



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

CGMGA & OMGA

From the desk of your CGMGA President

In August, I wrote about planning for our upcoming classes in 2021. You may have received or will receive a survey by Gail Langellotto from OSU soliciting your input in designing these classes. She will be inquiring about gardening subjects that interest us and learning needs around diversity as well as technology learning opportunities. Since we will probably be attending these classes on line, you will have the opportunity to state your preference for on-line webinars, prerecorded lectures and/or classes thru OSU’s Canvas Program. I am sure zoom technology will be prominent.



The Importance of responding to this survey is vital for the quality of our educational program next year. The Program will be designed around the needs of the entire state, so OSU needs to hear about our local requirements. Next year’s training will be focused on current Master Gardeners with more in-depth learning opportunities. Let’s make sure that our voices are heard. PLEASE complete the survey.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the MG Program

OSU Extension is committed to exploring and developing a more diverse and inclusive MG program. At the State level, OSU has identified 3 areas of exploration:

- An inspection of the history of the MG Program in Oregon including racism and the founding of land grant institutions.
- An investigation of how and who do MG serve in our communities. Who are we missing and who needs gardening advice, education & support?
- To discover any systemic barriers in our program and explore how we can remove them

OSU has convened a group of MG Program Coordinators to address the above issues and to examine diversity, equity & inclusion in our

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Month at a Glance

Oct 8: Thursday 9-12pm:

Learning Garden work party

Oct 13: Tuesday 10-12pm:

CGMGA Exec Comm Mtg (via zoom. Everyone is welcome and can contact Christie Bradley for the link, if interested)

Oct 22: Thursday 9-12pm:

Learning Garden work party

Oct 23: Friday: Parkdale

Memorial Garden work party (time to be determined)

Oct 26-30: Monday-Friday:

Master Gardener week (details to follow)

Nov 5: Thursday 9-12pm:

Learning Garden work party

Nov 7: Saturday 10-12pm:

Pruning demonstration by Sadafumi Uchiyama in the Japanese Heritage Garden (“Tentative, dependent on OSU guidelines”)

Dec 5: Saturday: Holiday

Greenery Event (details in the future)

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

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CGMGA & OMGA

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training program. To make sure that all MGs are heard, a survey was developed and sent to all MG for their feedback.

In addition to filling out the survey, our local chapter can participate more fully by exploring CGMGA's local program, who we reach, who aren't receiving our services and who might benefit. The Executive Committee is forming a special committee to explore these issues and to make recommendations to the membership for future collaboration or projects.

Please join us. We would appreciate 4-5 MGs to volunteer for this important mission. Let Sandy Montag know if you are willing to join this committee.

Sandy Montag

OMGA

As the 3rd Quarterly OMGA Board of Directors meeting was held right on the deadline for this newsletter, I wanted to share Gail Langellotto's Statewide Program Leader's Report. Of particular interest is: Master Gardener week will be October 26-30. The event will include a Mini-Film Festival, the state of the Statewide Master Gardener Program report, and a garden trivia event. An official announcement and link to register will go out, next week.

At this meeting, there was a vote taken about OMGA Mini College 2021. The outcome is that the format will be totally virtual. Stay tuned for details.

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/09/21/2020-3rd-quarter-report/>

Shari Bosler

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Water Conservation – Every Drop Counts when Conserving Water

Fall is approaching and the snow in the mountains is gone, temperatures are warm, and water levels in local streams and rivers are low. Snowpack and precipitation continue to be below normal and temperatures are above normal causing a strain on local water supplies, impacting fish habitat and water quality. For many, water shortages are an inconvenience. For others, it will affect their livelihood. Now is the time to implement water conservation practices at home.

Each of us can help keep more water in area rivers and streams and improve conditions for the farms, fish and wildlife that make use of

this limited resource. For many of us, the simplest place to conserve water is in our landscapes. The following tips can help you



increase your water efficiency and eliminate water waste.

Irrigate early in the day between 4 and 9 a.m. when evaporation is lowest. The next best time is after 8 p.m. at night. Avoid watering on windy days.

Water infrequently but deeply. This promotes growth of deep root systems so plants can withstand longer dry periods and stay healthy.

Regularly check for leaky or broken sprinklers, hoses, and water lines and fix them promptly.

Never apply water faster than it can be absorbed. Sloped areas are tricky to water effectively. Contour around each plant to create a water well or use terracing.

For new landscapes, choose native, drought-

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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tolerant plants or eco-lawns for future water savings and less maintenance.

Consider letting your lawn go dormant for the rest of the summer. It will green up again once the rains start.

Use drip irrigation or micro-sprinklers instead of overhead or impact sprinklers. You will save water and minimize plant diseases caused by wetting the leaves of your plants.

Redirect sprinklers to avoid hitting the pavement. Watering pavement is a waste.

Remove weeds regularly and use a weed barrier such as

mulch material, bark, or landscape fabric. Weeds compete with desirable plants for water.

Mulch your plants. Mulch helps conserve moisture while suppressing weeds.

Wash your car on your lawn rather than driveway and concrete surfaces. The grass will help filter the water so that soap doesn't enter waterways and your lawn will get watered at the same time.

Please join the effort to keep our creeks, rivers, and streams healthy.

Written by Heather Hendrixson, District Manager, Hood River SWCD

Wildfire Risk Reduction

As infernos ravage the 10 western states and we sit under a heavy blanket of smoke, we are reminded of one of the major factors that property owners in the Columbia Gorge think of each year as the seasons transition into summer/fall: Wildfire Risk Reduction. There are so many questions asked and a huge amount of information available, much more than we can cover even if we took this entire newsletter. This article is meant to point you to a variety of resources which can assist with some of the immediate questions as well as suggestions as to what things we can do in the future as we garden, and care for our property with an eye to the ongoing risks that uncontrolled fire has in our lives.

Hazard Reduction: The single most important topic, after the safe use of fire, is the reduction of hazards that increase the risk to our homes. Fire depends on a triangle of factors. Air – Fuel – Heat (ignition). Remove one leg of the triangle and you have no fire.

In a wildfire scenario we have no control over the Air or the Heat but with careful planning, good horticultural practices and diligence we can significantly reduce or eliminate the Fuel.

While it's been around for a long time; "Living With Fire" is an excellent guide for homeowners. <https://>

www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_020876.pdf



OSU has an excellent webpage dedicated to the topic of "Fire"

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/forests/fire>

As we think about fuel reduction tree pruning, or removal, comes into consideration. While it is important to reduce risk, it is also prudent to consider the impact of pruning. Timing of pruning applies to Firs as well as Pines and Oaks...indeed most tree species. Please consider the following on WHEN and BEST PRACTICES for pruning and thinning pines and oaks:

<https://news.wsu.edu/2014/07/22/new-bark-beetle-threatens-southern-washington-forests/>

<http://pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu/publications/pubs/fs085e/?p-page=4>

https://cascadiaprairieoak.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Oak_Strategy_final.pdf

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/yard-and-garden-pruning-oak-trees-winter>

An excellent guide for those wishing to select plants

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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with reduced fire risk is:

Fire-resistant Plant for Home Landscapes from OSU. The print version is constantly “out of stock” but it can be downloaded for free at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw590>

When it comes to advice and resources for homeowners and gardeners wishing to reduce their wildfire risk, our article has only scratched the surface. Please remember that, if you have questions, you can reach out to the Master Gardener program, Soil & Water Districts, and local fire authorities.

Karen Jenkins

Master Gardener

Consulting Utility Arborist

Eric Bosler

Master Gardener

KCFD3 Fire Prevention

How to get rid of smoke smell

from Texas A & M extension

<https://texashelp.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/how-to-remove-smoke-smell-from-a-home.pdf>



*Megan has copies
of publication 590
at the Ext office*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parkdale Memorial Garden

The next Parkdale Memorial Garden work party is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 23, time to be determined. We need to get things squared away for the cooler weather and prepare for winter. Bill Sturman is the project leader and contact person.

Bill Sturman wmasturman@gmail.com

Learning Garden Work Parties

If you're interested in volunteering at the Learning Garden, work parties will occur every other Thursday. Please note that the planned meeting time is a little later (9 AM). Drop me an email if you plan on attending any of the remaining work parties and I will put you on the list. Hope everyone is staying healthy!

Joanne Willis joanne.cgmga@gmail.com

Pam Crider Memorial



Pamela Gail Crider, a lifetime Master Gardener, passed away on May 18, 2020. She will be remembered as wearing a tiara or a red nose to teach a Master Gardener class, raising incredible dahlias, answering every question on plant identification put to her,

and cracking her corny jokes. The Executive Committee authorized the placement of a memorial to Pam - a rock slab that includes her favorite lady beetle. This memorial is to be placed in the Parkdale Memorial Garden in the upper valley that she loved.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunity for 2021

We're riding high after the success of our premier season of Gardening to Save the World. As you all know, COVID-19 rapidly turned this conventional summer seminar series into a webinar series. These six webinars are now on our Master Gardener YouTube Channel for your review at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVo9arTcOzj9_W8Clqai4PYyQcDJ8j2Sa

Looking ahead to the 2021 GtStW webinar series, a committee has been formed, and a manual for this project is nearly complete. We are a group of enthusiastic Master Gardener volunteers in need a new Project Leader, or co-leaders.

In the summer of 2020, Kelly Sullivan served as the contact for our speakers and moderator of the webinar series. She did an outstanding job and had agreed to continue as Project Leader for 2021. However, career advancement opportunities require her to resign from this position. We're truly happy for Kelly as she designs her future, but are sorry to see her leave as Project Leader for GtStW.

This now opens up an opportunity for other Master Gardeners to step into this roll. A

committee of experienced Master Gardeners is currently in place to:

- secure the line-up of speakers
- promote GtStW to the public
- help with technology
- update the manual as needed

We're looking for one or two Master Gardeners who can take the lead to oversee this committee of self-starting MGs and administrate this webinar series.

Duties will include:

- email our speakers prior to each webinar to verify that they are prepared and have the data they need to sign in
- set up the webinar and serve as moderator to introduce the speaker and relay questions from the audience
- follow up with a questionnaire to participants and tally the results
- work with the committee to update the manual as needed

The Master Gardeners that form the GtStW committee are already working on the 2021 season and encourage any new or returning Master Gardeners to contact Margo Dameier, margo@gorge.net, about serving as Project Leader(s) for this webinar series.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date



Join us in the Japanese Heritage Garden for a pruning demonstration by Sadafumi Uchiyama on Saturday, November 7th from 10am to noon. At this time, this date is tentative, dependent on OSU guidelines.

Holiday Greenery Event



Please save the date of Saturday, December 5 for the 11th annual Holiday Greenery Event. Details to follow.

FROM YOUR BOUNTIFUL GARDEN

Zucchini chips

This is best for larger 12-16" zucchini. Ones that are too large are spongy and not so good.

- Slice pencil thin
- Place in a large bowl. Lightly coat with oil. (I use olive oil)
- Season: anything from just salt to hot sauce. I use a blend that I'll list below.
- Seasoning blend: 1 TBSP garlic powder, 1 TBSP Onion powder, 2 TBSP Nutritional yeast flakes, 1/2 tsp chili powder, 1 tsp salt
- Dehydrate in dehydrator at 125° for 18-24 hours

Recipe submitted by Deb Traver



FROM YOUR BOUNTIFUL GARDEN

Frozen herb cubes

I have done this with basil, dill, and parsley. I am sure you can do with other abundant herbs too.

Destem herb, use a large quantity if you have, ~4-8 cups. I add 1/4 c light olive oil and 1/4 cup water. I food process until coarsely chopped (1/4" or smaller bits). Fill ice cube tray. Once frozen I remove cubes from the tray and put in a labeled zip lock. Enjoy in sauces, salad dressing, soup, stew, curries etc during the winter.

Recipe submitted by Deb Traver



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](#)



[Click here to download](#)



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!