



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

CGMGA & OMGA

From the desk of your CGMGA President

Greetings and Best Wishes for a New Gardening Year

As I write this we are headed towards the shortest day of the year, the Solstice. While there are many lovely Solstice activities here in the Gorge to partake of, I personally prefer the longer days. And as gardeners we are all optimists that those longer days will return and will provide us with another season of experimentation and rewards, and perhaps some frustration, in our gardens and gardening activities.

As I step in to the office of your president for 2023, I first of all want to thank Anne Gehrig for all the time and energy she spent on behalf of CGMGA in 2022. She helped bring us back to in person meetings and presided over the organization as we had not only a very successful Plant Sale but also a well-attended Garden Tour. She, and the other members of your Executive

Committee, provided the framework that helped our organization engage in so many activities. Please hang in there with me this coming year as I learn the ropes!

Thanks also go to Megan who not only organizes all of our fabulous training, but she also keeps us well tied in with OSU initiatives and requirements. In addition, this past year she went above and beyond to help get all of our tech needs sorted out so we could have both in-person and hybrid training. Having zoom classes available for us here in the Gorge in the winter will reduce the anxiety of travel for many

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Month at a Glance

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/month/2021/12/1?tab=rc&pli=1>

January 11: Wednesday 10-12pm:
CGMGA Exec Comm Mtg (via zoom, contact Christie Bradley for link)

January 20: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the February CGMGA newsletter

February 8: Wednesday: 6-8pm: Intro to the 2023 MG Program (see details below)

Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Friday: January 20: 9-11am

Saturday: January 21: 9-11am (see details below)

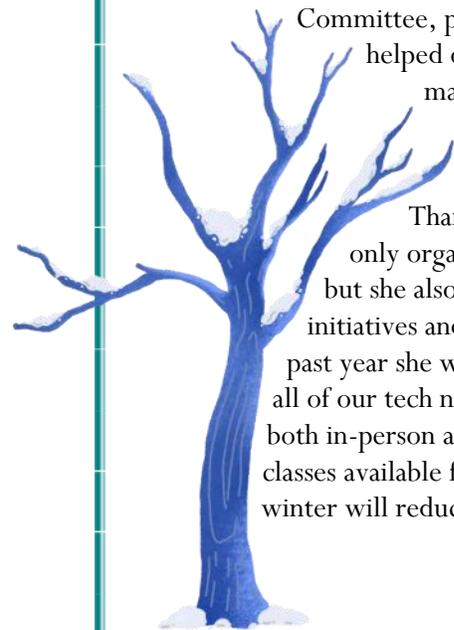
Friday: February 17: 9-11am

Saturday: February 18: 9-11am



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of us until the days get longer and the weather more reliable. But being together in person for classes, and potlucks, is the Master Gardener tradition I like best.

Our organization continues to grow and change. While we had a record number of new trainees last year, this year we are going to have a record number of new applicants. All those new trainees need mentors so if you are interested in that, please contact Megan or me. And if you are reading this as a returning Master Gardener and have not yet registered, we would still love to have your active, or associate, participation in 2023. Register Now!

In 2023 we hope to be able to hold more in person activities, beyond classes, as we have a better

understanding of the COVID dangers and protections against it. As always, you need to do what is best for your health but we would like to bring as many Master Gardeners as we can back to in person gatherings. In the summer this will hopefully include several garden visits and potlucks to each other's gardens so start thinking if that is something you might be interested in doing. We want to learn about gardening, but also have fun with it so I am planning to include another snippet of information every month. Check out the "Gardentainment" article in this newsletter.

Best wishes for the holiday season and I am looking forward to seeing long-time gardening friends and making new ones in the coming year.

Leanne Hogie



In these short days of winter I thought I would bring a new feature to our gardening group by sharing some of my favorite entertainment that has a gardening focus. I'd like to share with you each month a movie, book or music that I have found particularly delightful. They may be fact-based or they may be fiction but with a solid center around gardening. The idea is to share interesting works and if it gives us all something additional to share our thoughts about so much the better. But no obligation at all to partake of the GardenTainment.

My January selection is a movie I watched during the first winter of COVID and it really helped me get through that winter – and gave me a new gardening hobby. The movie is "The Gardener" and it is available on Amazon Prime and other platforms. Here's a general link <http://thegardener-movie.com/#welcome>

It is the story of how Frank Cabot developed amazing gardens in Nova Scotia with a wonderful eye for the

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CGMGA & OMGA

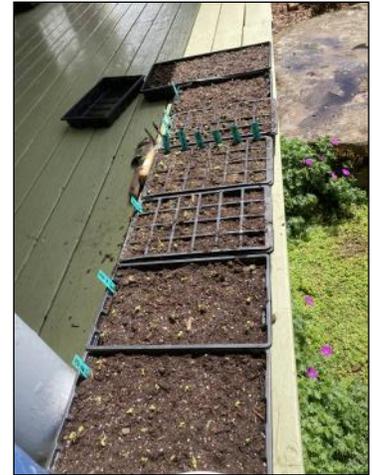
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landscape and what fits in naturally. That's a similar climate to ours and what captured my eye were the very tall primroses that were highlighted in some parts of the garden – and vividly shown in the credits at the end. That led me on a search to try and find these rarer types of primroses, rather than our common *primula vulgaris*. Down the rabbit hole I went of the more than 450 varieties that exist. I ended up ordering seeds from England, half of which came in packages from Poland in Polish. The first year I started the seeds outdoors in March and of the 21 varieties I started only 9 survived the heat dome and my learning curve. But I had hundreds of 2 different varieties!

I also joined the American Primrose Society as part of this new obsession and they have a seed exchange every winter. So, in 2022 I started a dozen more varieties and am now having to grapple with where I will plant them all out if they survive this winter.

<https://americanprimrosesociety.org>

I would love to have other gardeners to chat with about primroses, but I hope you can also just enjoy the beautiful images of the gardens in "The Gardener".



OMGA

The next OMGA meeting will be on Friday March 3, 2023, to be held via Zoom. An in-person meeting for June is being discussed though it would also be hybrid. In mid-February, an orientation for OMGA Representatives will explain the roles and responsibilities. This is a great introduction, if you're new to the OMGA Leadership and OMGA business meetings. There will be planning meetings for 2023 Mini-College, also known as Joy of Gardening. Our chapter's next OMGA Representative will be

Eric Bosler. He is a recent past OMGA President, and has been serving on the Mini-College Committee for several years. So he's the expert, so direct your questions to him!!! Our Chapter needs an Alternate State Rep to attend the meetings and learn expectations of the Representative (liaison) position. There is archival information about OMGA past meeting minutes, on the official website: omga.org, or contact Eric by email, ericbosler@hotmail.com

From the December 2 OMGA Retreat, here are the Oregon Master Gardeners Association Goals 2023 that were agreed upon:

Goal #1: OMGA renews our

commitment to being an organization that is culturally sensitive and supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility towards all our membership and the community at large.

Goal #2: OMGA commits to providing the leadership and support for a successful 2023 Mini-College event.

Goal #3: OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension in providing on-line continuing education for our Master Gardener membership with advanced horticulture skills training in 2023, including the Growing Gardeners Level-up series and the Elevated Skills training for current Master Gardener volunteers.

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Goal # 4: OMGA commits to supporting Chapters during these changing times in areas of recruitment and retention; as well as OMGA supports the idea that all Master Gardener volunteers need to understand the state-wide “big-picture” for our program. OMGA can provide the opportunity for Chapters to share ideas, projects, and successful programs through quarterly “Sharing Forums” where all are invited to participate and contribute.

Goal #5: OMGA commits to improving OMGA

recruitment by filling vacancies on our Executive Board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable, our President Elect position remains vacant. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization.

Goal # 6: OMGA commits to reviewing, updating and revising our OMGA Executive Board job descriptions, the OMGA Policies and Procedures, and keep updating our website in 2023.

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Welcome to the 2023 Central Gorge Master Gardener program!

As I sit here pondering how it could possibly be January again already, I am also feeling grateful for the year we just experienced together. There are so many achievements to highlight: An amazing line-up of classes, livestreamed and recorded for easier access; the most successful CGMGA Plant Sale on record; an inspiring, well-attended and bikeable Garden Tour; the return of Saturday plant clinics and community events; so many changes and additions to our project gardens; a new Spanish program on Radio Tierra; a rapid expansion of our MG presence on social media; and the list goes on.

Beyond our multitude of activities, there are all of the “little things”: surviving the late frosts, heavy snows and torrential downpours of Spring; transitioning quickly to the multiple heat waves of Summer; inviting gatherings and conversations in community and personal garden spaces; sharing our learning with the community and each other.

And if you are someone who loves the data, check out these numbers:

Newly certified Master Gardeners: 14
 Recertified MGs: 36
 Associates: 21
 Volunteer Hours: 4,481 (a record)
 Contacts: 1,619
 CE Credits: 1,805 (a record)
 Community Questions Answered: 256
 Pounds of Produce Donated: 1,937
 Social Media Followers: 794
 Facebook, 247 Instagram
 (And this is just the data I can capture from the VRS!)

I hope this inspires you as we move into 2023. We will start the year with our first class “Intro to the 2023 MG Program” on Wednesday, February 8th 6:00-8:30 PM at the Hood River Valley Christian Church. Please join us to welcome 28 (!) new Master Gardener trainees and to hear exciting updates about the year ahead. We will also have a special presentation from Paul Matalucci on Flower Farming and Arranging.

Anyone who has heard Paul speak (or visited his amazing farm!) knows that this is a class you won’t want to miss.

The full training schedule is listed on the next page, featuring classes on pruning, greenhouse management, native plants, and more. Note that most classes are scheduled to be in person at the HRVCC along with a Saturday visit to each of our project gardens. We are grateful for all that we learned last year as we livestreamed and recorded classes for the first time. This format will be an option again this year, as well as access to the online courses. I encourage you to attend as many classes in person as you are able, to support our new trainees and enrich your learning and connection with each other.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 8th!

Megan



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Central Gorge Master Gardeners**2023 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. 2/8 6:00-8:30 PM	Intro to Master Gardener Program, Flower Farming and Arranging	*HRVCC
Weds. 2/15 6:00-8:30 PM	Botany	*HRVCC
Weds. 2/22 6:00-8:30 PM	Soils	*HRVCC
Sat. 2/25 9:00AM-Noon	Pruning/Garden Visit	*HRVCC and Parkdale Garden
Weds. 3/1 6:00-8:30 PM	Entomology	*HRVCC
Sat. 3/4 9:00AM-Noon	Greenhouse/Integrated Pest Management	*CGMGA Greenhouse and Online
Weds. 3/8 6:00-8:30 PM	Pesticides	*Online
Weds. 3/15 6:00-8:30 PM	Container Gardening/Seed to Supper/Birds	*HRVCC and Online
Sat. 3/18 9:00 AM-Noon	Vegetable Gardening/Garden Visit	*HRVCC and FISH
Weds. 3/22 6:00-8:30 PM	Native Plants/Native Bees and Pollinators	*HRVCC
Weds. 3/29 6:00-8:30 PM	Plant Clinic/Plant Problem Diagnosis	*HRVCC
Sat. 4/1 6:00-8:30 PM	Lawns/Garden Visit	*Hood River Extension Office
Weds. 4/5 6:00-8:30 PM	CGMGA Meeting, Final Exam	*HRVCC
Sat. 4/8 9:00 AM-Noon	Alternate Garden Visit Date-Library Garden	*HR Library

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Anny VanNatta
OMGA Rep 2022

Eric Bosler, CGMGA Chapter Rep 2023.
ericbosler@hotmail.com

CGMGA is extremely fortunate to have an excellent Program Coordinator in Megan Wickersham. Not so for all Master Gardener programs around the state where reorganization and budget reductions have affected many County Extension Programs and the respective Master Gardener Chapters. However, that picture is improving as OSU Extension, under the new leadership of Dr. Lyles, has determined to re-fund three replacement county Coordinators positions which were recently vacated and not in line to be filled. In no small way this decision was motivated by the diligent and persuasive efforts spearheaded by Clackamas County MG Sherry Sheng.

Sherry is a passionate Master Gardener and has an amazing history of activism in support of the MG

program both on the county and state levels. This includes being the driving force behind previous efforts at OSU and with the Oregon Legislature to secure funding for Extension and the Master Gardener program. Sherry is also developing and chairing the “Advocacy Task Force, OMGA”. This group is made up of Chapter members from all over Oregon and has the expressed mission to support the MG program at all levels...county, state, OSU, and the Oregon legislature.

If you’d like to know more about what’s happening with the Master Gardener program at the state level or have an interest in helping to promote our program, please contact me and I’ll be happy to assist.



Holiday Greenery Event

Central Gorge Master Gardeners gathered in their greenhouse to create holiday wreaths and swags during the 12th annual Holiday Greenery Event on December 3, 2022. Each unique decoration was designed to bring joy this holiday season. In addition to making holiday decorations for themselves, Master Gardener volunteers created 29 items that were donated to WAGAP and FISH Food Bank for distribution to their clients.



CGMGA & OMGA



EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Forestry Lunch Breaks—Washington Birds



Here is an opportunity to learn your birds & how to enhance your property's habitat for birds! Megan Wickersham approves up to 1 credit hour toward

MG Volunteer education class time.

FREE Pre-registration is Required
<https://forestry.wsu.edu/flb-birds/>

Spend lunch learning about Washington's birds! Washington State and the greater Pacific Northwest are home to many species of birds. Private timber lands can serve as important habitat for many of these species, partly because these forests are diverse in species composition and in structure. In this series, we will discuss multiple types and species of birds native to Washington and how forest owners can enhance bird habitat on their property.

Schedule:

- Monday (1/9) – Owls (Ken Bevis, WA DNR)
- Tuesday (1/10) – Birds of Prey (Gary Bell, WA DNR)
- Wednesday (1/11) – Waterfowl (Brent Haverkemp, WA DNR)
- Thursday (1/12) – Excavators (Ken Bevis, WA DNR)
- **Friday (1/13) – Songbirds (Brent Haverkemp, WA DNR)**

When and Where

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/small-space-gardening/backyard-birding-in-small-spaces/>

The Best Backyard Birding Tips for Small Spaces by Ken Keffer

With a little planning and some basic backyard birding tips from our experts you can attract and feed birds—no matter where you live.

January 9-13, 12-12:30PM (Online)

This seminar will be offered via a live, interactive webinar. A high-speed internet connection is needed. Dial-up will not work. You can access the webinar with your computer or mobile device. Connection information will be sent to those registered the morning of each session.

Recordings of each session will be made available to those who register.

<https://forestry.wsu.edu/flb-birds/>

Pre-register weblink

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/birding-basics/winter-birds-myths-facts/>

<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/small-space-gardening/backyard-birding-in-small-spaces/>

The Best Backyard Birding Tips for Small Spaces by **Ken Keffer**

With a little planning and some basic backyard birding tips from our experts you can attract and feed birds—no matter where you live.

12 Winter Birds Myths and Facts: Do Birds Get Cold? by George Harrison

This report is published each year by NABCI, North America Bird Conservation Initiative. It provides thorough, research-based information on the common question that we hear related to "So how are birds really doing? I don't seem to see as many as I used to."

<https://www.stateofthebirds.org/2022/>

"The trends for our nation's birds reveal a vital message. Birds are declining overall **in every habitat** except in **wetlands**, where decades of investment have resulted in dramatic gains.

Conservation works when we give birds and nature a chance. When birds thrive, we all win."

Do birds get cold? Some birders worry winter birds will freeze on cold nights or in bird baths. Our expert has the winter bird facts.

This report is published each year by NABCI, North America Bird Conservation Initiative. It provides thorough, research-based information on the common question that we hear related to "So how are birds really doing? I don't seem to see as many as I used to."

Cj Flick

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Library Garden

The Hood River Library Waterwise Garden work party will be on January 20, 2023 from 9 to 11 a.m. Join us if you can. If you aren't able to attend on Friday but you would like to help with our winter sessions, I will be available on the next day, Saturday, January 21 from 9-11. If you do want to meet up on Saturday, please let Norma know by texting 509-969-2187.

Looking ahead, our February session will be on Friday, February 17, 9-11, with an optional opportunity on Saturday, February 18, 9-11. Thank you, and have a lovely holiday season!

FISH Garden Veggies—Your Help Needed!

By now, you have surely heard about the exciting plans for this year's FISH/Spirit of Grace Garden. This Fall, volunteers worked to reduce the garden size by half in order to better manage the planting, tending, and harvesting of vegetables for the Food Bank next year. The east side of the garden was covered with black plastic, helping to solarize the area and reduce the amount of weeding in the future.

The west side has been divided into vegetable rows for returning MGs to "claim" for planting and tending next year. Volunteers can choose early or later season crops based on their availability, and we are encouraging recertified Master Gardeners to partner with a new trainee next February/March. Working with a partner (or trio!) will help to spread out the workload and let everyone focus on crops that they enjoy or have experience growing.

The FISH Steering committee has selected vegetable crops based on Food Bank client feedback as well as prioritizing vegetables that are more expensive in stores and less likely to be donated to the Food Bank.

Please see the attached garden map for the vegetable list and available sign ups and email me if you are interested. Thank you for supporting

this important community outreach! And special thanks to past Garden Leader Kathy McGregor, new Garden Leader Tracy Willett, and the rest of the FISH Garden Steering committee (Dennis Carlson, Scott Fitch, Ann Lameka, Debby Chenowith, and new member Mary Corl) for ***years*** of dedication to keeping this project going.

Vegetables still available: Cucumbers, kale, yellow squash, green beans, zucchini, cilantro.



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. Thanks!





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/>
- ◇ [Transplanting Established Trees & Shrubs](#)



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