2010 GARDEN TOUR – HIGH DESERT TREASURE

This is the month of the GARDEN TOUR!

For the very first time rural south Wasco County will be highlighted on this tour.

June 13th is the day of the pre-tour. You may wish to consider carpooling from the auction yard just south of The Dalles off Highway #197. Ample parking is available there, meet at noon. While traveling please do be wary of deer (Jack calls deer “field maggots”) that may be crossing the roads, and enjoy the gorgeous views on your ride out. We will all meet at the Blue Star Garden in Maupin at 1:00 p.m. to begin the pre-tour.

June 19th is tour day. The gardens will be open from 9am to 4pm.

Plan on bringing your lunch or experiencing one of the restaurants in Maupin or Pine Hollow by taking advantage of the coupons in the tour book. You may also want to provide a chair for yourself.

Encourage your friends to attend this tour where they may take advantage of the numerous coupons in the tour book providing incentives to "discover south Wasco County", while enjoying beautifully landscaped masterpieces carved out of the rock and sagebrush on the edge of the desert. You may also wish to inform them that they may take advantage of using the first ever tour bus available on the day of this tour by phoning the extension office for reservations. The round trip from The Dalles, with a stop at each garden, is only a $5 fee. It is the best deal around! Seating is limited and by reservation only.

Look forward to enjoying a fun and productive day!

Anna Nolan

Tickets/tour brochures are $10 and are available at Klindt’s Booksellers in The Dalles, Waucoma Book Store in Hood River, Maupin Realty in Maupin, Wasco County Extension office, Hood River County Extension office, and at the gardens.

Please see pages 5 & 6 for information about garden volunteer schedules and other pertinent information regarding the garden tour.
SPRING FAIR

Those of us who planned the Spring Fair were hoping and praying for a no wind or rain day and it was!! Too bad that didn’t last very long. All the planning, headaches and spousal neglect have come to an end and we were successful. When it was all over that Saturday afternoon we had sore feet, sun burnt noses, and I ended up with no voice. But we had a large turnout of the public and an even greater turnout of all of you. You came, you set up, you were creative with a Ladder Bench, a Potting Bench, Bird Pinecones, Pottery Tent, Master Gardener Advice, 4-H Animals, Ponds, Composting, Native Plants, Food, Great Salesmanship, MUSIC, (which tied it altogether) and a lot of camaraderie.

The Spring Fair was a $3800.00 success. With the sale of plants, ladder-bench raffle tickets, the silent auction, kid’s booth and pottery tent items, it is more than last year! This has encouraged those of us who planned and "slaved" this year to do it all again next year... I hope we have just as much fun on the next Spring Fair day as we did on this one. I like the quote that was often used on the T.V. The A-Team: "I love it when a plan comes together." Thank you so much.

Sheri Esquivias, Spring Fair Chairperson

PLANT SALE & NORCOR

Planning the Spring Fair without plants to sell wouldn’t have been very successful. When we started this project in January we just knew we had to start then so we could have plants that were of Master Gardener Quality. I think because of the dedication of the Master Gardeners who signed up and donated time (and I think some of our spouses thought we had full time jobs) we were twice as successful in our plant sales from NORCOR. The careful planning we did from last crop really paid off. I personally want to thank all the NEWBIES as they were called. You were great. Everyone of you earned a title of some expertise whether it was in tomatoes, basil, transplanting, inventory, keeping us on time, laughter, and most of all being good role models for the kids... Those who have already earned a permanent badge should be pleased that so much was learned not only from the Newbies but by the NORCOR students as well.

Everyone was so dedicated this year and when the call went out for help it was always answered. We have a really great group and we should ALL be proud of what was accomplished. This year wasn’t as hard as it was time consuming. The kids at NORCOR wrote us letters this year and when we had our celebration tea Cheri Austin read them and there were a few of us with tears....

We have been asked to help year round at NORCOR with new projects so I hope we will see some new faces to help those who have already said yes to helping. For all of you, A Big Thank-YOU...

Cheri Austin Plant Sale & Sheri Esquivias Spring Fair.

loading up the plants for the fair & unloading

setting up the plant sale. Photos courtesy of Marcia Strader
WASCO COUNTY HOSTS OMGA 2nd QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center state representatives from most of the counties involved with OMGA will be in The Dalles for their second board meeting of the year. While most of the business meeting will deal with the final planning for mini-college, one of the first things on the agenda are the chapter reports from the various counties.

I would like to invite all interested MGs to come and listen to what other chapters are doing to educate the public on sound, fact-based gardening practices and how they raise the funds to do so.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 sharp. MGs wanting to stay for lunch will need to RSVP to Lana Tepfer or Lee Bryant by June 1st. Cost of lunch is $5. The rest of the business meeting will take place after lunch. Lana Tepfer, OMGA rep.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR OMGA MEETING - Lana Tepfer

Many of you signed up to bring refreshments to the OMGA quarterly meeting on Sat. June 5th. Sharon Paz will be calling you all a few days before the meeting to remind you of what you need to bring. We need these breakfast items at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center by 9:30 that morning for our arriving guests. If you have any questions about what you signed up for or if you wish to bring something please contact Lana Tepfer or Sharon Paz.

MENTORS

To all mentors,

Just a reminder that now that we are into June, the Garden Tour is our last major project along with the DIG garden and plant clinics.

Please work with your mentees to help them be aware of the 42 hours needed prior to graduation in October.

Thank you for all that you are doing and have done to direct a new member through their first year in our Master Gardener Program.

Janet Probstfield, Mentor Chairperson

Volunteer Reporting System (VRS) - Cheri Austin

Many of you have not reported your hours on line. It is important to keep up and not wait; this is how I am able to know who is in need of more hours. Our midway point in the year is upon us and after the Garden Tour not many payback opportunities are available to commit to.

If you are having difficulty logging in, or still are not sure, I am at the extension office on Wednesdays and can assist you then if you need further help. Phone calls and email also work.

If I am reporting for you please send your log sheets in so I can get them posted. Mail them to the extension office ATTN: Cheri Austin, or my home.

Plant clinic reminder - It is your responsibility to find your own replacement if you cannot make your scheduled time. Do not leave your co-worker without assistance. If you find you are unable to keep your scheduled time try and find someone to switch. If unsuccessful, call me (Cheri Austin) at 541-993-6251 or 541-298-8943.

Letters from NORCOR. Some of the kids who assisted in the greenhouse sent letters. After reading them I hope more master gardeners will want to spend time in the greenhouse next year. See page 6 to read some of the letters.

WINNER OF COMPOST BIN AT PLANT FAIR

Local resident Sally Carpenter of The Dalles, won an Earth Machine Compost Bin while attending the Master Gardener Spring Fair and Plant Sale May 8 in The Dalles. The compost bin was awarded by the TriCounty Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program, who sponsored a booth at the plant fair encouraging people to reduce waste by composting kitchen scraps. Earth Machine compost bins are available for $35 at The Dalles Disposal, 1317 W First St, T.D; Mel's Sanitary Service in Tygh Vally; and Hood River Garbage Service, 3440 Guignard Drive in HR.

Cindy Brown, Tri County HW&RP
Hummingbirds - Lynn Long

When I was a boy, growing up in the Portland area, I rarely saw a hummingbird. Hummingbirds were something that were seen on television or in books, in my mind, not something that you see in real life. In fact I was a teenager, visiting Mt. St. Helens before I saw my first hummingbird.

After Marlene and I were married we moved to Eastern Washington where hummingbirds were more common. I was fascinated by their beauty and grace. In fact, I tried to capture some of that beauty on film. I still remember attaching my large telephoto lens to my camera and trying to get a close-up of these elusive creatures. Even with a 200 mm lens, the birds still seemed awfully small on the finished photo. After moving to The Dalles, my fascination with hummingbirds continued. Here they are relatively common and it is not unusual for me to see them feeding in the early evening in my garden.

What are these most fascinating of birds, and how can they be encouraged to visit our gardens more frequently? There are 340 species of hummingbirds throughout the world, but only 5 species are found in Oregon. Those found in Oregon are 3 to 4 inches long, weigh 1/10 ounce and come in a variety of colors. The Rufous is the most common humming bird in Oregon. You can find them breeding throughout Oregon from April to September.

Hummingbirds are attracted to a variety of species and structure that fulfill their habitat needs. They like bushes, vines, flowers, hanging and potted plants, hummingbird feeders, and water. In addition, hummingbirds are stimulated by color, especially the color red. Clumps of bright red, orange, and pink flowers are more visible to them than other colors. Plants with red, tubular-shaped flowers are an excellent choice for your garden.

Most hummingbird plants do not have fragrance. Fragrance is not important for attracting hummingbirds. It is best to think of blooming periods when you decide which species of plants to include in your garden. Put in plants that bloom in succession from early spring to late summer to ensure a food source for hummingbirds throughout their stay. Columbine, bleeding heart, Penstemon, coral bell, beebalm, lavender and Scabiosa bloom over an extended period of time and are attractive to hummingbirds. Trumpet vine and orange honeysuckle are also excellent choices.

Hummingbird feeders are also good ways to attract hummingbirds to your home. You can make a safe, simple nectar solution at home. Use one part cane sugar to four parts water. Do not use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. Boil the solution for at least 30 seconds to retard fermentation and mold growth. Do not use a microwave since the microwaves break down sugar molecules and can change the nutritional value. Let the solution cool before filing the feeder. I failed to do this once and ended up melting my bird feeder.

Place your feeder where it will not be in direct sun for extended periods. Place the feeder near nectar producing plants, that way the birds can get a more balanced meal than from the feeder alone.

I hope you have great success attracting hummingbirds to your garden. If you get any great pictures, I’d love to see them.
Announcement: 2010 Mini-College Registration is OPEN!

Gardener’s Mini-College "Beyond Backyard Basics: The Science of Sustainability" will be Wednesday, July 28, 2010 - Saturday, July 31, 2010. Presented by the Oregon Master Gardener Association and the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program, it will be held at: CH2M Alumni Center, Oregon State University, 725 SW 26th Street, Corvallis.

Registration for the 27th Annual Gardener's Mini-College is OPEN! Register by June 14th for your early bird discount. Registration closes on July 5th.

You can check out the link for our amazing line up of speakers, tours, meals and fun at: [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/mini-college)


Hardcopy registration forms are being sent with the next issue of the Gardener's Pen newsletter. You may download a copy of the registration form, as well as check out the complete Mini-College agenda at: [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/sites/default/files/2010_minicollege_registration_mgwebpage.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/sites/default/files/2010_minicollege_registration_mgwebpage.pdf)

Questions? Email minicolle2010@gmail.com (please note the corrected email address from what was originally emailed out)

Patty Driscoll (mini college register)

And From Lana:

I did it! And if I did it, anybody can do it. In just a few minutes, I registered for mini-college and purchased a parking permit on-line. Talk about easy!

There was a notice in my e-mails that the mini-college registration was now open. You can access all the info on this year’s mini-college right now on the OSU MG website. You will find all the classes and events listed and see the various options for registration.

I urge all of you to visit the website and plan to attend mini-college if at all possible. It is a great experience and a lot of fun as well. Continue your education and learn what other MG groups do in their chapters for community education and fund raising.

Each chapter is asked to bring several items for the silent auction which raises operating expenses for the Oregon Master Gardener Association. If you have a gift or service you can donate please contact Lana Tepfer or Etta Myers. This is the primary source of income for OMGA.

Hope to see you all at Mini-college. Lana Tepfer

Important GARDEN TOUR Information

The following schedules are for the garden tour on June 19th. If your name is not listed or you have questions, please call Ronnie Smith at 541 296 3273. AM shifts are from 9am to noon. PM shifts are from noon to 4pm.

REFRESHMENTS: Everyone in master gardeners is asked to donate 3 dozen homebaked cookies for the garden tour. If you don't bake, please donate funds ($6 to Sharon Paz ahead of time) so someone else can make them for you. Bring your cookies to the Extension office on Thursday, June 17 or Friday, June 18 before noon.

Cookies and drinks will be served at Seed to Table, 56361 Hwy 197. Chair: Sharon Paz, 541 980 6357

AM shift: Mary Rollins, Marcia Strader
PM shift: Joan Flynn, Rita Hendrickson

Seed to Table Garden, 56361 Hwy 197.
Garden Leader: Loretta Piatt
AM shift: Georgia Chapman, Dennis Wygal
PM shift: Carolyn Wright, Charlotte Link, Georgia Chapman (more help needed both shifts, esp. AM)

Maupin City Garden/Blue Star Memorial, Hwy 197 before bridge in Maupin
Co-Leaders: Lois Nelson & Carolyn Wright
AM shift: Carolyn Wright, Lois Nelson
PM shift: Dave Rawson, Lois Nelson
(one more person for each shift would help)

Jan & Jerry Steel Garden, 409 Elrod Ave., Maupin
Co-Leaders: Janet Probstfield & Jens Fredericksen
AM shift: Janet Probstfield, Jens Fredericksen, Betty Krause
PM shift: Tracey Carlson, Mel Omeg, Barbara Bailey, Catherine Whalen, Jens Fredericksen (more help needed for AM shift)

continued next page
Dear Master Gardeners, 5-11-10

Thank you for letting us help you guys with the plants in the greenhouse. It was pretty fun and cool to be out there because it was sunny and we weren’t locked up in our rooms. Thank you for letting us taste some of the plants. I hope you guys do this next year for the detainees that are going to be here so they won’t be bored in their rooms.

Sincerely,

Beloved Master Gardeners, May 11, 2010

I’m taking this time to let all you know how privileged I felt being able to work side by side with each and everyone of you. It was such an amazing experience, something that I can use in future reference when I plant my own garden outside my home. You all taught me a lot that I didn’t know was necessary, like for example how often you water the plants, that you have to get rid of the old dried out leaves, also to take out that nasty green moss. The way that I see you is that you all don’t just do the job just to do it, you all take pride and have a passion on what you’re doing and that also teaches me a lot and that is to do the job with a willing heart. Well thanks for taking the time in reading this letter you are all such wonderful people not easy to forget, may the Lord bless your lives for bringing some sense of hope to a place like this. I am more than grateful.

Always

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Garden tour schedule sign-ups, continued

Fran & Raymond Richardson Garden, 5th & Lloyd
Garden Leader: Peggy Peterson
AM shift: Mel Omeg, Barbara Bailey, Catherine Whalen, Marcia Burford, Dave Rawson
PM shift: Eileen Van Tassel, Sharon Hazen, Candy Barnard-Davidson (more help needed in PM)

Mary & Dennis Buechler Garden, 57653 Church St., Maupin
Leader: Terese Leon
AM shift: Tracey Carlson, Lana Tepfer, Antonia Kabakov, Becky Nelson
PM shift: Nancy Hammel, Becky Nelson, Heather Bremer (more help needed, esp. PM)

Jack Archer & Anna Nolen Garden, 34 North Frontage Road, Pine Hollow
AM shift: Katherine Olmsted, Marian Rohde, Pam Manning, Nancy Hammel, Joan Flynn and Rita Hendrickson.
PM shift: Katherine Olmsted, Marian Rohde, Pam Manning, Etta Myers, Cathy Dowrey and Marcia Burford.

LETTERS FROM NORCOR

Dear Master Gardeners, 5/10/10

Thank you so much for all of the time you spent with us working out in the greenhouse. I really enjoyed spending time out there working with the plants.

I hope all of you come back soon so we can start working on a new batch for next year. Hopefully most of us will be gone by then but that means you’ll have a whole new group of kids to teach about staking tomatoes, deadheading, organizing, transplanting, and so much more.

I just want to tell you again how much I appreciated all of you coming out here to work with us. I enjoyed every second I was out there. It’s actually really relaxing and I’ll probably start up my own greenhouse when I get out.

Once again, thank you. I hope you enjoyed working with us as much as we did with you.

Sincerely,
Norcor Greenhouse Child
The Dirt Sheet
Newsletter of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association
Carolyn Wright, editor
carolyneewright@gmail.com
541-506-5001

Officers
President – Barbara Bailey
President Elect – Candy Armstrong
Secretary – Therese Leon
Treasurer – Catherine Whalen
Historian – Candy Barnard-Davidson
OMGA Rep – Lana Tepfer
Alternate OMGA Rep – Cheri Austin
OSU Extension Staff
Lynn Long

Find Us Online
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/

Calendar

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<td>June 5</td>
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<td>OMGA meeting, TD Senior Center</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Pre-tour, meet at noon to carpool</td>
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<td>July 24</td>
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<td>Annual Potluck Picnic at Ned Kice’s</td>
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Feature of the Month – Carolyn Wright

This month I’m featuring a resource we have plenty of in the spring and summer months – wind! Sometimes it seems to be a bit too much, but if you consider all the positive aspects it can have in our yards and gardens then maybe you will welcome it, especially when it signals the arrival of spring.

Wind can help create lovely, soothing sounds in your garden when it blows your wind chimes into action. The one pictured actually works better when a bird lands on it, which the scrub jays used to do when they were raiding the cat food dish. My other wind chimes have tubes and a clapper which only needs a slight breeze to work.

Wind propelled sculptures are also fun to incorporate in a garden. Whirligigs are an inexpensive option and can take off at full speed with a strong breeze!

Laundry lines aren’t as picturesque as sculptures, but they do make a statement that I personally encourage. In this time of ever increasing energy use and the subsequent need to produce more/import more, a laundry line is a way to both conserve energy and end up with laundry that smells a whole lot better and, if hung on a windy day, comes out wrinkle free and not needing to be ironed. Dryers are a huge energy user in the home, and why should anyone be heating up air when we have such hot, dry air here in the summer to start with? It just doesn’t make much sense.