. Once again our booth took Grand Champion honors. Thank you to all involved for your hard work.

As the garden season winds down remember there are still things happening. Plant clinics are busy and callbacks need to be done. The community garden project is beginning, and Charlotte Link needs more committee workers. Call her if this is something that would be of interest. Your payback time sheets are due Sept. 30th. If you need hours, plant clinic spots are available. Call me if you would like to sign up. Callbacks can also be done on your own time, if this would work better for you.

Our quarterly association meeting is September 26. Please plan to attend. We will be voting on next years budget. (See page 1)

Finally, my email address has changed. This switch was a mandate by Embarq. My new address is [ladybug98617@embarkmail.com](mailto:ladybug98617@embarkmail.com). I am sorry for the confusion.

Have a great month.

## Highlights of WCMGA Executive Board Meeting Ronnie Smith, Secretary

1. Next meeting is set for September 18th, at 3:00pm. All are welcome.
2. Bank balance: checking = \$221.73, MM = \$2,783.18. No outstanding bills.
3. Picnic report: would have liked more people there, but all that went had a good time. Rorick House worked out very well as the picnic site.
4. Nominating Committee reported ballots were ready to mail.
5. Fair Committee: The booth that Gary and Roxy created won 1st prize! They came home with a ribbon and an award check for \$75.00. Congratulations!
6. Mini-College report: Among other items of interest, our display table won 2nd place. Another Congratulations! Everyone had a great time.

**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

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

or

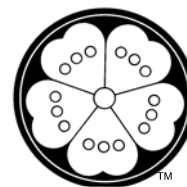
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/>

## 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.



## Mini-College Reflections

Several Master Gardeners from Central Gorge and Wasco County MGAs attended Mini-College at OSU in early August. Here are reports from two of them.

Mini-college was exceptionally interesting this year. After 4 years as interim director, Jan Mc Neilan is finally able to really retire! We were introduced to Gail Langelotto, our new statewide MG coordinator. She is going to be a perfect fit for us, I feel. We were treated to a class on Predators and Pollinators that she gave the final afternoon. Her e-mail is [langellg@hort.oregon.state.edu](mailto:langellg@hort.oregon.state.edu) if you'd like to contact her.

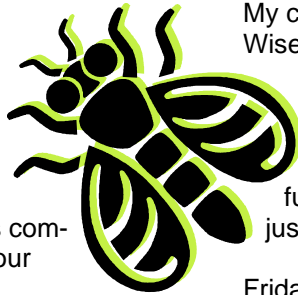
I took a wonderful class on the Soil Survey, which is now available on the computer. It was amazing. By typing in the address of a property you can get a map of all the soil types on that property. You could even check the site where topsoil is coming from to see if it is suitable for use in your garden. Check out [www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/appWebSoilSurvey.aspx](http://www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/appWebSoilSurvey.aspx)

There were two classes on adaptive gardening, tools and techniques for gardening as we age or have physical problems. Chip Bubl did a wonderful presentation about Vertebrate Pest Management in his usual humorous style.

While we don't have the dates yet, plan on attending Mini-College next year. It is just great fun!

Lana Tepfer, Wasco County MGA

This year's 24th annual Gardener's Mini-College was my first opportunity to attend Mini-College. I arrived early Wednesday morning for the Leadership Forum. My first session was offered for presidents, followed by sessions about mentor programs, membership retention, plant clinics and long range planning. So much excellent information to gather in just one day. Wednesday ended with a delicious catered Greek buffet.



Thursday morning was the official beginning of Mini-College. Everyone gathered for the day's general assembly. There were guest speakers and chapter reports. The Master Gardener of the Year from each chapter was introduced and presented a ribbon to wear on their name badge. Then it was off to class.

My choices for classes on Thursday were Oregon Water Wise Gardening, Household Arthropods and Get the Facts About Pesticides - National Pesticide Information Center. All the classes were excellent and the speakers were extremely knowledgeable. After dinner Thursday evening we were treated to a wonderful garden tour of three beautiful gardens in an area just outside Corvallis.

Friday once again started with the general assembly and was soon followed by classes. My choice for Friday morning was Smart Gardening - Save Your Body and Friday afternoon was Diagnosing Plant Problems. The evening ended with the annual banquet. Michael Nowak, a Master Gardener and truly funny speaker from Newport, was Master of Ceremonies. The guest speaker was Sean Hogan, the owner of Cistus Nursery. He gave a slide presentation that had everyone wanting to visit this beautiful nursery on Sauvie Island. It was a great evening and for me spelled the end of Mini-College. I had to be back in Hood River early Saturday morning and was therefore unable to attend the Saturday morning tour of the OSU Vegetable Farm.

For me, and I'm sure for all those who attended Mini-College, it was a great opportunity to learn and to enjoy the company of other Master Gardeners. Other Central Gorge Master Gardeners that attended were Glenda Ryan, Scott Fitch, Gemma Furno, and Kathy McGregor. I think we all had a wonderful time.

Dede Garcia, Central Gorge MGA President and Master Gardener of the Year

### Farewell from Colleen Garrabrant

Hugh and I are moving to King City, Oregon, near Tigard, in September. We'll be closer to our daughter and grandsons - and won't have a half acre of yard to care for! The Master Gardener Program has been a wonderful learning experience for me, and I'll miss all the great gardeners I've met. I'll have a very small yard in King City, so more time for golf! It will be strange to be away from the Gorge and friends, but I hope we'll make the transition with some sort of grace.

You're all welcome to come visit anytime. I'm assuming our cell phone will be the same - 541-980-2176, so just give a call if you're on the way to the coast and stop by. If anyone wants my collection of *Horticulture* magazines, please call me before September 10.

## Wasco County Hazardous Waste Collection Help Needed By Lana Tepfer

Help is needed for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, September 15th in The Dalles.

If you still need payback hours for this year, I have just the job for you! We need 6 people to help pass out flyers and take information about what people are bringing to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection. Three people are needed for each shift. The first one is from 8:45 a.m. (for training) until 11:30 a.m. The second shift is from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

This is a fun and interesting way to get in your time. Last year HHW collections diverted 38 tons of material from our regular landfill. Please show how important such collections are to the Master Gardeners by helping this Sept. 15th.

Contact Lana Tepfer at [strawberry@skyride.net](mailto:strawberry@skyride.net) or call evenings 296-9657 or days 296-1233 to sign up. I will forward your names to Pat Bozanich, the Wasco County solid waste coordinator, who will confirm your shift just before the event.

Wear comfortable clothing suitable for the weather and be sure to wear your badge. You may want to bring a lawn chair and a book for slower times.

## Celilo Garden Club Is Trying To Make A Come Back By Pam Crider

Celilo Garden Club Meeting  
October 23rd, 5:30 pm  
Congregational Church on 111 E. 5th St., The Dalles

Program: Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs 1st V.P. Karen Brown, retired nurseryman & garden guru speaking about 'GARDEN LINGO'. All gardeners welcome. For more information, contact Phyllis Olson at 541-467-2601 or [bloomsgreens@skyride.net](mailto:bloomsgreens@skyride.net).

## Xeriscaping Workshop, September 22

The Wasco County conservation district is having a Xeriscaping Workshop on September 22. We'll have Humble Roots native plants nursery doing a presentation and a field trip to Hood River to tour Jurgen Hess's yard and the Columbia Gorge Riverkeepers landscape, also designed by Jurgen. For more information contact Tammy Tripp at SWCD, 541-296-6178 X3.

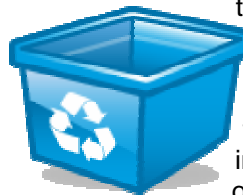
## The Dalles Art Center Fall Plant & Bulb Sale By Carolyn Wright

The Dalles Art Center's Fall Plant & Bulb Sale will be held Saturday, October 6, starting at 10 a.m. Fall is a great time to plant many perennials, shrubs and trees, in addition to bulbs. A good selection of house plants is sure to be on hand as well.

Donations are needed! Did you order too many bulbs or have you been dividing your perennials? Are your houseplants taking over with lots of starts possible? Help can be provided in potting up plants so they are ready for the sale. Please be sure to identify flower colors on plants that come in a variety of colors such as iris, mums, tulips, etc.

As always, we appreciate receiving potted plants. Deliver your donations to the Art Center October 2-4; plants will be sorted and priced on the 5th. Volunteers will be needed to help with the sale. A sign up list will be at the Art Center.

## Recycle Plastic Plant Pots



Pat Bozanich, Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator with the Wasco Sherman Health Department, reports that The Dalles Disposal and Hood River Garbage are now collecting yogurt, cottage cheese and other plastic tubs and **plastic plant pots** (from 4 inches to 5 gallon sizes) along with all the other recyclables. Just make sure they are clean and then put them in your recycling bin or take them to The Dalles Disposal, Hood River Garbage, or the Mosier, Mt Hood, or Odell recycling depot.

## Champion Trees, A Correction By Judy Davis

I recently rediscovered the latest edition (2005) of *Trees To Know In Oregon* on my bookshelf. It changes the answers about champion trees given in July. The previous answers came from the 1994 edition.

Hood River County's Douglas or Rocky Mountain maple is now listed as a state, not a national, champion.

Two new state champion trees have been found in Wasco County, although neither are native trees. A Russian olive became a co-state champion with one previously recognized in Crook County. Also new on the list is a state champion American sycamore.

## Wasco County Fair Results By Roxy Templin

The South Wasco County Master Gardeners had great representation this year at the Wasco County Fair in Tygh Valley.

Jack Archer and Anna Nolen had 50 entries and won numerous blue ribbons. Jack received the “King of Flowers” award. One Chinese green pole bean measured 28’ long. Roxy Templin’s very first fair entry, a patio container, won a blue ribbon. Lois Nelson had 17 entries, Emilou Ely had 13 entries including her tole painting, and Laurretta Piatt had 9 entries including an exquisite crocheted doily.

The Maupin Dig & Hoe Garden Club received Reserve Champion for their booth with the combined efforts of new Master Gardeners Carol Jones and Lois Nelson along with Laurretta, Emilou and Lisa Hjorton (of Maupin D & H).

Through the joint efforts of Roxy and Gary Templin, Jack Archer, and Anna Nolen, the Wasco County Master Gardeners’ booth won the Grand Champion Ribbon. The team wanted to stay with the fair’s theme “Come To The Country, Stay for The Fun” but also have an educational flavor representing Master Gardeners. The brick pathway led you to a picnic (to include cornbread and jam), which was laid out in front of a picket fence with barley standing up in the background. The straw bale garden provided an idea for an alternative garden. Strawberries, bush beans, herbs, eggplant, tomato, and lavender were among the plants in the bale. Roxy figured out Jack’s sawsall worked much better for cutting the bale than her electric knife. The information binder provided some brochures and magazine articles about other ideas gardeners might think about. It was great fun for the team and a wonderful surprise to win the Grand Champion award.

The Master Gardeners had their table and canopy outside providing a plant clinic, which is always well received. The South County Master Gardeners will also have a plant

clinic at Rendezvous Days in Wamic on September 1 and at RiverFest in Maupin on September 15.

Many participating Master Gardeners traveled considerable distances to be involved and help out at the fair. Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered their time. It would be great to have more fair entries from the north end of the county next year—maybe the South County Master Gardeners need to challenge the North County Master Gardeners....hmmmm?



### How Much Do You Know About Oregon Agriculture?

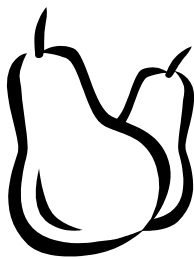


1. Oregon is the #1 or #2 producer of more than 20 agricultural commodities. What are they?
2. What are the top five agricultural counties measured by gross farm and ranch sales?
3. Do Wasco and Hood River Counties rank in the top, middle, or bottom third of Oregon counties in terms of gross farm and ranch sales?
4. What were the top three Oregon agricultural commodities in 2006 (based on value sold)?

Answers next month.

## State Fruit By Judy Davis

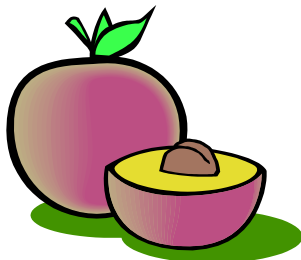
A recent *Oregonian* article about the Oregon state fruit—the pear—got me thinking about state fruits. What other states have official fruits? Are they what I would expect? Check the list below to see if they match your expectations.



Alabama	Blackberry, Peach
Arkansas	South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato (it's also the state vegetable)
Florida	Orange
Georgia	Peach
Idaho	Huckleberry
Kentucky	Blackberry
Louisiana	Strawberry
Maine	Wild Blueberry
Massachusetts	Cranberry
Minnesota	Honeycrisp Apple
Missouri	Norton/Cynthiana Grape
New Hampshire	Pumpkin
New Jersey	High Bush Blueberry
New York	Apple
North Carolina	Scuppernong Grape, Blueberry, Strawberry
North Dakota	Chokecherry
Oklahoma	Strawberry
Oregon	Pear
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Greening Apple
South Carolina	Peach
Tennessee	Tomato
Texas	Texas Red Grapefruit
Utah	Cherry
Vermont	Apple
Washington	Apple
West Virginia	Golden Delicious Apple
Wisconsin	Cranberry

The idea of having an official state fruit is fairly new. New York was the first state to pick one—the apple—in 1976. Washington named the apple their official fruit in 1989, and Oregon named the pear in 2005. The most recent addition was North Dakota's chokecherry in 2007.

Information from [http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/state\\_fruit.htm](http://www.netstate.com/states/tables/state_fruit.htm)



## Apple, Peach, or Plum Cake

Here's a recipe using several states' official fruit. I adapted this from a recipe in *Joy of Cooking*. I have tried it with all of the named fruits and like them all. I haven't tried it with pears, but I'm sure they work fine too.

1-1/4 cup whole wheat pastry flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. salt  
2 tbsp. sugar  
2 tbsp butter  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 cup milk (reduce by 1 tbsp for juicy fruit like peaches)  
1/2 tsp. vanilla

3 to 4 cups peeled and sliced apples or peaches (or sliced, unpared plums)

1/2 to 3/4 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
2 tbsp. butter, melted

Combine flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Cut in butter as in making pastry. Combine beaten egg, milk, and vanilla and stir in. Spread the stiff dough in a greased 9-inch square pan with a floured hand.

Press fruit closely in overlapping rows on the cake. Mix together brown sugar, cinnamon, and melted butter. Sprinkle over top of cake.

Bake at 400 degrees for about 25 minutes.

## Oregon Pear Facts

From <http://www.oregon.gov/BRANDOREGON/bounty05/pears.shtml>

- Pear trees brought west to Oregon by pioneers in the 1800's thrived in the unique agricultural conditions found in the Pacific Northwest.
- Hood River County grows more pears than any other county in the USA.
- Pears are Oregon's #1 tree fruit crop.
- Oregon's ranks third in the United States for overall production (fresh and processed), second in terms of fresh pear production.
- Oregon has 370 pear growers and produces about 800 million pears per year.
- There are enough pears grown in Oregon to supply every person in the state with about 294 pears each year. (*Do you eat your share?*)

**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

Sept. 12 (Wed)	5 pm	<b>Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee Meeting.</b> Hood River Extension. All welcome.
Sept. 18 (Tue.)	3 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Executive Board Meeting,</b> Wasco County Extension. All welcome.
Sept. 24 (Mon)	8 pm	<b><i>Deadline for the September newsletter.</i></b>
Sept. 26 (Wed)	6 pm	<b>Wasco County MGA Quarterly Meeting at the PUD.</b> See page 1 for details.
Oct. 4 (Thur)	1 pm	<b>Groundbreaking for the Japanese Heritage Garden at the Learning Garden.</b> See page 1 for details and opportunities to help.
Oct. 22 (Mon)	8 pm	<b><i>Deadline for the October newsletter.</i></b>
Oct. 23 (Tue)		<b>Wasco County MGA Graduation.</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Watch for details in next month's newsletter.
Nov. 10 (Sat)		<b>OMGA meeting in Hood River hosted by CGMGA.</b> Details in future newsletters.

Note: Central Gorge MGA Executive Committee will be determining dates and other details of fall quarterly meeting and graduation at their Sept. 12 meeting.

