

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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GRADUATION & RECOGNITION NIGHT!!!

What a great turnout and what a fun party we had! We missed those of you who didn't make it – you missed out on a fabulous feast, prizes, gardener's bingo, awards, and presentations. A festive setting was created by committee members Kathy O'Hern, Cindy Russell, Jane Moynahan, and Carolyn Wright with flowers and pumpkins from The DIG (and other gardens), a lovely carrot cake, gift bags for the graduating class, a chance at door prizes, pictures in the photo-frame, and getting to know one another better by playing bingo (4 people filled their cards!). All Master Gardeners were recognized for their efforts this past year.



Amanita sp. – don't eat!



Gomphus floccosus (?) – woolly chanterelle avoid



never eat any unknown mushrooms.



Our celebration cake!

PRESIDENT’S CORNER: Tales from the Creek – Bill Marick

With the recent graduation of the 2018 Wasco County Master Gardener class, I realize this year is quickly coming to a close. I want to thank everyone who has been involved in the Master Gardener program this year. You have made my job very easy, as there have been few problems that have needed my attention. Most issues were easily solved and I think the results were satisfactory.

Our local Master Gardener program made progress in several areas this year, and we will continue to make improvements in our activities. A few changes will be implemented in our class offerings next spring. We’re continuing to discuss ways to streamline work activities in the NORCOR greenhouse. I appreciate everybody’s participation and good suggestions. Please keep up the good work.

November makes me think about Thanksgiving and I remember the year my Dad decided to get some turkey chicks along with our regular chicks. He got about a dozen turkeys and they soon outgrew the other chicks and had to be separated. The rapidly growing turkeys grew so large they couldn’t be contained in any yard. My folks also realized that turkeys could fly quite well. They became “free range poultry” long before that was popular.

We had several large Beech trees near the house, and when the nuts fell all over our yard, the turkeys ate them and got really fat. The sharp-spined husks left on the ground were not comfortable to walk on with bare feet either.

Turkeys are very curious and our flock was usually closely grouped into a little band. One late fall day when the gobblers were getting close to their full growth, a salesman

drove up to our house. He got out of his car and knocked on the front door which indicated that he was a stranger. (Anyone who knew my folks always bypassed the front porch to enter the kitchen door.) It took some time for my mother to hear the salesman knock, but then she heard his knocking was getting rather insistent.

Just as she arrived at the doorway, the salesman burst through the door with all the turkeys on the porch pressed behind him. “Are they going to hurt me?” he practically shouted. My mother assured the terrified stranger the turkeys were only curious and they meant no harm. He wasn’t overly satisfied with her explanation and would not go back outside until the turkeys were off the porch. When it was safe, he ran to his car, jumped in and left quickly. I don’t think they ever got around to discussing what he was trying to sell.

Soon after, our turkeys were invited to a number of Thanksgiving dinners that year and a few found their way into freezers for later consumption. Thanks to the beech trees, the birds were quite large—25 pounders were the small ones.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and spend time relaxing with family and friends. Autumn is also the time to enjoy reading seed catalogues and making plans for bigger and better gardening next year. Remember to winterize perennials so they will be ready to burst into new growth when spring arrives.

Bill



WC Master Gardeners Association Executive Committee Meeting October 16, 2018

OSU Report: Michelle Sager announced that the grant application for developing a shared vision for inclusivity for the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program has been funded. Michelle is a member of the team that will be working on the project. Statistics show that the majority of Oregon master gardener volunteers are retired (74% aged 56 and older), white (95%), and women (73%). The team is challenged to build a more inclusive Extension Master Gardener volunteer program that better reflects the demographics of our communities. The grant will allow them to work together toward this goal.

The DIG: On Sunday night, October 14 a motor vehicle drove into the arched entry gate at The DIG. City police are investigating the hit and run accident.

Steve Gillette is working on ideas and eventual construction of a sign acknowledging businesses and individuals who donated funds and materials to The DIG.

NORCOR: Fourteen members attended a NORCOR planning meeting to develop additional training for new greenhouse volunteers. The next meeting will be on November 6 at 3pm at the extension office meeting room. In preparation for next year's program Michelle will meet with Jeff Jutesen next week to discuss NORCOR's perspective on the greenhouse program and policies on the required background checks.

Graduation: The Wasco County Master Gardener Graduation is planned for Tuesday, October 23 at 6pm at the Episcopal Church. 2018 is Lana Tepfer's 30th year as a master gardener. Ideas for recognizing Lana Tepfer's achievements were discussed.

Quarterly Meeting Attendance: Attendance is inconsistent at our quarterly association meetings and Michelle is reluctant to arrange program speakers if only a few members attend. Ideas to boost attendance were discussed.

Radio Shows: Hood River radio shows are completed for the rest of the year. Bill Marrick will check with Ronnie Smith about The Dalles radio interview scheduled for November 6.

Respectfully,
Peggy Peterson, Acting Secretary

"Goodnight" to The DIG

The DIG has pretty much been "put to bed" for the winter. We had a productive workday on October 6; thank you to everyone who showed up to help. Now the irrigation is off, the port-a-potty has been removed, composting worms released, vegetable plants have been chopped for composting, and several beds are covered with straw. However, if you get a chance to stop by, many flowers are still in bloom; they still look beautiful and smell wonderful! The flowers will remain in place until a frost puts a final end to them.

This year approximately 500 pounds of produce was donated to the Columbia Gorge Food Bank. We are really happy with this outcome, and picture many local families enjoying The DIG's harvest.

So far eight of the raised beds have been rebuilt thanks to a lumber donation from Home Depot and carpentry work of Bruce Lavier. Thanks to everyone who helped secure this donation, pick up the lumber, store the lumber, remove old boards, and re-build the beds. What a great improvement to The DIG!

Lastly, a big "Thank You" to everyone who assisted in making The DIG such a lovely representation of the Wasco County Master Gardeners this season!

Kathy O'Hern

PLANT YOUR GARLIC NOW FOR SUMMER HARVEST

Michelle Sager

You haven't missed your opportunity to plant garlic, but time is a-ticking! The best time to plant Garlic is October-November. Plant garlic by planting individual cloves, which form roots in the fall, and then create clones of themselves to become whole heads of garlic. Make sure to order garlic seed specifically (and not just plant any ol' garlic from the store – that's the only way to make sure it's pathogen-free.)

There are two types of garlic to plant: hardneck and softneck varieties. Hardneck garlic varieties produce small bulblets at the end of a tall flower stalk along with the bulb underground. These are often called "garlic scapes" and they are really tasty! Softneck varieties don't produce these bulblets, but do tend to produce larger bulbs, since less energy is diverted into growing the bulblets. Both types are harvested in mid-July.

All garlic does well in sandy, well-draining soil, and in full-sun. Plant garlic cloves root-side down and 2-inches deep and 4-inches apart. Rows can be 10-14 inches apart. Soil can be mulched with straw, leaves, etc. to help reduce weeds and build soil. Fertilize with nitrogen in early spring with blood meal, pelleted manure, or another source of nitrogen.

Insect damage is not a huge problem for garlic, but you will need to weed, as garlic struggles to thrive with competition from other plants.

For hardneck varieties, the bulblets can be harvested in late May or early June. Harvest the main crop in mid-summer, when the garlic head can be divided into plump cloves and is covered by the dry, papery skin on the outside of the bulbs.

Dry bulbs in a shady, dry and warm area for a couple of days, then removed the tops and roots and lightly brush off dirt from the bulbs. You don't want to remove too much of the papery skin, as that helps to keep it preserved. Store in a dark and well-ventilated area.

Editor's note: For garlic recipes see the October newsletter.

EKONE GARLIC FOR SALE

Grown with love by the campers of Ekone Ranch in Goldendale, WA to support our garden program, this garlic is gorgeous, tasty, and good for you! We have hardneck and softneck varieties available for \$12/lb. Stock up for winter, it'll keep!

Contact Shonie at 509-773-4536 or shonie@ekone.org, and learn more about Ekone Ranch at www.ekone.org.

AVAILABLE GARDEN OFFER

Looking for a garden to work and harvest? Philip Mascher has reached out to us to offer his private 0.5 acre garden for someone to garden to their heart's delight. He and his wife can't keep up with it, and would love for someone to get to enjoy this private plot right off 15th Street on Mill Creek. For more info, please contact philip@avenueproperties.com

Editor's note: this garden would be for personal use and is *not* a Master Gardener project.

The Dirt Sheet

MORE PICTURES FROM GRADUATION!



A quiet moment visiting & eating; prize tables up front.



Class of 2018, Rachael, Melanie, Ramona, Megan, TammyRae, Sandra, Nancy; not visible - Maggie & Theresa; not present Virginia & Linda.



TammyRae, Theresa, Nancy & Ramona visiting



Kathy presenting Cindy with the "Best Dressed" award. Additional special awards were "Sleuth" given to Candace for identifying the fungus gnats in the greenhouse; "Two-for-One" award to Bruce & Annabelle; and to Virginia & Linda for their Peter Rabbit bed at The DIG.



some of the prizes to choose from



Busy getting signatures for their Bingo cards

The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

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Past President – Bill Marick

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Historian – Bruce Lavier

OMGA Rep – Ronnie Smith
Alternate OMGA Rep – Bob Bailey

OSU Extension Staff

Michelle Sager, Program Coordinator

For those of you not on **Facebook**, you can still view our page and read articles posted there. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/WascoMG/>

Find Us Online

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/dir>

Calendar

Nov 6	3pm	NORCOR meeting at Extension office
Nov 8	9:30am	NORCOR work party (patch GH skin)
Nov 20	2pm	WCMGA Board Meeting
Nov 22		HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
Dec 18	2pm	WCMGA Board Meeting
Dec 25		Merry Christmas!
Dec 29		Deadline for January newsletter



THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!!!

This newsletter only exists because of the contributions of many people who send in articles and photos to share with everyone. Some contribute every month, others maybe just once or twice. All are greatly appreciated!!! In 2018 the following people contributed: Bill Marick, Annabelle Lavier, Michelle Sager, Kathy O'Hern, Carolyn Wright, Sheri Esquivias, Tami Berthold, Marvin Elsberry, Cindy Russell, TammyRae Sykora, Lana Tepfer, Phyllis Olson, Louise Sargent, Nancy Wesson, Peggy Peterson, Garry Peterson, Dave Rawson, Bruce Lavier, Marcia Strader, and Leslie Gover. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

This is also a good time to extend our thanks and appreciation to the office staff who help us out more than most of us are aware of. A BIG THANK YOU to Kim McCullough, MaryEllen Lowe, Susan Coleman, and, of course, Michelle Sager. We couldn't do it without you!!!