



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Notes from the President

This is the time of year that makes gardeners hearts glad – the reemergence of daffodils and tulips, the new buds on roses and bushes, and the tiny bright green leaves that are emerging on the trees. Life is coming back to the garden and we are glad. We will also cross our fingers that we don't have a repeat of last year's April snow – which was beautiful to photograph but not so great for the plants.

This month is also the emergence of a new CGMGA sponsored project – a Tool Lending Library at the Hood River Library. Collaborating with Hood River Supply and the Hood River Library we're starting with 17 tools ranging in size from a soil thermometer to a post-hole digger. The Library will handle all the management of checking out the tools and Dennis Carlson helped to give the shovels and hoes a nice sharp edge. As we learn what tools are checked out most often we plan to work with the Library to increase the number and types of tools available. We may reach out to you later in the summer for gently or infrequently used tools that you might want

(Continued on page 2)

Month at a Glance

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

April 3: Monday: Plant Sale open for Master Gardeners to order

April 5: Wednesday: Plant Sale online ordering open to the public

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

April 21: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the May CGMGA newsletter

April 28: Friday: 8am: CGMGA Master Gardeners on the radio, 1340 KHR

May 12: Friday: 9-6pm: Plant Sale pick up of online orders and set up for day of sale

May 13: Saturday: 9-1pm: In person Plant Sale

June 17: Saturday: 9-1pm: The Garden Gathering (details below)

(Continued on page 2)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CGMGA/OMGA	1
Educational Tidbits	4
Volunteer Opportunities	5
Gardening Resources	9

CGMGA & OMGA



For this month I'm recommending a book that took me over a year to read. That may seem like a strange recommendation to make, but listen to why. Braiding Sweetgrass, by Robin Wall Kimmerer is an amazing description of many aspects of our natural world from both a scientific and a Native American perspective. Each chapter is a wonderful morsel in and of itself. I found I would read a chapter and then just want to sit with it for quite a while – sometimes for months.

I really enjoyed reading Braiding Sweetgrass when I was out camping. Sitting out in nature, listening to the sounds of the stream and surrounding myself with the wonderful images of the natural world that the author evoked was just magical. I hope you will be able to find a comfortable spot to sit and read and immerse yourself into the knowledge and stories that Robin Wall Kimmerer shares with us.

The full title is "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants." I'd love to hear your thoughts and reactions. Maybe some of us can even meet to discuss our favorite parts later in the summer.



May 15th is an important day:

First McDonald's restaurant opened.

First female US generals appointed.

Jessica Watson becomes youngest person to sail non-stop, unassisted around the world.

(Continued on page 3)

Month at a Glance

Work Parties:

Library Garden: Friday: April 21: 9-11am

Saturday: April 22: 9-11am

Learning Garden: Saturday, April 8: 1-3 pm

FISH garden: Saturday: April 15: 9-12pm

(Dennis)

Wednesday: April 19: 4-7pm (Scott)

Saturday: April 29: 9-12pm (Tracy)

Parkdale Memorial Garden: Saturday: April

29: 9am (contact Nancy Slagle)

(Continued from page 1)

to share.

The seedlings are also starting to emerge for our annual Plant Sale. It is very exciting to see them go from tiny starts to large flourishing plants so if you have not yet signed up to be part of that project now is the time. The other thing emerging this month is the Radio Tierra gardening program in Spanish, La Jardinera, after a winter break. Check the Monday updates for precise dates and times.

We are all also ready to emerge from some pretty intense classroom and study time since February. Congratulations to everyone for sticking with it and I hope you not only learned a lot but had some fun. Volunteering on our many different garden projects is even more fun – and so is the Plant Clinic, trust me.

So let's all shake off any winter cobwebs and get ready to get back into the gardens!

Leanne



CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 2)

Nominations and Grant Applications:

May 15th is the deadline at the Oregon Master Gardeners Association for nominations of statewide awards and applications for grants and scholarships. Unlike individual CGMGA awards which are presented in the fall, the Oregon Master Gardener of the Year, Behind-the-Scenes, the new Statewide Growing and Belonging Award, as well as the OMGA grants and scholarships must be submitted and decided upon so the results can be announced at Mini College and the grant funds made available for Chapters to use as early as possible in the year.

"You can learn more about the awards at this site <https://omga.org/programs-and-awards/>. This year, the awards for statewide MG of the year, as well as statewide Behind the Scenes, should be submitted electronically. This year, there is also a new statewide award. This new award, called the Statewide Growing and Belonging Award, will recognize volunteers who have significantly contributed in advancing diversity, inclusion, access, and/or equity among Master Gardener volunteers and clientele."

Statewide Advocacy Committee:

Led by Clackamas County MG Sherry Sheng and assisted by MGs from around the state (including our own Beth Flake) the Advocacy Committee has made some amazing progress in addressing funding and staffing issues at OSU Extension and the Master Gardener program. Check it out at <https://omga.org/advocacy/>

From our State Program Director Gail Langellotto:

"April 26th will be the annual [Beaver Day of Giving, also known as Dam Proud Day \(DPD\)](#). This year, Extension Administration has chosen to feature the Master Gardener Program as one of five funds that people can donate to. This is a huge step forward, as I had requested to have the MG Program featured in this annual giving event for the past four years . . . and this is the first year that we have been accepted into this University-wide fundraising campaign.

The money donated to the MG Program fund will go into the growing statewide Master Gardener endowment fund, which you can learn more about at

this link: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/thank-you-supporting-master-gardener-program>, including how funds have been used in the past."

Gail and her husband pledged \$1000 in personal funds to make a challenge grant and OMGA has chosen to rise to the challenge with a \$1000 match. Thanks to all MG's as these are your dues dollars at work.

Love Bees?

Keynote speaker at this year's Mini College-The Joy of Gardening will be Andony Melathopoulos. He is an OSU Assistant Professor of Pollinator Health Extension in the Department of Horticulture. OSU's work around pollinator health comes from mandates passed by the Oregon Legislature. He has three primary responsibilities: 1) working with land managers on reducing pesticide exposure to bees and increasing bee habitat, 2) organizing a state-wide native bee survey (the Oregon Bee Atlas), 3) outreach to Oregonians on bee biodiversity. He was recognized as the 2018 US Pollinator Advocate by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC).

Andony will be Saturday's Keynote Speaker at Mini College (July 7th & 8th) in Corvallis. <https://omga.org/mini-college-2023/>

For questions, more information about any of these topics, nominations for statewide awards or grant applications, please reach out to: Eric Bosler ericbosler@hotmail.com

Eric Bosler, OMGA Rep



EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Italian Arum

April Weed of the Month

Italian Arum, also known as “orange candleflower” and “Italian lords and ladies,” is a non-native perennial that was introduced as an ornamental plant. It has now naturalized and appears to be spreading. *Arum italicum* is a woodland species and prefers moist, well-shaded environments. It’s extremely difficult to eradicate once it becomes established and may spread from residential gardens into woodland areas.

Italian arum produces an abundance of variegated green and white leaves. The plant is 12” to 18” tall with arrowhead shaped leaves that are 8” to 12” long. They emerge in the spring from underground corms but die back in the summer. Pale hood-like flowers are produced in late May and give off a displeasing odor. Berries are formed in tight clusters and change color from light green to orange red.

This plant is problematic because of its ability to form a dense cover in open sites. It can out-compete native plants and prevent their establishment. Italian arum is also toxic to humans and animals. All parts of Italian arum are poisonous. Handling of the plant can cause skin irritation and ingestion can cause swelling of the mouth, tongue and throat. Breathing difficulties can follow as well as burning pain and stomach upset.

One of the best ways to control this plant is to prevent its spread. Often, chemical control only burns back foliage and does not hurt the corms (like bulbs) underground. Digging and disposing of the small underground corms in the garbage can help. However, manual removal is only recommended on small patches, because if the plant is not completely eradicated, the soil disturbance can increase its spread. If you have it on your land, do not let it go to seed. Wearing gloves, cut and bag all seed heads, and dispose of them in the garbage.

Unfortunately, this plant is still available commercially and can be found in some residential gardens. For more information about Italian arum visit the website: www.columbiagorgecwma.org



Defensible Space Yard Debris Chipping Service

The Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District recently obtained funds from the Office of State Fire Marshal to provide free defensible space yard debris chipping services for communities in fire prone areas of Hood River County. The Conservation District will coordinate and help residents implement defensible space work and educate residents on defensible space best practices through yard debris pick up events and direct service defensible space work, such as tree limbing, pruning, and fuel removal in the ignition zone. The SWCD is contracting with the Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, a non-profit organization based out of Glenwood, Washington. This work will continue the

successful mobile chipping program we began last year with Mt. Adams Resource Stewards with funding from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Check the Hood River SWCD website (hoodriverswcd.org) for a link to the online sign-up form (coming soon!). This is for Hood River County residents only. The Conservation District will follow up with specifics about the program and schedule a day and time for the work to be completed. This opportunity is for one year only, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible.

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Let's Talk Birds and Water

Reference: Carol and Derek Matthews, Vancouver Avian Research Centre (British Columbia) presentation titled *Bird Friendly Gardens*

- The BEST WAY to attract birds to property is by adding copious amounts of dependable fresh, clean WATER
- Birds constantly use water to clean their feathers & drink
- **DIY** shallow dish with 2-inches water depth. Examples: trash can lid, old frying pan, plant pot tray
- Arrange some pebbles within dish so birds can stand on them & drink without getting wet
- The sight & sound of moving water is irresistible to birds
- Place on table or ground level, in shade to keep water cool, and with trees nearby - branches provide perches to preen or wait a turn at the bath
- Leave a wide-open area between a bird bath & adjacent shrubbery to increase the visibility of predators like lurking cats
- Change water at least daily to remove fecal matter
- Clean water bath regularly with water & a scrub brush to remove algae
NEVER add antifreeze (poisonous) or glycerin (saturates & mats feathers)



Anna's Hummingbird at a spring by Stewart Fletcher



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Plant Sale is Sprouting!

Thanks to everyone who came to the first greenhouse and Apple Core Farm seed starting work parties. Our first seed starting at the greenhouse is showing off with pepper sprouts, and the peppers and parsley will be ready to up pot at our next work party on Wednesday,



Greenhouse in 2022 near plant sale day, by Sandi Rousseau

March 29th. The annuals at Apple Core Farm are also showing signs of life. The first two weeks in April are very busy with multiple seeding and up potting sessions, so please sign up for some fun if you have not already done so. Here is where you go to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094fa5ac22a0f49-seed#/>.

The online Shopify site is ready to activate. We will open it up for orders for Master Gardeners on Monday, April 3rd. This will give us a chance to be sure everything is working fine before we open it to the public on Wednesday, April 5th. We will be selling about 50% of our plants online, so we will have every

(Continued on page 6)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 5)

variety of plant available on the day of the in person sale. As a Master Gardener who will likely be working at the sale, you need to purchase what you want ahead of time. Shopping online is an easy way to do that.

The date for the in-person sale is Saturday, May 13th, and we will need all hands on deck to staff the event. Sign-ups for the day of sale will be coming soon. It is fun to volunteer at the in-person sale to interact with the community, answer plant questions, etc.

Stay tuned to Megan's Monday updates for more information and let me know if you have any questions swim@gorge.net or catch me in class.



Greenhouse in 2022 near plant sale day, by Sandi Rousseau



Pepper sprouts 2 weeks after planting

Learning Garden Update

I'm getting the feeling that Spring is finally approaching and with that, we have some wonderful opportunities for getting outside and connecting with nature and other Master Gardeners. We have some exciting things going on at The Learning Garden that provide an opportunity to get up-close and personal with one of our favorite media - yes, soil! Okay, a bit embellished perhaps, but, there are some things happening that may be of interest and will provide an opportunity to dig in the dirt and earn some volunteer hours.

By now, hopefully we will have had our first winter clean-up work party. We have another work party scheduled on **Saturday, April 8th from 1-3 PM**. We typically work in the garden every other Thursday but folks have expressed an interest in an alternate time. Saturday seemed to be a popular alternative but let us know if there is a better time that works for you.

We have quite a few things on the plate this year such as eliminating the compost area and possibly the raised beds. This will be part of a project to rebuild the bioswales and construct an attractive outdoor space between the shed and the extension center. If you're

interested in being part of the team that works on this, please contact [Amanda VanVoorhees](#), [Joanne Willis](#) or [Sandi Rousseau](#).

And, we hope to have finished composting the pollinator garden. Our next steps are to finalize a plant list with lots of natives and plants. If you would like to be included in designing the pollinator garden, please contact Sandy Montag (sandyhmontag@gmail.com) or Anne Gehrig (agehrig5@hotmail.com).

We look forward to seeing hope some new faces in the garden this Spring.

Joanne



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!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FISH Food Bank Garden

Here's what is planned so far for the Spirit of Grace Church/Fish Food Bank Garden.

On Saturday, April 15th, 9:00 -12:00 am, there will be an official launch/orientation to our garden, hosted by Master Gardener Dennis Carlson. All are welcome, it will be a wonderful work party~

Weekly scheduled work parties will alternate between Wednesdays from 4:00-7:00 pm one week and Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 pm the next week.

Signups to lead through May are:

April 15th (Sat.), Dennis.

April 19th, (Wed.) Scott.

April 29th, (Sat) Tracy.

May 17th (Sat.) Tracy

May 27th (Sat.) Ann Lemeka

Mary Corl



Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

Our regular work party will be Friday, April 21, from 9-11. An alternate session is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 9-11 for those who can't make it on Friday. Thank you in advance! I've put in an order for sunshine on those days!

Norma

Save the date for The Garden Gathering!

Save the date of Saturday, June 17, 2023, 9 AM - 1 PM, for The Garden Gathering, presented by Central Gorge Master Gardeners.

Our four community gardens will be showcased on this day. They are; the Water Wise Garden at the Hood River County Library, the Learning Garden on the OSU Extension Service campus, the FISH Food Bank Garden behind the Spirit of Grace Church and FISH Food

(Continued on page 8)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 7)

Bank, and the Parkdale Memorial Garden west of downtown Parkdale on Baseline Road.

This new educational event will be a casual gathering in our community gardens of Central Gorge Master Gardeners, community partners, and the public. Tours of each garden will be given by Central Gorge Master Gardeners, and seminars to be held in the gardens are

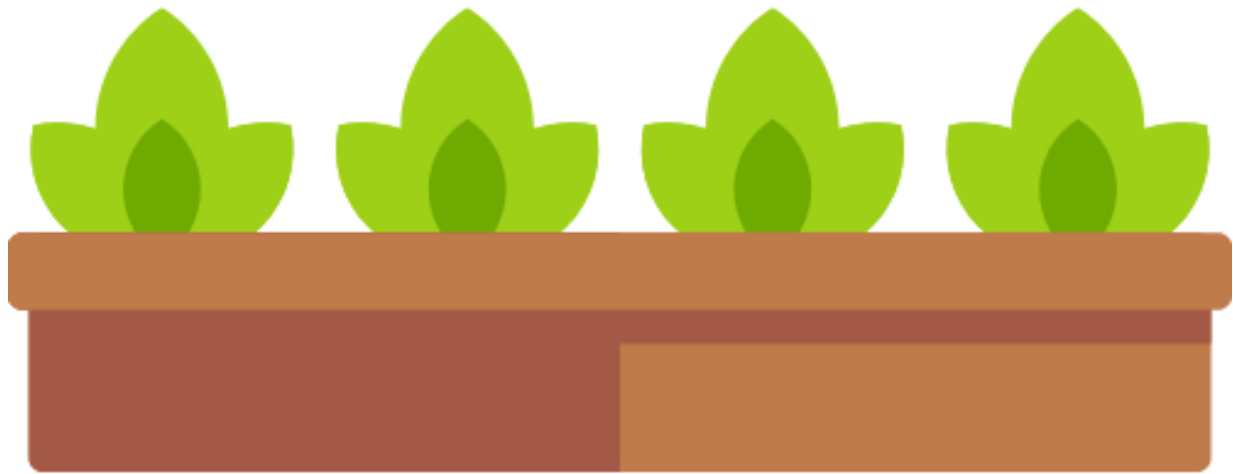
currently being planned.

The Gardening Gathering is a FREE event and everyone's invited! This is also an opportunity for you to earn volunteer hours. If you're interested in helping to plan, or be present at one of the gardens on the day of The Garden Gathering, please contact Margo Dameier, margodameier@gmail.com

TreeFest 2023

Master Gardeners participating in TreeFest on March 18, 2023 in White Salmon. Jim Black, Lois Kinsfogel, Cathy Flick, Shari Bosler Photos by Marilyn Day





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](#)



[Click here to download](#)

Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.