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THE DIRT SHEET
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

PLANT A GARDEN

Plant five rows of “peas”
Preparedness
Promptness
Politeness
Perseverance
And Prayer

Plant four rows of “lettuce”
Let us be unselfish
Let us be loyal
Let us be kind & thoughtful
And let us love one another

Next plant three rows of “squash”
Squash criticism
Squash gossip
And indifference

No garden is complete without “turnips”
Turn up for meetings
Turn up with ideas
Turn up with a smile
And if you cultivate this kind of garden
You will harvest rich rewards.

Sent in by Lana Tepfer, our 30 year veteran Master Gardener
PRESIDENT’S CORNER:
Steve Gillette

Coming in after Bill Marick as president is going to be a tough act to follow. Bill’s subtle leadership style, kindness of spirit and thoughtful manner make him a pleasure to work with and a real asset to the Wasco County’s Master Gardener program. I’d like to thank Bill for his patience with me over the past year. I look forward to working with Bill, our incoming President Elect Marylin Richardson and the rest of the hard-working board members in the year to come.

I have been involved in several non-profit volunteer organizations over the years and somehow ended up on the board of all of them, but I have never been involved with an organization that is populated with a more dedicated group of people. A common thread that runs through almost all those organizations is the tendency to become overly dependent on a relatively small group of individuals to be responsible for carrying out the organizational mission. I have found over the years the more individuals that are added to that core group, the more successfully and harmoniously the overall organization functions. Additionally, by lessening burn out and frustration members get a greater feeling of fulfillment.

For people like me it is hard to ask for help, easier to deal with it myself. The result of that mindset is I’m excluding others from participating, from being a part of the mission. Of course, that is not the intention but that is the reality just the same. On the other side of that coin, it is just as hard for some people to ask to be included, to become involved so they don’t. They may be a member for a year, maybe two but if they are not engaged in the mission they will move on. My goal this year is to improve our member retention by expanding our core.

On Monday, January 14 at The Dalles Senior Center we will be holding our Meet and Greet gathering. I would like to ask all Master Gardeners to take a few minutes to step outside your comfort zone and spend time with at least 3 people that you either don’t know or have had limited interaction. Help me expand the core.

Thank you and I’ll see you in class.

Steven Gillette
WCMGA President

Linda Trautz with students from the Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute

Ramona Bryant at the NORCOR greenhouse
The Wasco County Master Gardeners Association Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm at the Casa El Mirador Restaurant.

**Attendees:** Steve Gillette, Bill Marick, Marilyn Richardson, Jens Fredericksen, Bruce Lavier, Annabelle Lavier, Garry Peterson, Peggy Peterson, Kathy O’Hern, Louise Sargent, Sheri Esquivias, Michelle Sager

**Minutes:** Minutes approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

$17,455.88 as of December 10, 2018

Annabelle moved and Jens seconded the motion to approve the Audit Report as presented. Motion passed.

Steve, Jens, and Michelle presented the proposed 2019 budget complete with new EXCEL format. After a couple of corrections — change dues to $900 with $260 paid to the state, and discussion of the difference between NORCOR and The DIG’s budget amounts, Bruce moved and Louise seconded the motion to accept the proposed budget as presented.

**The DIG:** Cindy will take the leadership position with committee to support her efforts.

Steve has discussed the gate project with Mark Poppoff who will be building it. Steve suggested that a group get together to assist in the installation. Executive Board thanked Bill for his effort during his President tenure.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**Annabelle Lavier, Secretary**

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**2018 IN NUMBERS (mostly)**

**Michelle Sager**

Hello Gardeners!

I was finishing up my annual reporting over the holiday break, and I wanted to just share a few of the amazing highlights from the Master Gardener Program from 2018!

- 3,225 volunteer hours
- 1,078 direct contacts with the public
- 1720 hours of training and continuing education
- 500+ lbs of fresh food donated to the Columbia River Gorge Food Bank
- $9,570 raised at the Spring Plant Fair
- 270 people attended programs at The DIG
- The NORCOR team began putting together a training workbook for new volunteers

Remember, we can only include the numbers that *you* give in your reporting. Surely these numbers are low compared to the reality — and that’s saying a lot! You all put in so much time and energy into this program and into your local community, and that’s really what it’s all about.

I am so looking forward to another fantastic year with all of you.

Remember to get your applications in to the office by January 16!

If you know anyone who would make a great Master Gardener, send them my way :)

“Garden catalogs melt the winter snows.”
Bevery Rose Hopper
Press release: 5th Annual BeeVent Pollinator Conference

When: March 2, 2019

Where: Linn Co. Fair and Expo Center in Albany, Oregon

From: Linn County Extension Master Gardeners Association

Would you like to increase the size of the raspberries growing in your garden by 30%? Can the fruit on your apple tree grow bigger and healthier without adding more fertilizer? Yes!

What is the secret? Personalized pollinators.

This year's BeeVent Pollinator Conference on March 2, sponsored by the Linn Co. Extension Master Gardeners, will teach you ways to enhance the habitat in your yard to encourage specific beneficial butterflies and insects to take up residence and do their magic on your flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

And it just might improve the whole neighborhood!

Most of the bee and butterfly research conducted to date has been for commercial growers. But this fifth annual gathering of home gardeners, small farmers and city dwellers who love flowers, has become an essential element in the growth of interest and knowledge surrounding the plight of our pollinators.

Learn what citizen-scientists around the northwest are doing to enhance our knowledge of native bees and other pollinators. Some butterflies, monarchs are one, can only reproduce if they lay eggs on a specific plant that will provide food for the caterpillars when they hatch. What are those plants? Can I buy them at our local nurseries? Which ones will grow well in my garden? What is an Oregon Berry Bee?

Our expert speakers will address these and many other common questions. Vendors will be available for the purchase of products and plants and local non-profit groups will share valuable information.

Please join us on March 2 at the Linn Co. Fair and Expo Center in Albany, Oregon. Doors open at 8:00; bring a lunch or pre-order when purchasing tickets. Linnmastergardeners.com/tickets.

JANUARY 14 MEET & GREET
6PM AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Plan to come to the WCMGA Quarterly meeting this January 14th at the Mid Columbia Senior Center, corner of 9th and Cherry Heights Streets.

The Winter meeting is our annual Meet and Greet – an opportunity for people interested in the master gardener program to come and learn about the program, meet us, and enjoy some snacks. Plan to come, invite anyone you know who might be interested in becoming a master gardener, and bring a finger food to share.
2018 in Pictures

Sheri starting us in the greenhouse in January

First annual seed exchange at the library

Class time! Rating plants for fire resistance

March Rose Pruning Clinic at Sorosis Park

Jessica transplanting in the NORCOR greenhouse

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2018 in Pictures, continued

April work party at The DIG, rebuilding raised beds

Spring Plant Fair in May

August Coffee at The DIG presentation – garlic

Time to celebrate! Graduation and Recognition party in October

Summer picnic at Bailey’s and honoring Pam Manning as Master Gardener of the Year
PNW Pollinator Summit and Conference
February 14-16, 2019
OSU, Corvallis

A two-day conference and an additional day of workshops designed to “connect-the-dots” between research, extension and application. This meeting is for extension agents, natural resource professionals, land managers, educators, as well as pollinator enthusiasts who want to develop or enhance the pollinator programming in their area. Conference talks will be mixed with discussion sessions, allowing participants to network and identify local knowledge and education gaps.

In short, this will NOT be a standard research conference. The event is about highlighting and connecting groups and agencies that have successful programs and translating this experience into more and better initiatives on the ground. If you want understand what makes an effective pollinator initiative and synergize your activities with those of other local organizations, you won’t want to miss this event. Early registration ends January 12; contact Michelle for information. Learn more about the program.