



Oregon State University
Extension Service



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

CGMGA & OMGA

From the desk of your CGMGA President . . .

Ramping Up As We Engage in 2021!

It may be different than in past years, but our Master Gardener program is starting with a bang. I hope many of you attended the first webinar presentation in our monthly 'Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series'. This was an excellent presentation by Nicole Sanchez, OSU Assistant Professor in Klamath County, on 'Understanding Seed Characteristics'. She was an interesting speaker and in all my years in Master Gardening, I had never heard some of the information presented. The second in this series is 'Multifunctional Hedgerows'. I can say I have never heard a presentation titled as such, so it just might be new information as well. Remember . . . information that you learn that might not necessarily make a difference in your own garden, may help you respond to a client's questions in plant clinic. There is never wasted information.

Other positive things happening in our chapter include revisions of the Plant Clinic forms to make it easier plus planning for a plant sale with online ordering. In 2020 we were able to have just one seed starting work party, but we plan to hold many of them this Spring starting in mid-March. We will be adapting the greenhouse events to Covid safe practices.

Megan Wickersham, our program coordinator, is providing us with opportunities to connect visually with each other in the Master Gardener Connects sessions. They are truly a way to see each other in small groups in breakout rooms to chat as you would before any in person class. So try them out if you have not already.

We can also be very proud of Megan as she received a 'shout out' from Gail Langellotto, our OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Gail says the following: 'Megan Wickersham does an *amazing* job of coordinating the Master Gardener Program in Hood River County. In

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Month at a Glance

Feb 3: Wednesday 7pm, zoom room opens at 6:30pm: How Do I (Online Plant clinic, Google Sheets, Tips and Tricks)

Feb 10: Wednesday 10-12pm: CGMGA Exec Comm Mtg (via zoom, contact Christie Bradley for the link), please note the new day of the week

Feb 10: Wednesday 7pm, zoom room opens at 6:30pm: What We Do (CGMG Projects and Committees)

Feb 26: Friday 8-9am: KIHR 1340 radio show with Master Gardeners

Check our website for more calendar information:

[http://
 extension.oregonstate.edu/
 hoodriver/current-master-
 gardeners](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver/current-master-gardeners)

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CGMGA & OMGA

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her annual report of accomplishments, she shared the following note, which I think is broadly applicable across most Master Gardener Programs in the state: "Overall, this unexpected pause in traditional programming allowed for volunteers to refocus on interest areas, join committees to evaluate projects, and take time to identify future improvements needed. Though almost all volunteers indicated that they prefer in-person trainings and activities, closures provided the opportunity for Master Gardeners to

learn and develop confidence in new technologies. Volunteers viewed and participated in online trainings they may not have accessed during a traditional year. There was also increased volunteer participation in plant clinics using the online model, as the system allowed Master Gardeners to more easily identify areas of personal interest as well as program needs."

We can be very proud and appreciative of Megan's support and efforts in her first year in this position.

Sandi Rousseau

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

A cautionary tale for gardeners...

Originally written by Jordan Kim June 2011, updated by Kris Schaedel January 2021

"Oooh what's that beautiful plant? Can I have some for my garden?" exclaimed a young gardener visiting her friend. "I'm not sure what it is, but it's awfully aggressive," the friend cautioned. "I don't mind," the young gardener replied. "I have lots of space in my garden." So, the friend dug up some of the plant and gave it to the young gardener.

Sound familiar? Nearly all gardeners have shared plants with friends from time to time. How many times have you received a plant from a friend only to realize you also got a "bonus" plant that hitchhiked with the desired plant? Sharing plants is a fun part of gardening, but only if gardeners are careful! It's never a good idea to give other gardeners plants that are aggressive in your garden.

And it is equally important to check your plant "gifts" carefully for weeds or other unintentional tag-along plants.

Unfortunately, garlic mustard, an extremely invasive noxious weed, was likely spread in Hood River County through plant



swapping between well-meaning gardeners. Garlic mustard is a biennial herb with cross-shaped, white flowers and leaves that have a strong garlic-odor when crushed. It is an established noxious weed in the eastern U.S. and has spread to Oregon. It has already invaded much of eastern Multnomah and Clackamas County, but had not been seen in Hood River County until about ten years ago. There are still only two known sites of this plant in Hood River. Since one infestation likely came from the other through plant sharing, there is hope that these sites are isolated cases that can be controlled. Through over ten years of effort by the Hood River SWCD and its partners (including the Master Gardeners!), the infestation still has not spread beyond the two sites. But the lesson has

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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been learned that once a weedy invader takes hold, it takes a herculean effort to hold the line and eradicate it. It is best to not create the problem in the first place!

The history of noxious weeds is full of gardeners who transplanted plants from a locale where they behaved to one where they grew exponentially. Think Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, and gorse. Do not be the vector who spreads noxious weeds! Know what you have before you pass it along to another. And know what you're getting before you take home a new plant.

For information on garlic mustard and other noxious weeds, contact Kris Schaedel at the Hood River SWCD (541-386-4588) or check out the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area at columbiagorgecwma.org. Stay tuned for local weed workshop by Kris Schaedel, coming soon to a Master Gardener class near you!



Fungicide Schedule for Fruit Trees



It's that time of year when we begin our fungicide schedule for fruit trees. [Click here](#) for a thoughtful article about fungicide impacts to pollinators. Solutions are shared at the end of the article.

Quarterly Winter News of the Western Invasives Network (WIN)

A very engaging & quick read with a lot of neat photographs by Troy Abercrombie

<http://mailchi.mp/e6757aa246d8/win-quarterly-winter-2021>

Winter Pine Siskin Irruption

<https://audubonportland.org/blog/help-pine-siskins-by-practicing-safe-bird-feeding/>

PROJECT UPDATE



Happy Spring from FISH and Spirit of Grace Garden!

We are gearing up for another joyful and fruitful year! Our raspberry plants were delivered last week. We "heeled them" since we couldn't immediately plant them - "heeling them in" is when you lay them on the ground at a slight angle and cover the roots with dirt, and mix in some compost (or sawdust) if you can. We later planted them in the ground when it was a good time!

In order to prepare for the year, we're going to start the seeds of some of our favorite vegetables to transplant. Therefore, we're calling out to all our friends about greenhouse space and availability for this spring. If you have a greenhouse, or an extra space where you normally start your vegetables, and would like to share with us, please reach out! Any amount of space can be good space, and we will take measures to make this as contactless as possible. Please reach out to fishgardenvc@gmail.com or call/text me, Marly (the Garden Coordinator), at (317) 750-1922. Thank you!

PROJECT UPDATE

The Learning Garden Is Looking for Ideas for Community Outreach Programs!



Master Gardeners, one of our primary goals is to be an educational resource for the gardening public and The Learning Garden provides a space to facilitate this objective. During recent times, we've been faced with peculiar circumstances that have hindered our ability to invite the community into this beautiful space but despite the restrictions, we are looking for ways to expand our community outreach. In January, this effort was kicked off via Zoom, during which, a group of Master Gardeners presented ideas to expand our community outreach. While the group came up with an extensive list of projects, we narrowed it down to a list of eight that we could potentially start working this year; many

of which can be presented via webinar or video. The top projects from the group were: Tool Sharpening and Cleaning, Collaboration with the FISH Garden, Pruning, Expansion of the Pollinator Garden, Drip Irrigation, Composting, Incorporating Bird-Friendly Garden Features, and Youth Outreach. This is by no means the final list and we would love to hear from Master Gardeners who may have other ideas or can envision a way to use the Learning Garden to support their own pet project. If you have an interest in one of the areas mentioned above, your own idea that you'd like to explore using the Learning Garden, would like to be a part of our focus group, or can provide video or photography support, please email Joanne Willis at joanne.cgmga@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District Plant Sale

Greetings Master Gardeners~
as you know, the **Hood River SWCD is now taking orders for our annual spring plant sale!**

With 36 different species, we are offering our largest selection of conifers, deciduous trees, flowering shrubs, and wildflowers yet! Prices range from \$1.75-\$2.75 and we will take orders now through March 19th 2021. Orders will be ready for pick-up and planting on April 2nd and 3rd.

For an order form and more information check out the website

<http://hoodriverswcd.org/plant-sale>

I could talk native plants all day so feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas to Kris at 541-386-4588. Also check out our partners, [Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District](#) and [Underwood Conservation District](#) for additional plant sales!

A Who's Who? Here is a highlight of a few of the plant species being offered this year!



Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)

This native wildflower grows in full sun and needs some moisture. It spreads by rhizome, which is a modified horizontal plant stem that puts out roots and shoots from the nodes. This means that if you plant one showy milkweed, you can expect to have a few the next year, and a few more the year after that, growing into a milkweed patch. That makes it a perfect plant for a pollinator planting! Milkweed is also the larval host for the monarch butterfly. This means that the monarch caterpillars need the nutrition from the showy milkweed to complete their transformation to a butterfly.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Snowbrush (*Ceanothus velutinus*)

Snowbrush is an evergreen flowering shrub, meaning it does not lose its leaves in winter. It prefers to grow in sun to partial shade and may become “leggy” in full shade. This plant is very aromatic with fragrant blossoms and slightly sticky highly scented resinous leaves. You can even expect a couple bloom times throughout the season. Snowbrush, along with other plants in the Ceanothus family, is a nitrogen fixing plant. This means the plant (and bacteria associated with the plant) can take nitrogen from the atmosphere and make it available in the soil for use by other plants.



Indian Plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*)

Indian plum is recognizable as one of the first plants to leaf out and flower in the spring. Its vibrant bright green oval leaves glow in the forest understory, reminding us that spring is here. This plant is found in the understory of westside forests, and will grow to be about 10 feet in height. Indian plum has both male and female plants, the females will produce an edible fruit but good luck getting it before the birds do!



Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)

This iconic conifer historically used to dominate the Hood River Valley and around the Gifford Pinchot Forest, prior to fire suppression. Ponderosas grow on the dryer side of things and are quick growing and fire resistant due to their thick bark. They have a jigsaw puzzle cinnamon colored bark that smells delightfully of vanilla in the warm sun. The seeds are an important food source to wildlife.



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](#)
- ◇ [Oregon Flora](#)
- ◇ <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/>



[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!

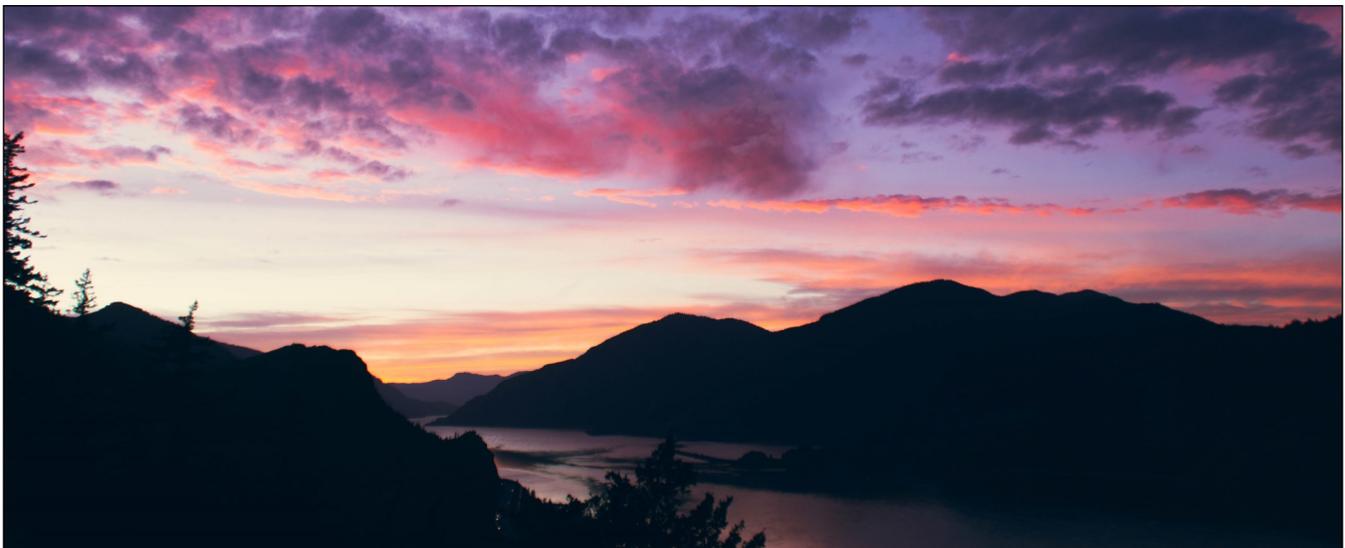


Photo by Camille Jones