



Oregon State University  
Extension Service



# CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022  
CGMGA & OMGA



*From the desk of your CGMGA President . . . .*

Welcome, Master Gardeners, to a brand New Year!

As December segues into January, I'm reminded of Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, endings, and transitions. He presided over gates, passages, and doorways and is frequently depicted as having two faces: one looking toward the past and the other looking into the future.

In January we traditionally look back on the previous year and make plans and resolutions for the new one. This annual ritual reminds me of a quote often credited to Alexander Graham Bell: "When one door closes, another opens. But we often look so long and regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us." The pandemic did, indeed, close many doors, but it also opened up new opportunities: opportunities for reflection, flexibility, creativity, as well as an appreciation for things we once took for granted—things like hugs, potlucks, toilet paper.

Thanks to Megan's and Sandi's able leadership, our chapter stayed afloat and functioning throughout 2021. Project leaders and the executive council also played a key role in keeping things on an even keel. Thank you! We may not have loved Zoom, but it kept us connected, even when Covid guidelines kept us apart. We learned about multifunctional hedgerows and trees and other advanced gardening topics at our own pace and on our own schedules, and we had the opportunity to revisit instruction at our leisure. For the first time ever, I attended a beekeeping conference and Mini College. The virtual format may not have been perfect, but I loved the opportunity to "attend" from home—no need for a long drive or hotel reservations or adjustments to an already

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## Month at a Glance

**January 10:** Monday 3-4pm: Plant sale planning meeting (see details below)

**January 12:** Wednesday 10-12pm: CGMGA Exec Comm Mtg (via zoom, contact Christie Bradley for link)

**January 21:** Friday: Deadline for submissions to the February CGMGA newsletter

**May 7:** Saturday: in-person day of our CGMGA plant sale (see details below)

**June 18:** Saturday: CGMGA 2022 Garden Tour

**July 29-30:** Friday-Saturday: Mini-College at OSU

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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overcrowded schedule. Even a pandemic has its perks.

The end of 2021 finds most of us looking more longingly at the opening door than at the closing one, anticipating a return to potlucks, in-person instruction, maskless shopping, more social and less distancing. In January we'll begin our Master Gardener year anew, equipped with new tech skills, insights, and experience. Megan and the planning committee have worked hard preparing an exciting roster of classes for the upcoming year. Depending on the dictates of Covid, we'll likely follow a hybrid model, with early classes held online and later ones taking place in person. There will also be more opportunities for hands-on learning. We all look forward to both fresh faces and familiar ones and a return to in-person plant clinics, garden visits, and social gatherings.

In January, I'll cast off my comfortable cloak of anonymity and take on the challenging role of chapter president. Like Janus, I'll be presiding over what will hopefully be a transition from online meetings and classes to in-person connections. I'm looking forward

### OMGA

The OMGA Annual Retreat was held via zoom on Dec 3rd. Goals for 2022 were discussed and can be found on the OMGA website. The top priority is having a successful mini-college in 2022. This was followed by our commitment to education by elevating our Master Gardener skills training in 2022.

OMGA is committed to being an organization that supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility. A statewide task force studying this subject, will begin meeting again in April. They are looking for new committee members from around the state, who are willing to commit about 5 hours a month. They meet on zoom.

OMGA needs to expand its leadership. Most notable are the President-Elect position, Vice-President, Treasurer and "heads of committees" like finance & audit positions. Former Chapter leaders, and others with experience are asked to consider State positions.

Dates for Mini-College are July 29-30, 2022 at OSU in Corvallis. Make sure to MARK YOUR CALENDARS! If you are interested in helping, the planning committee will be meeting via zoom.

OMGA is planning to present a Plant Sale Forum for sharing ideas, at a date in January to be announced. Megan will include it in her communications when it is known.

Anny VanNatta, CGMGA State Rep

to meeting more of you in person and getting to know you better. With your support and Megan's and Sandi's guidance, I hope to help make the transition a smooth one. As I embark on a new year and a new journey, I want to carry with me all I've learned from the past two years: patience, resilience, perseverance, and the power of thinking outside the box.

For now, though, in these waning days of December, I want to savor the quiet and focus on friends and family and being fully present in the moment. Happy New Year, everyone!

*Anne Gehrig*



## CGMGA & OMGA

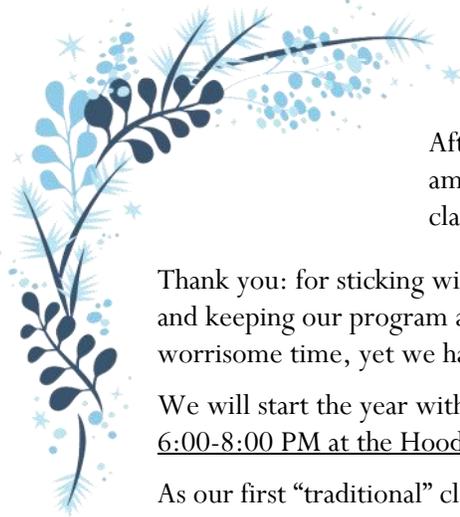
### Holiday Greenery Event



Fifteen members of our CGMGA chapter participated in our annual Holiday Greenery Event on Saturday, December 4. Our CGMGA greenhouse served as the workshop for this community service project. Fifty-seven holiday decorations were crafted and then donated to clients of FISH Food Bank in Hood River, OR, and WAGAP in Bingen, WA. While we crafted holiday wreaths and swags both for ourselves and for donation, we also were grateful for the beautiful bows created by former Master Gardener Julie Ueland. Julie instructed us in a relatively simple technique of making bows, empowering us to continue creating after she

left and in future years. The technique she used is seen here (<https://youtu.be/qkagWTpAqA0>), with a slight modification (we used wire rather than zip ties). Please check it out and see how skilled you can be with just a little practice.

*Shari*



### Welcome to a new Master Gardener year!

After twenty-two long months of online learning and connecting via Zoom, I am thrilled at the possibility of holding in-person classes and welcoming a new class of trainees.

Thank you: for sticking with us, trying new things, adapting to new systems, supporting each other, and keeping our program and projects moving forward. This has been a challenging, stressful and worrisome time, yet we have also gained some positive skills and tricks worth continuing!

We will start the year with our first class **“Returning MG Kick Off”** on Wednesday, January 19 6:00-8:00 PM at the Hood River Valley Christian Church.

As our first “traditional” class in almost two years, this will be a chance to reconnect and even meet other Master Gardeners we lost contact with over the long break. It will also be a “reintroduction” to our program, a time to review the new classes and learn about all of the options available to you this year. Finally, we will look at how we can support our new Master Gardeners (as well as each other!) in all aspects of our program.

The full training schedule is listed on the next page. Note that most classes are scheduled to be in person at the Hood River Valley Christian Church. In addition, two will be held as an online class and two others will be held at the Hood River Extension Office. As we have all learned, our life circumstances can change at a moment’s notice. For this reason, we are fully prepared to move any class to an online model when needed.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

*Megan*

## CGMGA &amp; OMGA

**Central Gorge Master Gardeners****2022 Master Gardener Training Schedule**

\*All in-person classes: Hood River Valley Christian Church, 975 Indian Creek Road, Hood River  
 Online modules will be completed independently during the week with Live Zoom Q&A on Weds.

Date/Time	Class	In-person*/online
Weds. 2/9 6:00-8:30 PM	Welcome/Intro to Master Gardener Program	*HRVCC
Sat. 2/12 9:00AM-Noon	Botany	*HRVCC
Weds. 2/16 6:00-8:30 PM	Pesticides	Online
Weds. 2/23 6:00-8:30 PM	Vegetable Gardening	*HRVCC
Weds. 3/2 6:00-8:30 PM	Entomology	*HRVCC
Weds. 3/9 6:00-8:30 PM	Soils	*HRVCC
Sat. 3/12 9:00AM-Noon	Home Orchards	*HRVCC
Weds. 3/16 6:00-8:30 PM	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	*HRVCC
Sat. 3/26 9:00 AM-Noon	Plant Propagation/Seeds	*Hood River Extension Office
Weds. 3/30 6:00-8:30 PM	Plant Clinic	*HRVCC
Sat. 4/2 9:00 AM-4:00 PM	Plant Problem Diagnosis Berries/Grapes	*HRVCC
Weds. 4/6 6:00-8:30 PM	Container Gardening or Native Plants	*HRVCC (possibly online)
Weds. 4/13 6:00-8:30 PM	CGMGA Meeting, Final Exam	*HRVCC
Sat. 4/16 9:00 AM-Noon	Lawns	*Hood River Extension Office

## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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### Can You Reuse Potting Soil in Planters?

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/gardening-basics/can-you-reuse-potting-soil/>

### Leggy Plants: Why Is My Plant Leaning Over?

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/small-space-gardening/leggy-plants/>



### How to Care for Poinsettias After the Holidays

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/how-to-care-for-poinsettias/>

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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### Plant Sale 2022 Update

by Sandi Rousseau

A group of us have been meeting about plans for our plant sale in 2022. A decision has been made to offer a hybrid version, i.e. some online sales for a limited period of time and restart the in-person day of sale on **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** (assuming Covid protocols allow).

We did an analysis of how to utilize our greenhouse space in the most efficient way and have ordered and received a completely new system of the same size sturdy trays, tray inserts for holding plants efficiently, clear domes to replace the plastic wrap we have used for seed starting, and large potting trays to conserve soil when filling pots and transplanting.

A subcommittee has reviewed data from the 2021 sale regarding what plants grew the best and what sold the best. Seeds for the 2022 sale are currently being ordered.

We plan to provide a link to the seed provider for a photo and detailed information about the plant. This information will be populated into our online ordering system.

**Our next planning meeting will be on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 pm.** Let me [swim@gorge.net](mailto:swim@gorge.net) or Megan know if you need the link to the Zoom call. Anyone with an interest in helping out with the

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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planning is welcome to attend. We have many more decisions to make regarding the sale. The more ideas the better as we try to improve our systems.

We are excited to think about an in-person sale this year as this is one of the most fun parts to interact with our customers. Please consider joining in this planning process.

### Garden Tour 2022

**Please mark your 2022 calendar for Saturday, June 18, 2022 as the date of the next garden tour.** We will need at least 20 volunteers to help out on that Saturday, between 8 am and 2 pm (specific hours still to be determined, but it's never too early to be blocking off time for volunteer hours!). Featured gardens will be on the WA side in the White Salmon area. If you are interested in helping orchestrate this community education event, please email me at [karen-blackjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:karen-blackjenkins@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### The Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden

The Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden was created in the late 1960's and early 1970's by a joint effort of the Parkdale Garden Club, various organizations within the community, and individual residents. This was a monumental task turning a 150' x 150' x 200' triangle of land into a beautiful garden. This segment of land had been overgrown with trees and brush, used by vagrants, and became a dangerous road hazard for the community. The community joined together to accomplish this project. It took a great deal of time, effort, and money to see it through. In appreciation for the dedication of those community members and organizations, wooden signs were placed throughout the garden with the contributors' names, so that all could see, remember, and recognize those that donated to this project. Those signs have since become memorials to the individuals, remembrances for us and their families, and true reflections of their support for this community. Fifty years later, the approximately twenty signs are deteriorating and are in need of being replaced. Our very talented brother, Robert Parrott, has designed and begun production of replacement signs. To continue to reflect the total community spirit of this garden, the Parkdale Grange has donated \$200 for the start of these replacement signs. It is hoped that the signs will be completed sometime during 2022. What a true community garden this is.

*Nancy Slagle*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hood River SWCD Annual Spring Plant Sale

Greetings Master Gardeners~ I am happy to announce the **Hood River SWCD is now taking orders for our annual spring plant sale!** With 36 different species, we are offering a large selection of conifers, deciduous trees, flowering shrubs, and wildflowers! Unfortunately, we are selling out quick through our new online ordering system. Our prices still range from \$1.75-\$2.75 and we will take orders now through March 18<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be ready for pick-up and planting on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check out our new sale page at <https://hoodriverswcd.org/plant-sale/>

Native plants offer a wealth of benefits to the landscape and your yard. Once established, native plants require minimal inputs such as fertilizers, constant irrigation, and maintenance, thereby reducing chemical runoff, water use, and labor. The blossoms feed pollinators, branches provide nesting sites, berries and nuts provide food for birds and other wildlife. Tall trees provide shade for streams and the extensive roots systems stabilize the soils (some plant species even fix nitrogen into the soil).

The benefits are endless! Evergreen shrubs such as snowbrush and tall Oregon grape offer your yard great privacy and showy blooms. The camas and osoberry (also known as Indian plum) offer early season blooms to feed our early emerging pollinators. The western larch and vine maple have showy fall colors, and the red osier dogwood and snowberry provide color even in the greyest days of winter.

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!



### Underwood Conservation District Winter Workshop Series

Please see the flyer on the next page for four monthly workshops offered by the UCD.

The first, *Conservation in your Own Backyard*, was last Tuesday, with our very own Kris Schaedel presenting! Luckily, it was recorded and will be available once posted on their website.

Register at [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org)

Underwood Conservation District is pleased to announce the return of our Winter Workshop Series! For

the 2021-22 season, we will again be offering the workshops on weekday evenings, 6-8pm, via Zoom. We have a great line-up this year with something for everyone - forests to farmland, large spaces to small. [Visit the UCD website](#) for more information on each virtual workshop and use the links provided there to complete the required registration. We look forward to connecting with you!.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Underwood Conservation District's **WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES**

December 2021 - March 2022

## Conservation in Your Own Backyard

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH  
6-8PM

## The Benefits of Beaver

co-presented with Mid-  
Columbia Fisheries  
Enhancement Group

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20  
6-8PM

## Carbon Market Access for Small Forest Landowners

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH  
6-8PM

## Farmland Succession Planning

MID-MARCH  
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

All workshops are offered virtually via Zoom and require registration. Please visit the UCD website for more information and to register.

[www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org)

Underwood Conservation District | 509.493.1936

## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

A little more about Anne Gehrig....

We're all aware that after a very long and most likely arduous year as President of the CGMGA, Sandi Rousseau is passing the baton to Anne Gehrig. Sandi has been amazing in the position, but I have to assume is more than ready to relinquish the title to another very accomplished woman. I had the pleasure of speaking with Anne recently and got the sense that this is a woman that thrives on getting things done!

Anne was originally born in California but was raised, and lived most of her young life, in Nebraska. After graduating from Gonzaga University, with a B.A. in French and education, she went on to earn her Masters in Early Childhood Education, from PSU. She also went on to earn her National Board Certification for teaching and an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) "The Board Certification is pursued and awarded independently and is probably the toughest thing I've ever accomplished." And that says a lot, because Anne has had a very full life, including raising three children and operating an in-home bakery with her husband Lou!

After 41 years of teaching, locally, she retired in 2018; but I'm not convinced "retirement" is really in Anne's vocabulary. In the two years following her retirement she backpacked 78 miles of the Oregon PCT, and did a bike and barge tour of France with her husband! Prior

to that she had only backpacked once in her life....I bow to her determination!

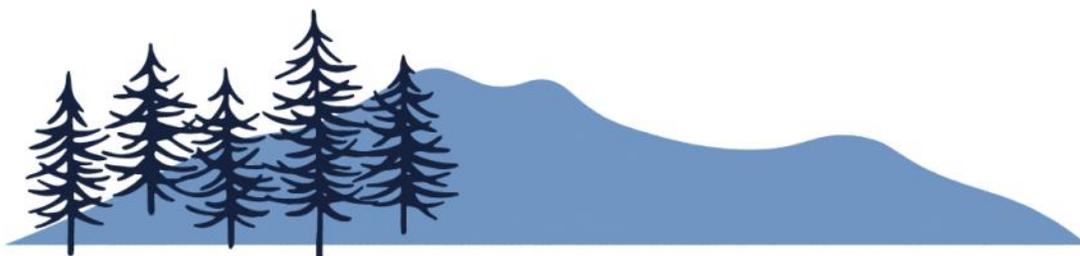
Anne's interest in gardening didn't really start until she was married and they bought property that included an orchard. Once they left that property the opportunity wasn't available for a garden, but with enough determination (and she has more than enough of that!) she has managed to grow in small areas, if not on her own property then sharing space with friends. One of her focuses this year will be with beekeeping and growing more drought tolerant plants, since she already owns bees and, due to her location, the need for less water use is imperative.

As to Anne's involvement in Master Gardeners, it came about due to her mother's interest in the program. It was important to Anne and her siblings that their mom participate, however attending evening programs

meant she would be on the road alone at times, so Anne decided it might be a good opportunity for her to learn more about gardening, as well and they could attend together. That was back in 2011 and, needless to say, the interest has never waned....apparently for either of them. Anne's mom, at 92, still enjoys a few flowers and tomato plants in a raised bed!

Anne's days are still very full. Aside from sharing time with her two grandchildren she is secretary for the

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Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association and the Hood River County Library Foundation, as well as a member of the Hood River County Reads committee (part of the Friends of the Library) and tutors students in math online. Once a teacher.....

I asked Anne if there was something we might be surprised to know about her.....“Maybe that I used to play guitar and sing in weddings and that now that I have a grandson who loves music I’d like to pick up the guitar and my banjo again.” Perhaps, after learning a little more about this amazing woman, we aren’t that surprised about her musical inclination.

I think I know one thing after spending time with Anne.....we are in for one heck of a ride this year and I can’t wait!!

Jewel McKenzie



## Gardening Resources

◇ [Hood River County Master Gardeners](#)

◇ [blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/](https://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/>

◇ [Transplanting Established Trees & Shrubs](#)



[Click here to download](#)



## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

In order to allow time for formatting the CGMGA Newsletter, please submit articles or calendar items by **the 3rd Friday**. Send newsletter information to Shari Bosler at [sharibosler@hotmail.com](mailto:sharibosler@hotmail.com). Thanks!