



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

CGMGA & OMGA

OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardeners Receive Awards

Four deserving Master Gardeners are recipients of the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes Awards for their contributions to the OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardener program.

Master Gardeners of the Year are Renee Taylor and Christie Bradley



Renee Taylor became a Master Gardener volunteer in 2016 and since then has demonstrated leadership in many ways. When the Central Gorge Master Gardener Program Assistant left for another position while classes and activities for 2020 were being planned, Renee took charge and finished classroom sessions, testing and the

recognition celebration. She also finalized the entire Master Gardener 2020 training schedule of in depth and interesting classes taught by OSU professors, staff and local experts against suggestions from others to drop the program for 2020. Renee also orchestrated a new summer seminar series of lectures for the public designed to enhance the presence of Master Gardeners in the community as well as to educate the public. This series became the Gardening to Save the World webinar. In 2019 Renee became President of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association after serving on the Executive Committee for several years. Renee has been instrumental in improving the CGMGA website and adding new items. She was publisher of the CGMGA newsletter, was helpful in producing the final invitation for the 10th anniversary celebration of the Japanese

Heritage Garden, and worked on other aspects that involved her creative talents. Renee formed a Plant Clinic Committee and supported their work in organizing and supervising the Plant Clinic office. Additionally, Renee attends most training sessions, participated on the Japanese Heritage Garden 10th Anniversary planning committee, taught in the Seed to Supper program, chaired the Garden Tour, and is generally willing to volunteer her experience and expertise when needed.

Renee Taylor has been a great contributor to Central Gorge Master Gardeners and is very deserving of recognition as the 2020 Master Gardener of the Year recipient.

Christie Bradley

joined the Master Gardener program in 2009, began serving as secretary of the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association in 2011 and continues to provide this service. In the past year she has been instrumental in the organization's transition to a new program assistant and development of the 2020 curriculum. She also co-chaired the Seed to Supper classes with Master Gardener of the

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CGMGA & OMGA

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Year co-recipient, Renee Taylor and serves as a mentor to new Master Gardener trainees. After several years of working on the Master Gardener Plant Sale committee, in 2020 she became co-chair for this project. With the arrival of the corona-virus pandemic, Christie stepped up and took charge to design, implement, and advise the technology aspect of the new Master Gardener Virtual Plant Clinics. She offers her time whenever needed and has been instrumental in helping the Master Gardener membership to transition to Virtual Plant Clinics and make them successful. Without Christie's sharing of her extensive technical skills and abilities, community members would not be able to receive assistance from Master Gardeners for their plant and pest questions during the coronavirus pandemic. Christie also hosts Zoom sessions for CGMGA meetings so that the organization can continue working toward their goals during this time of isolation. Christie collaborates with everyone and works quietly in the background as much as possible to make the OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardener program successful. She is a great contributor to the organization and is very deserving of recognition as the 2020 Central Gorge Master Gardener of the Year recipient.

Shari Bosler and Anne Saxby receive Behind the Scenes awards.



Shari Bosler is a familiar face with OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardeners. Although she does much in the public eye, Shari also is active behind the scenes. Shari has been a member of the Executive Committee in a variety of positions and has been the newsletter editor for several years. When the

CGMG was left without a program assistant, Shari became a member of Central Gorge Master Gardener Association's advisory committee. Shari was an integral part of discussion and decision making for the remainder of the 2019 program year and preparing for 2020. She contributed ideas, contacted potential

speakers, and kept the communication with the Master Gardener membership ongoing. The communication within the CGMG has been excellent because Shari is persistent in collecting information on the various projects and updates. She is instrumental in member retention and regularly serves as a mentor encouraging involvement of new Master Gardeners in chapter activities.

In addition to her work at the local level, Shari has chaired the state committee to seek speakers for the Oregon Master Gardener Mini College planned for July 2020 and helped with other aspects of planning for the event. This contribution is totally unseen by her local chapter's membership but contributes so much to the health of the statewide Master Gardener program. This participation with OMGA and contacts around the state have allowed Shari to be a conduit of information and new ideas to our local level from other chapters. Shari has been a long time contributor in many ways to the CGMG program but has really stepped up behind the scenes and is a very deserving candidate for recognition as the Central Gorge Behind the Scenes Master Gardener for 2020.

Anne Saxby has been an OSU Central Gorge Master Gardener since 2005 and is a Lifetime Master Gardener. Anne has been an active member serving as treasurer for the CGMGA, mentor to new Master Gardener trainees, co-chair of the Japanese Heritage Garden opening celebration, and was project leader for the native plant garden in the Learning Garden. Over the years, she has also assisted with plant sales, garden tours, and in the Learning Garden. Anne was honored as Master Gardener of the Year in 2008 along with Rita Saling, for work they did on the JHG. Most recently, Anne stepped up to organize and orchestrate Master Gardener Plant Clinics when Central Gorge Master Gardeners lost their program assistant. Anne, with the help of others, physically rearranged the plant clinic office so that it became more functional. She ensured that the clinic was staffed and mentored the Master



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CGMGA & OMGA

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Gardeners volunteering there. Anne collected data about the problems that Central Gorge Master Gardeners encountered and evaluated the quality of research and suggestions provided by Master Gardener volunteers. Several improvements were identified to enhance the continuity and quality of Plant Clinic responses to the public. Anne continues to serve as a Plant Clinic committee member, assists Master Gardeners in research of client questions when additional information is needed and makes suggestions and recommendations. She also worked closely in the formation of Virtual Plant Clinics. Anne has given much of her time and skills to insure that the Master Gardener Plant Clinics not only continue, but improve and progress. Receiving this year's Behind the Scenes award is a fitting honor to Anne's longtime dedication to the Central Gorge Master Gardener program.



From the desk of your CGMGA President . . .

GOOD NEWS! The Hood River Safety Levy passed. What this means for Master Gardeners is the increased possibility of Extension funding for next year. The Sheriff Department funding will now have its own tax base and not funded through the County funds. This will enable the County to use its entire budget on other services.

We hope that the County will be able to reinstate all of the funding to the OSU Extension. It behooves us to continue to promote our program with the County Commissioners and to be visible and active within the Gorge.

Thank you to our letter writers: Sandi Rousseau, Margo Dameier, Beth Flake and Maria Kollas.

Sandy Montag

Month at a Glance

June 3: Wednesday 6-7pm: Drought Tolerant Plants, presented by Neil Bell, OSU Professor and Community Horticulturist

June 9: Tuesday 10-12pm: CGMGA Exec Comm Mtg (Tentatively via Zoom. Everyone is welcome and can contact Christie Bradley for the link, if interested)

June 17: Wednesday 6-7pm: Insect Apocalypse: Real of Hype?, presented by Gail Langellotto, OSU Master Gardener State Coordinator

July 1: Wednesday 6-7pm: Pollinators, presented by Andony Melathopolous, OSU Professor, Pollinator Health Extension

July 15: Wednesday 6-7pm: Pesticide Safety, presented by Brooke Edmunds, Community Horticulture, Master Gardeners Linn and Benton Counties

August 1: Saturday 10-12pm: Pruning demonstration by Sadafumi Uchiyama in the Japanese Heritage Garden

August 21: Friday 9am: Parkdale Garden work party (depending on OSU directives)

Check our website for more calendar information:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/current-master-gardeners>

Dear Master Gardeners

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and card! They are bringing me joy as I recover from surgery. Every time I look at them, I think of all your beautiful faces and it makes me smile. I appreciate all of the help, encouragement, and support you have given me. I'm honored to belong to this organization and to know all of you.



Renee

CGMGA & OMGA

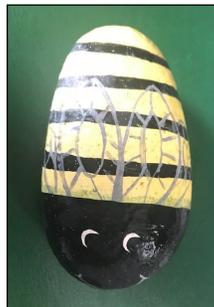
Pam Crider



We are all saddened by the passing of Pam Crider, CGMGA member and Master Gardener since 2001. As we learned of her death, here are some thoughts shared by our members:

I am so very sad! Pam was a big part of my years with Master Gardeners. She was the go to person for plant identification and many other plant things. She taught many Master Gardener Classes... the red nose... the tiara... the infectious laugh... the "dumb" jokes! Many of the displays at the Hood River Fair. So much energy! The kindness ... always thinking of others! I wish I was home with access to my old computer because there are many pictures I could share! I think my last visit with Pam was picking peaches in Tom's orchard in 2016!!! So many skills... flower arranging, landscaping, making beautiful bows and so much more!!! Rest In Peace, Pam!! - Elizabeth

This is sad news. I'll always remember her kooky sense of humor. Especially the time she wore a tiara while teaching a Master Gardener class on container gardening while cracking jokes the entire class. Yes, there were Lady Bugs on the table too. I ran into her while I was planning a memorial service a few years ago. Without me asking, she brought buckets of Dahlia's from her garden so that I could make flower arrangements and simply asked that I surprise someone else when they were in need. Our local gardening community has lost a caring, giving and unique indi-



vidual. - Margo

I still remember her plant propagation class from my first year as a Master Gardener. I was so in awe of her knowledge and humor. She made us all covers for our Sustainable gardening books. The world lost an amazing soul. - Cindy

Being around her it was hard to be anything but happy. She made everything fun! - Leanne
I adored Pam and her ladybugs. I felt that Pam was most knowledgeable about plants and at one time (early on in my MG days) if there was a plant id or problem that could not be identified it went into the "ask Pam Crider file," she will know! Her kooky sense of humor was always fun too. - Jen

Pam was indeed a character as well as a very knowledgeable gardener. She will be missed, but not forgotten. - Anne

Pam had so many wonderful parts to her and, in the spirit of remembering, I want to take on her sense of joy and delight in all things. - Helen

She was one-of-a-kind! So creative and generous: ladybug and bee rocks, holiday boutonnieres. For our holiday greenery events, Pam made beautiful bows to adorn our creations. We became "epi" friends, sharing photos of our epiphyllum cactuses each year. - Shari

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Puncturevine – A Painful Pest Invading Hood River

Puncturevine is a sprawling annual plant that forms a dense mat with very sharp, spiny seed heads. Also known as goathead, puncturevine has branched stems that can spread up to 6 feet wide, stemming from a single crown. Flowers are small, yellow and have 5 petals. The leaves are hairy, 1-3 inches long, and divided into leaflets, each about 1/4 inch long. The seed head is woody with very sharp spines. Seeds are easily spread by sticking into footwear, vehicle tires and animals. Puncturevine thrives in sunny, dry, rocky locations such as roadsides or gravel parking lots. This plant poses serious problems for recreationalists and agriculturalists alike. The seeds can easily puncture a bike tire, inflatable raft or dog's paw. Plants are actively producing seeds now and will continue to do so until the first frost.

Puncturevine has been found throughout Hood River county including along the Mosier-Twin Tunnels trail,

the Hood River waterfront, the Odell industrial area, Eastside Road, Lost Lake Road and along Tucker Rd. It has also been found in area orchards where seeds are being spread by tractor tires and other farming activities. If you see it, pull it and please report it to the Oregon Invasives Hotline at <https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/> or 1-866-INVADER. Unfortunately, Hood River County does not have the capacity to address infestations of this weed. Landowners should be prepared to address any infestations found on their own property. To remove it, try to get the entire taproot, all of the seeds, bag it and put it in the garbage for landfill disposal. This is one to nip in the bud!



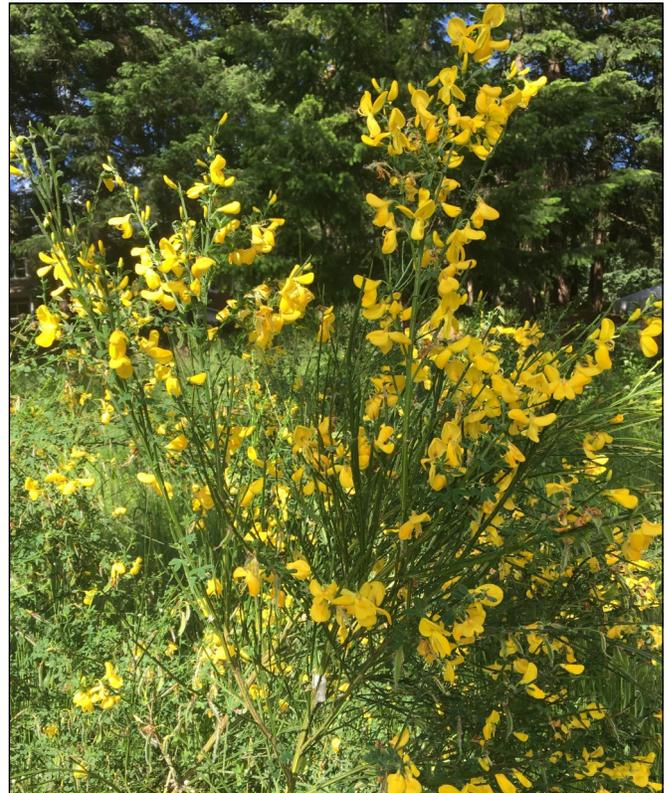
Heather Hendrixson

District Manager, Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District

Scotch Broom

Do you have a plan to manage Scotch Broom in your yard and neighborhood? It's in full bloom now, but try not to let it all go to seed and disperse late in the summer. One mature plant can produce 10,000+ seeds, which can live up to 60 years. Conscientious control of this noxious weed can mitigate it from your landscape.

Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), is a yellow-flowered, evergreen bush growing up to 10' tall, in the pea family from Scotland. It has spread widely into open areas and cleared forests throughout the region; it invades grassy areas and poses a fire hazard. The shrubs can form dense stands in the western Gorge, including in pastures, empty lots, and on roadsides. Leaves are small, short-lived, and simple or 3-parted. Branches are erect and angled, with prominent ridges. In March-June, it produces bright yellow, pea-like flowers all along stems, followed by black, hard seedpods with hairy edges. It reproduces via seeds that can persist in soil for decades. Scotch Broom refers full sun, but tolerates shade.



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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS



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Now is the time to carefully hand pull the smallest plants, (up to ¼” diameter) while being careful not to disrupt the soil. Plan for late summer to cut larger plants when they are drought stressed; and/or plan for chemical control. Please click through to the WA State Noxious Weed Board website with more information for managing Scotch broom:

<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/scotch-broom>

Fruit Tree Care

Why would you remove newly set fruit from your fruit trees? OSU professor Anita Azarenko has an answer.

“A bumper crop of fruit may be more than your apple or pear tree is meant to bear. To get larger, higher quality apples and pears, remove immature fruit in late May or early June.”

For the full answer and links to some great OSU publications on home fruit trees go to...

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/thin-now-higher-quality-tree-fruits>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A Million Thank Yous

This has been a year with many challenges that have tested our flexibility and creativity. Our Plant Sale required a lot of both and I am so grateful to everyone that participated whether with ideas, trailers, heavy lifting both psychologically and physically, transplanting plugs and raising up the babies or any of a hundred other things.

To my co-chair Christie, I certainly couldn't have done it without you. And the rest of the empresses Beth Flake, Teena Fife, Kathy Lien and Margo Dameier. And our backbone in difficult situations, Megan. Also

to the Greenhouse crew for everything they did to get us up and ready before the poop hit the fan.

A special thanks to Sandi Rousseau, for spending hours in the rain and cold during our “Not a Plant Sale.”

The system of distributing the plugs along with their soil, pots, trays and labels went very well. The bonus of it for me was to see all of you in person. Most of our “kids” cooperated and grew for us. And they went to excellent homes.

The plant exchange went great and people were very generous with

their donations. We made back enough to cover the cost of the plugs, the soil and part of the cost of the pots. No income as we've come to know it over the last many years but it was successful on many fronts.

Extravagant thanks to all of you. What a team. Everyone stepped up and made lemonade out of lemons. Now, I'm wondering how many of you are willing to do it again next year, if we're given the opportunity? Let me know, it's never too late to start thinking.

Laurel DeTar

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

2021 Garden Tour

Thank you to all of you who have signed up to help work on the 2021 Garden Tour. Anyone who is still interested in helping with the 2021 Garden Tour, and earning volunteer hours, please let me know, or feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

In May we visited 5 candidate gardens, and we hope to visit a dozen more this summer. We are looking for gardens that have interesting and educational components, including gardens that produce some fruits and vegetables. Gardens can be located ANYWHERE in the Central Gorge MG area, including the WA side.

Keep in mind that a nominated garden will be PREVIEWED THIS SUMMER by the Garden Tour committee members, and several gardens will be selected for the 2021 Tour. The selection process will include criteria such as: floral diversity, hardscape features, educational opportunities, proximity to other selected gardens and parking options for visitors.

Have some gardens to nominate? Please email me at karenblackjenkins@gmail.com or let's talk 912-210-6603 Thank you! *Karen*



CGMGA Virtual Plant Clinics

Our Virtual Plant Clinics are now underway and since we are not able to be out in the public, publicizing them to the community is bringing new challenges. In order to promote our Plant Clinics, I need your help. The next time you're doing a Plant Clinic, ask the person who's living with you to take your picture and send it to me. If you live alone and are comfortable using a selfie stick, that works too. Be sure that you wear your badge and have your screen with the Plant Clinic in progress and profile or full face of you visible. These will be used in publicity as well as our history. Include your name, the name of your Plant Clinic partner and the date in the email. Please select and send me the best one or two photos from your next Plant Clinic. Please size your photos to be 500-1000 pixels, and less than 100k. This allows them to be easily uploaded on electronic media.

Margo

margo@gorge.net

Parkdale Memorial Garden Work Parties

The final work party is scheduled in the Parkdale Garden for August 21 at 9:00 am, depending on OSU directives.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Gardening to Save the World

Pre-register by visiting <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmg/>, then join in on the day of the seminar at 6pm.



June 3, Drought Tolerant Plants,
presented by Neil Bell, OSU Professor and
Community Horticulturist



**June 17, Insect Apocalypse:
Real or Hype?**

presented by Gail Langellotto,
OSU Master Gardener State



July 1, Pollinators
presented by Andony
Melathopolous, OSU Professor,
Pollinator Health Extension



July 15, Pesticide Safety
presented by Brooke Edmunds,
Community Horticulture, Master
Gardeners Linn and Benton Coun-
ties

GARDEN SPOTLIGHT

Extravagant Peonies



Approximately 10 years ago I went to Harvest Fest up in Odell where I ventured into the building with the fruit and flowers. Because it was the first thing I saw I stopped at Lori and Jim Sampson's peony display and my life has never been the same. The first day I bought Coral Charm. The second day I went back and bought 6 more. I now have more than thirty of the easiest plants on the planet to care for.

They are also some of the most glorious blooms to be seen anywhere. Their season is fairly short so investing in plants that bloom throughout the cycle is important. I have a couple of extra early bloomers, think Nosegay which is a luscious peachy pink that blooms outside my living room window. Then I have plants that bloom until the very end, around the middle of June. My other two early bloomer favorites are Coral Charm and Diana Parks which is a true red. Mid-season I love Butterbowl and Peppermint and late season is Ann Cousins. Just realize that the season is short so most of these will overlap and cause ecstasy in your garden. They also come with different foliage and styles of blooms. My Little Red Gems at the edge of our sidewalk look like Dr. Seuss plants with fine foliage. Peonies provide three season interest. The foliage in the fall varies in colors from plant to plant. Coral Charm has beautiful fall colored foliage. Herbaceous peonies can be cut in early bloom stage and wrapped and stored at the back of your fridge for a couple of weeks, thus extending the bloom time. You just take them out, cut a little off the end and put in warm water. They will open up

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date



Join us in the Japanese Heritage Garden for a pruning demonstration by Sadafumi Uchiyama on Saturday, August 1st from 10am to noon.

beautifully.

Fall is the time to plant peonies. They require limited care after planting. Make sure your herbaceous ones are planted no more than an inch or two below the soil because they need to freeze over the winter. Do not mulch them. Just cut the dead stuff down in the fall. You may add a little bone meal to the bottom of the whole to give them a little extra oomph. They have very few disease or critter issues which I have pretty much learned to tolerate. If it's a big year for powdery mildew, I can't tolerate that for very long. Be aware



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GARDEN SPOTLIGHT

that they can be an investment in patience. They may not bloom first year but there should be some in the second year and watch out in the third year. I believe I have magical soil because all of mine have bloomed first year.

Tree peonies which tend to be a monetary investment are planted just the opposite and you really need to read the instructions. You also really just want to take off the dead blossoms. In the past, we MGs that tend to the Japanese Heritage Garden have pruned ours but always by committee.

There is a third classification called the Itoh which is a combination of the herbaceous and the tree peony. The spectacular thing about the Itoh is the colors they come in. Mine is a glorious yellow with an orangey red center named Shining Light.

In peony land there is something for everyone. And please say hello to my long-time enabler, Lori Sampson of Rarity Gardens in Parkdale.

Laurel De Tar

GARDENING RESOURCES

- ◇ [Hood River County Master Gardeners](#)
- ◇ blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/
- ◇ [Growing Your Own](#)
- ◇ [OSU Publications](#)
- ◇ [Monthly Gardening Calendars](#)
- ◇ [PNW Handbooks](#)
- ◇ [HortSense](#)
- ◇ [UC IPM](#)
- ◇ [OSU Gardening](#)
- ◇ [WSU Gardening](#)
- ◇ [Weed Identification](#)
- ◇ [Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area](#)
- ◇ [GardenSmart: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants](#)
- ◇ [Where to Pickup a free copy of GardenSmart](#)



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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

In order to allow time for formatting the CGMGA Newsletter, please submit **articles or calendar items by the third Friday of the month**. Send newsletter information to Shari Bosler at sharibosler@hotmail.com. Thanks!