SPRING FAIR!!!
May 8, 9am–3pm
City Park, The Dalles

Entertainment starting at 10am
Plant Sale, Plant Clinic
Vendor Booths
Food provided by the High School Ski Team
Composters for sale
Glass Art
Raffle – a surprise made from cherry ladders
Scarecrows
HIGH DESERT TREASURE
Garden Tour, 2010

Gold finches have put on their daffodil yellow tuxedos and are ready to greet warmer weather, whenever it arrives. Geese have been in a family way for weeks and the first fuzzy yellow babies have arrived. Swallows have returned and it is wonderful to watch their aerobatic flights. Bald eagles are hunting the lake. Hummingbirds are buzzing and wrens tip back their little birdie heads and belt out amazing songs. Roll on Spring!!!

South Wasco County residents are excited about the upcoming Master Gardener Garden Tour and the opportunity for people to discover South Wasco County.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 13th so you will be able to attend the pre tour scheduled to meet at 1pm at the Blue Star Memorial Garden in Maupin. To facilitate car pooling to the event you may meet and park at the auction yard at 12 noon. The Auction Yard is just south of The Dalles on Highway 197. Turn left off Hwy. 197 into the auction yard. There is plenty of parking available and there is no auction scheduled on that day. Plan on enjoying a beautiful drive through spectacular scenery. Be watching for possible sightings of antelope in the fields along the way and be wary of deer on the road. The pre tour will give people an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the garden(s) in which they will be helping and to view all of the other gardens.

A bus will pick up tourists in The Dalles and drive them to each garden and then return to The Dalles on the day of the tour. This is another first and we are excited to be able to make this offer available to the public.

Master Gardeners should consider carpooling from The Dalles on tour day to help relieve possible traffic congestion at garden sites. You may want to bring a chair and a brown bag lunch or think about enjoying having your lunch at one of the restaurants in town.

President’s Corner
To be Cumulatively Effective - A Choice for Master Gardeners

As avid gardeners and tillers of precious soil, we have choices as to how we impact the natural world. Our 2010 classes constantly reaffirmed this message in both subtle and loud ways. We must think and act in terms of "all" instead of "me and mine." It is our actions as a whole that will determine our opportunities and quality of life now and in the future.

Water run-off happens when we irrigate and eventually gets into riparian areas and streams. Water loaded with fertilizer, herbicide and insecticide residue also eventually all go downhill via water and affect fish, wildlife health and water quality. Systemic herbicides may be lethal to the very soil organisms that support plant life. Access to water and chemicals should be considered a privilege and a responsibility.

When we apply insecticides, we may increase insect resistance. Pathogens believe in survival of the fittest - and they are good at it.

Also, when we use herbicides, some plants may become resistant. For example, we have in our area Round-Up tolerant species. What can all this mean to the issue of invasive plants? This issue must be addressed by gardeners and commercial growers.

Another example locally is the trucking in of the European Honey Bee to aid in pollination. Instead, we perhaps should be focusing on Mason Bees or encouraging other wild pollinators. Could we not all create a wild place for a good beetle in our yards and gardens and farms?

Support for appropriate Land Use can also mean cumulative protection of land, air, and water resources.

End of lecture from your biased president, Barbara Bailey
Notes from Ronnie

Attention Everyone! You will be getting a ballot in the mail for Master Gardener of the Year. Please remember that it is important that the ballot card is marked and returned as soon as possible after you receive it. It will be pre-stamped.

Also, for those who didn't sign up for the Garden Tour - I will be calling you to assign the garden that you will be working in. All members are supposed to work on the Garden Tour. The Garden Tour is on June 19th, a Saturday. The pre-tour is on Sunday June 13th. We will meet at the Blue Star Maupin Garden at 1:00pm. For those who want to carpool we will meet at the Auction Yard at noon.

There will be a Garden Leaders meeting on Wednesday, May 12th - 10:00 am, at Ronnie Smith's house. This is for Peggy Peterson, Lee Bryant, Lauretta Piatt, Corrine Clark, and Terese Leon. Sharon Paz is also welcome to attend. If you cannot attend please let me know to make other arrangements.

Thank you,
Ronnie Smith

Volunteer Reporting System (VRS)

Currently 36 master gardeners have enrolled in the VRS. If you have not been thru the training, I am teaching the VRS process on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm on May 5th and 12th. The training will take approximately 30 minutes. Plan to attend one of the sessions. If you are unable to attend, or if you still have questions, call or email me to make other arrangements. I have set May 15th as the deadline to have everyone enrolled.

If you are enrolled your first VRS log sheet is due. Mail them to me at the extension office ATTN: Cheri Austin, or my home.

Cheri Austin

OMGA Membership Cards

OMGA membership cards are now available in the plant clinic for pick up. Unclaimed cards will also be available at the next quarterly meeting.

Thank you, Catherine Whalen

Wasco County Master Gardener Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Minutes. Present: President: Barbara Bailey; Secretary: Therese Leon; Historian: Candy Bernard-Davidson; OMGA Rep: Lana Tepfer; OMGA Alt: Cheri Austin; OSU Agent: Lynn Long; Past Pres.: Lee Bryant; Sheri Esquivias

Meeting called to order 2pm.

There was discussion on 2010 MG Program classes. All agreed that the presentations and lecturers were excellent. Discussion followed on changes to how the Project Fair would be done next year.

The Chipper-Shredder will be available for sale at the Spring Fair for $495.

The Annual Picnic is tentatively set for July 24th at Ned Kice’s place. Details will follow in next month’s newsletter.

Early Deadline for June Newsletter

The June newsletter will be out by Memorial Day weekend, with an early submittal deadline of May 24th. I will be gone in early June (for my Mom’s 90th birthday!) and apologize for any inconvenience.

Carolyn Wright, newsletter editor

Maupin Community Wide Sale

Maupin will be having a community wide sale on Saturday, May 15, 9am -2pm on the greenway in downtown Maupin.

Featured events will be the Maupin Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sale, offering annuals, perennials, herbs, houseplants and garden art. A map will be provided to find the community wide yard sales. At Maupin Hardware, Y-102 will have a remote radio broadcast and there will be rain drip seminars, a Traeger BBQ giveaway and BBQ chicken wings and wine from Bolton Cellars to try.

A Pie and Cinnamon Roll Sale will be at the Maupin Community Church at 5th & Grant and there will be a Quilt Show/Raffle and Ice Cream Social at Canyon Rim Manor.

Anna Nolen
Butterflies – Lynn Long

Few things represent summer to me more than a graceful butterfly gliding through the air and landing on a brightly colored flower. To me, butterflies are one of the joys of summer. Attracting butterflies to your garden is easy if you create a habitat that meets the butterflies’ needs for growth and development.

This includes both food for the larva (caterpillar) and the adult butterfly. In addition, a good butterfly habitat also includes shelter from the wind, open sunny areas for basking and mud puddles for water and nutrients.

Butterflies are nearsighted and are attracted to large patches of flowers. If you want to attract a particular species, a large splash of brightly colored flowers of one species is more effective than several different colors or species mixed together. However, planting several kinds of good nectar-producing flowers usually attracts more species of butterflies. Some plants to consider include: zinnia, penstemon, lantana, lavender, lilac, honeysuckle, aster, heather, clematis and bluebeard.

In many ways fragrance may be even more important than color for attracting butterflies. Many nectar-producing flowers, such as lavender, lilac and honeysuckle, emit strong fragrances to attract butterflies and other pollinators.

The size and shape of flowers is also important. Larger butterflies, such as swallowtails, prefer to land on flowers with large compact heads (“composites”) because they provide a platform for the butterflies to rest on while feeding. Composites include asters, goldenrod, zinnia, marigolds, and yarrow. Other flower types that butterflies prefer have tightly packed clusters of flowers. Some examples are lantana, cilantro, and honeysuckle.

To guarantee butterflies in your garden throughout the season choose a selection of plants that bloom at different times of year. An example of a season-long garden would include lilac and clematis for the spring, penstemon, lavender and lantana for the summer and heather and aster for the fall.

Besides sources of nectar, butterflies need a source of water. Butterflies, however, do not drink from open water. They get the moisture and minerals they need from moist areas around water. Find a sunny spot that is out of the wind and near nectar plants. Bury a container in the ground, and fill it almost to the top with wet sand. Place a few twigs or rocks on top of the sand for perches.

In addition, butterflies need basking sites. They love to sit in the sun, especially in the morning when temperatures are below 60°F. Large, flat, light colored rocks with high sun exposure are ideal, but butterflies also use brick walkways and walls.

Butterflies are beautiful, fascinating creatures that are fun to watch and enjoy. Providing butterfly habitat in your yard is one way to assure these graceful and colorful insects will visit your garden throughout the season.

The information provided in this article was taken from an OSU publication entitled “Create a Butterfly Garden,” (EC. 1549). This publication is available for downloading on the web at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/. Follow the links to “Gardening,” then “Wildlife.”
The D.I.G. – Charlotte Link

From Seed to Harvest begins at The DIG!

Girl Scout Troop 103 planted radish, lettuce and carrot seeds at The DIG, April 26, 2010 with Charlotte Link.

Each participant received a packet of seed to plant with education on how to plant their seeds. String was used to divide the raised bed into thirds with approximately 24 square feet of planting area. Math, Science, Reading and Spelling as well as team work provided the girls with a fun activity which they will be returning to in the next few weeks. Mother Nature provided the rain as the girls were finishing their visit to The DIG so the seeds that were planted will germinate.

Also, as their Homework assignment, each girl started Red Runner Bean seeds in peat pots to be grown at home and later transplanted into their garden plot at The DIG. The girls also planted Nasturtium seeds for their Moms for Mother's Day.

After the event concluded, the girls gathered at the teaching circle to sing the "Girl Scout Song," and Charlotte was presented a box of Girl Scout cookies with lots of hugs.

Upcoming Events

May 1 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Work party at The DIG
May 3 1:00 - 3:00 pm Seventh Day Adventist students at The DIG
May 4, 1:00 - 3:00 pm Monthly DIG meeting
May 5 & 6, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Chenowith Elementary students at The DIG
May 15, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Work party at The DIG
May 15, 9:00 am Urban Homesteading Class at The DIG
May 19 & 20, 3:30 - 4:30 pm Chenowith Elementary students at The DIG

No work party at the DIG in June. Work parties will continue in July, August and September.

The DIG Day Camp - 2 sessions:
June 14 - 18 and June 21 - 25, 9:00 - 12:00 noon

Farmer’s Market will be Saturdays, June 5th to October 9th at The Dalles City Park (7th and Union)
**Feature of the Month – Carolyn Wright**

I’m already finding them getting started on some of my plants, and I’m sure if you looked you’d find some, too. Cheri suggested that **spittle bugs** would be a good topic for May’s feature, since they will be present and of concern to gardeners this month.

Spittle bugs get their name because of the “spittle” they make using fluids taken from the host plant. The spittle foam provides a protective environment for the larvae to develop in. Creating the spittle is damaging to the host plant, causing stunting and distortion of leaves.

Fortunately, not only is it a relatively short season for spittle bugs (at least that’s what I’ve observed in my garden) and the plants can recover from the damage, but it is also possible to control the bugs fairly easily. All methods require repeat checks and application. The most direct control is to simple pick off the bugs & destroy/squish them. When they are small and just getting started it can be hard to locate all the critters, so be vigilant. Another method, which can be combined with the first, is to spray the plants with a strong stream of water to dislodge the bugs. Be sure to check the base of plants and the undersides of leaves. A third method, which again can be combined with the first two, is to use insecticidal soap. Remember that the soap needs to come in direct contact with the bugs & is not effective after it dries. Always read & follow the label.