**Extension Service – Hood River County**

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Greetings Gardener,

Thank you for joining us again in the OSU Extension Central Gorge Master GardenerTM program for 2021.

Before official classes begin, I would like to invite you to our weekly Master Gardener Connects on **Wednesdays in January, 6:30-8:00 pm.** These local meetings will be held on Zoom (check your email for the meeting invitation link) and are a chance to connect with other volunteers. You will receive updates on the OSU Master Gardener program, as well as Central Gorge Master Gardener training options and project plans. Though we do not have a new class of trainees this year, many of our 2020 trainees are continuing this year to complete their education and service hours. Rather than an official “Mentor” program, this year we will adopt a “Where do you Lead?” approach, a chance for all volunteers to get better acquainted and recognize our individual strengths and areas in which we can support each other.

Your textbook, *Sustainable Gardening: The Master Gardener Handbook*, will continue to serve as a resource this year. I encourage you to review chapter readings throughout the year, to stay current on topics that may not be directly covered in a formal training. A list of suggested readings is included in this handbook.

With COVID-19 restrictions continuing into this winter and spring, all trainings will be held online using Zoom, webinars, and online classes. For those who prefer in-person learning (i.e. Most of Us!), please know that we plan to resume classroom options as soon as it is safe to do so following official OSU and Health Department guidance. When this occurs, we will likely begin with small groups for hands-on learning and individual support. Stay tuned for updates on email and Zoom calls and please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to learning with all of you this year and continuing to grow our Central Gorge program. **Welcome Back!**

Sincerely,



Megan Wickersham

Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Hood River County

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Family and Community Health, 4-H Youth, Forestry & Natural Resources, Extension Sea Grant, and Open Campus programs.

Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.