



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Notes from the President

As I write this we are STILL waiting for spring to really arrive. The freeze on Thursday cracked some of my irrigation since the water had just come on. The first time that ever happened! And my tulips have yet to show their colorful blooms. The silver lining is that this slow start to spring has allowed me to spread out my gardening tasks over weeks rather than the normal spring flurry of work to keep up with the rapid emergence of plants – and weeds.

In addition to our own garden tasks, it's time to start finding the Master Gardener projects that resonate with you. The Plant Sale, which needs all our work, is almost upon us and those plants look happy. A new event this year, the Garden Gathering on June 17, is a chance to showcase our four project gardens. You can find how to volunteer at the Waterwise Garden, the Learning Garden, the FISH Community Garden and the Parkdale Garden in this newsletter. Then pick the one or ones you want to help showcase on the 17th.



There are a wide range of other projects as well and I encourage you to volunteer with a variety to find areas that best fit for your skills and interests. If you have an interest in using your Spanish skills there are also several opportunities. Our Radio Tierra program can use more DJs. We also want to start a Saturday Plant Clinic en espanol to better serve all the residents in our valley. And if anyone has contacts with

(Continued on page 2)

Month at a Glance

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

May 4: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish hosted by Dennis, Leanne, and Kathy, <https://radiotierra.org/>

May 10: Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting via zoom (contact Christie Bradley for link)

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

May 18: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish hosted by Dennis, Leanne, and Kathy, <https://radiotierra.org/>

May 19: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the June CGMGA newsletter

June 15: Thursday: 5:30-7:30pm: Garden

(Continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CGMGA / OMGA	1
Educational Tidbits	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Upcoming Events	10
Spotlight on a Master Gardener	11
Gardening Resources	9

CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 1)

the County Fair I'm interested in working with them to get their materials available in Spanish. Stay tuned for my tips on how to enter your veggies and flowers in the County Fair in July.

Finally, later in May we'll be asking all of you to think about what projects you're most interested in, what projects you think are most important for our community, and where we might have gaps and need to do new things. As we regroup after COVID, with more long time and new people engaging with CGMGA, we want to be sure to capture your interests and ideas.

For now, rub some sticks together or do whatever you can to bring a little warmth to this amazingly cool spring.

Leanne Hogie



Since April and May tend to be very busy gardening months I'm going with a repeat of last month's suggestion "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kemmerer for May. If you don't feel up to reading the entire book just try a chapter or two. For example, the chapter on "The Gift of Strawberries" has this description "You could smell ripe strawberries before you saw them, the fragrance mingling with the smell of sun on damp ground. ... Each tiny wild berry was scarcely bigger than a raindrop, dimpled with seeds under the cap of leaves." I can just see and smell those wild strawberries.

For those who are interested let's get together in early June to discuss our reactions to the book. Possibly at a local winery ... Stay tuned in the June Newsletter for time and place. Also, please send me any suggestions you have for GardenTainment

Leanne

(Continued from page 1)

Visit to Beth Flake's garden (details below)

June 17: Saturday: 9-1pm: The Garden Gathering

July 13: Thursday: 5:30-7:30pm: Garden Visit to the Hope Ranch Lavender Farm (details below)

Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Fri, May 19: 9-11am

Learning Garden:

Thurs, May 4: 9-11am

Thurs, May 18: 9-11am

Sat, May 27: 10-12pm

Parkdale Memorial Garden:

Wed, May 31 9am (contact Nancy Slagle)

FISH Garden:

Wed, May 3: 3-6pm

Sat, May 13: 9-12pm

Wed, May 17: 3-6pm

Sat, May 27: 9-12pm

Wed, May 31: 3-6pm

Bernadine

"NO! Figs are not a berry" and with that Bernadine launched into 3 hours of the "Berry Class" presented to CGMGA Master Gardeners in April of last year. Recognized for her expertise in the field of berry production, Bernadine was especially known, around the world, for her contribution to the Blueberry industry.

It was with great sadness that we learned that Dr. Bernadine Strik passed away on April 14th. Bernadine, along with her husband, Neil Bell (OSU Extension)



(Continued on page 3)

CGMGA & OMGA



Credit Fruit Grower News

(Continued from page 2)

teamed up for many Master Gardener class presentation across the state. For us it always made for an entertaining, informative and engaging class. Her encyclopedic knowledge of berries and how to grow them was combined with her humorous, approachable style. I urge you to take the time to learn more about this wonderful educator. <https://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/users/bernadine-strik> and “take” the “Berry Class” from 2022. It’s posted on our website. https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_nj5l3dvv You’re in for a treat and, sadly, something that will not be repeated.

<https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/thefsource/spring-2023/memorial#bernadine>

Eric Bosler, CGMGA rep

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Weed of the Month: Poison Hemlock

Poison hemlock is an unwelcome invasive plant in the landscape because every part of this plant is poisonous to humans, livestock, and wildlife. It even retains toxicity in hay because dead stems remain toxic for up to three years. Acute toxicity is fatal while skin irritation can occur if it is handled without gloves.

Poison hemlock is aggressive and easily colonizes pastures, roadsides, riparian areas, and other disturbed areas. It is an herbaceous biennial that can grow up to 10 feet tall. It is a member of the parsley family and can be confused with other plants in that family such as Queen Anne’s lace. It can be distinguished by its fern like, glossy, finely divided leaves as well as its hairless, hollow stems with purple blotches. Small, 5-petaled white flowers grow on stalks in 4-inch umbrella shaped clusters from April to



(Continued on page 4)

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

(Continued from page 3)

July. It is native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa and is common throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Poison hemlock is a prolific seed producer and seeds can be spread by animals, water, vehicles, or humans. Seeds remain viable for 2-3 years.

The best approach to controlling new infestations are to get to them as early as possible. Digging small plants by hand when plants are young is effective (wearing gloves!) if the whole taproot is removed. Repeated mowing before flowering can be effective, as is proper and well-timed herbicide application.

Heather Hendrixson HRSWC

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

On the Plant Sale Home Stretch!

by Sandi Rousseau

We are almost there the day of the plant sale. Our seed starting and up potting work parties are completed, and the plants are happily growing in the greenhouse since it has been so darn cold outside! We might have a tease of summer by the time this newsletter comes out to you, but right now as I write this, it is cold! And thankfully we have a greenhouse!

We quickly sold out of almost all our online inventory when that opened to the public on April 5th. But remember to tell your friends that we only sell 50% of our inventory online, so they can still purchase all our plants on the day of sale May 13th. We will also have some additional plants, e.g. natives, that were not advertised on line. The plant sale is our major fund raiser every year, and we are on track with over \$6000 sold online so far. That is a lot of plants at \$3 per plant!

SignUpGenius is open for volunteer spots on the day of sale, Saturday, May 13th. There are still quite a few open slots that we need to fill, so please go here to sign up [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49afa92aa64-plant1#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49afa92aa64-plant1#/) It is a fun day interacting with our community!

Thanks for everyone's contributions so far. It takes a village to host a successful sale!

Sandi



Sandi Rousseau, Anne Saxby, Katie Schmidt, & Carmen Rinaldis organizing for bundling online orders



Anne Saxby pruning out the extra lettuce starts

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Learning Garden

Now that Spring is here, there's quite a bit to be done at the Extension Center Learning Garden. Sandi Rousseau and I discussed work party dates and we decided to stick with Thursday mornings and add one Saturday per month. Please note that these dates are flexible and we want to accommodate different schedules to the degree we can. So, if you would like an alternate day or time, please let us know. Also, if there's any area that you know you want to work, you can contact the lead directly and arrange to visit the garden at a convenient time; maybe even pair up with someone.

Our tentative schedule for the next few months is as follows (please note the different times):

Thursday, May 4th, 9-11am

Thursday, May 18th, 9-11am

Saturday, May 27th, 10-12pm

Thursday, June 8th, 9-11am

Saturday, June 17th, 9-1pm (Garden Gathering)

Thursday, June 29th, 9-11am

While most of the work parties will be general clean-up (weed, trim, prune, etc.), **Saturday, June 17th from 9 AM to 1 PM**, is our Garden Gathering. On this date, the public will be encouraged to visit any or all of our demonstration gardens in the Hood River

Valley. In the Learning Garden, Anne Gehrig, Jen Harty and a rep from the Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association will be available to provide specific information on bees and bee-friendly gardens. Beyond that, the objective is to browse and ask questions about our various demonstration features. If you can attend this event and help us greet the public and answer any questions about our garden, it will be greatly appreciated. Note that during any work party, you can come and help out for an hour or so and there is no obligation to stay there for the duration of the scheduled time.

Here is a list of contacts for the specific gardens and projects within the Learning Garden:

Pollinator Garden: [Sandy Montag](#) and [Anne Gehrig](#)

Japanese Garden: [Sandi Rousseau](#)

Native Garden: [Margo Dameier](#) and [Sally Munoz](#)

Herb Garden: [Anne Gehrig](#)

Bioswale Reconstruction: [Amanda](#)

[VanVoorhees](#), [Joanne Willis](#) or [Sandi Rousseau](#)

We hope to see some new faces in the garden this Spring!

Best, Joanne and Sandi

Pollinator Garden Update

On March 25, a group of Master Gardeners braved the windy weather to participate in a composting party at the pollinator garden site. It was a little like the algebra problems most of us remember from our high school days: If 14 people spread 7 cubic yards of compost in 70 minutes, how long would it take one person to spread one yard? Armed with shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and lots of enthusiasm, the group was able to whittle down the pile in record time. It was teamwork at its finest.

While we are waiting for the weather to catch up with the calendar and the days to feel more springlike, the pollinator garden crew will meet to draw up a planting



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Day

(Continued on page 6)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 5)

plan. Our first meeting will be via Zoom in order to accommodate all our diverse schedules, but we hope to meet in person in the future. We are also considering a field trip to the Washington County pollinator garden which will hopefully inspire us as we plan and plant our own pollinator garden.

If you'd like to join the group or just want more information, please contact Sandy Montag at sandyhmontag@gmail.com or Anne Gehrig at agehrig5@hotmail.com.



The Weed Wrench

Introducing the “Weed Wrench!” ... a remarkable tool that uses leverage to pull out entrenched plants by their root. Photo shows the roots of 2 Oregon White Oak plants recently removed at the Learning Garden Work party (on Saturday, April 8.) This tool is useful for removing the following plants: White Oak volunteers, Scotch Broom, young Tree of Heaven, Privet and Blackberry. The Weed Wrench can be borrowed from the Underwood Conservation District. Information is available on their website at: <https://ucdtoollibrary.myturn.com/library/>

Denise Ingebo

The Tool Lending Library

Check It Out—the tool library is open for business!”



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



Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

Please join us Friday, May 19 from 9-11 a.m. for a friendly cleanup! Call Norma at 509-969-2187 with questions or ideas.

JEDI

In case you didn't notice this on the calendar, La Jardinería: A radio show in Spanish hosted by Dennis Carlson, Leanne Hogie, and Kathy McGregor, runs through October. Times: First and third Thursdays of each month from 9-10 a.m. <https://radiotierra.org/>



95.1 FM Hood River, OR
95.9 FM Stevenson, WA
96.7 FM Carson WA
107.1 FM Parkdale, OR
107.7 FM The Dalles, OR

FISH Garden

April brought a whirlwind of good gardening fun to the FISH garden. From the seemingly endless shed cleaning and row preparation (done, as you read this, I do hope) to mixing and applying fertilizer to planting early crops to planning compost, we have been able to jump into the season. With all the volunteers, we can focus on some long-neglected projects like the native garden and signage and even decided to lay out a beetle bank. The new electric lawnmower is doing its job on the paths between rows.

The May work parties are May 3rd from 3-6pm, May 13th from 9-12pm, May 17, 3-6pm, May 27th, 9-12pm, May 31st, 3-6pm.

If you need a garden orientation, let the work party leader know when you arrive. Get in touch with me if you have questions or a special interest in one aspect of the garden.

Tracy Willett

willett.tracy@gmail.com



2024 CGMGA Garden Tour

Calling all Master Gardeners and MG Trainees: the 2024 Garden Tour needs your help!

Do you love seeing how someone else grows your favorite plant? Visiting another garden is FUN and EDUCATIONAL! The bi-annual CGMGA Garden Tour is one of our biggest educational programs, reaching over 200 people in one day in 2022.

To have a successful CGMGA Garden Tour on Saturday, June 15, 2024, we need to identify gardens in Hood River County THIS spring to preview and select for the tour. *Please, please, please* consider opening YOUR garden to be on the tour, or if you have a friend, relative or neighbor with an interesting garden, please ask that person to offer their garden as a

(Continued on page 8)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 7)

candidate for the 2024 Garden Tour.

Here is a general schedule of what all needs to happen in the next 13 months for the Garden Tour to be a reality:

May & June 2023: Find candidate gardens to visit with Garden Tour committee members.

June & July 2023: Continue to explore all possible candidate gardens and start taking pictures of gardens selected to be on the 2024 Tour.

August 2023: Finalize Gardens for 2024 Garden Tour and take photos.

Fall 2023: Work on time sensitive marketing materials for Spring 2024; and work with Garden Owners on plant lists.

January – March 2024: Recruit MG Volunteers and Trainees to help as docents in the gardens during the June 15, 2024 Garden Tour.

March – June 2024: Outreach, Publicity, Posters around town, ticket pre-sales, etc., etc.

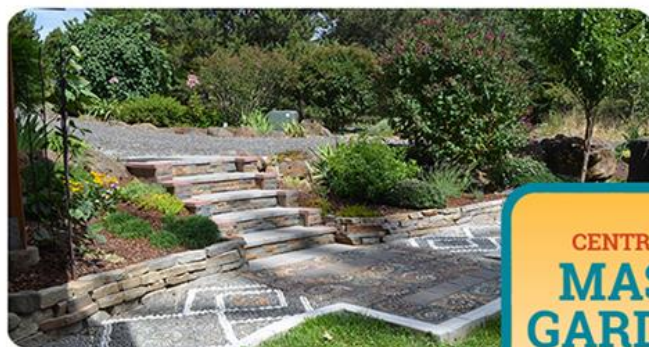
May 2024: Garden Tour Preview time for all MGs to visit all gardens on the Garden Tour.

June 15, 2024: CGMGA GARDEN TOUR DAY! Lots to do on this day, but we won't get into all the little details just yet...

The focus of the 2024 Master Gardener Garden Tour is small space landscapes that may include native plants, pollinator gardens, xeriscape (low or no watering), minimal or no lawn, or something innovative and out of the ordinary that makes efficient use of a small space. Please submit your suggestions of gardens (owners name, address, phone number and email) for the 2024 Master Gardener Garden Tour to Shari Bosler at



(Continued on page 9)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 8)

sharibosler@hotmail.com. Keep in mind that safe parking and reasonable accessibility are two important considerations for our garden tour.

Garden visits will be scheduled in mid to late May, and/or in early June 2023, and once the Garden Tour committee has a minimum of FOUR gardens to visit. Ideally, we will visit 6-10 gardens and make a final selection of 4-6 for the Garden Tour.

The next scheduled committee meeting for the 2024 Garden Tour will be on scheduled the week following the plant sale. Check with Shari Bosler for Zoom information, and in Megan's Monday updates. We hope to have many MGs join the 2024 Garden Tour Committee!

Karen Jenkins & Shari Bosler

Get Ready for the Garden Gathering

by Margo Dameier

The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association will be adding the Garden Gathering to our lineup of educational community events this summer. This biennial event will be a casual gathering of community members and Master Gardeners in our four project gardens on Saturday, June 17, 2023, 9 AM - 1 PM.

Central Gorge Master Gardeners will be at each of our four gardens to greet all who drop by, offer information about the garden, and give tours. If you're looking to become involved in any of our project gardens, this is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with them, and the Master Gardeners who help to maintain, and teach in them. Plus, the CGMGA is collaborating with other community groups in all of our gardens to aid in our mission of education for home gardeners.

Please spread the word about the Garden Gathering, invite others to join you, or volunteer to help out on the day of the Garden Gathering in any of our four project gardens. The Garden Gathering is a free event and everyone is invited to drop by any, or all of our gardens.

The Water Wise Garden at the Hood River County Library
Project leader: Norma Benson,

(Continued on page 10)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 9)

benson.norma@gmail.com

The CGMGA is partnering with the Hood River County Library to teach water wise gardening techniques. The library will have a wide selection of books on this topic readily available for reference, and to loan, throughout the month of June.

The Learning Garden on the OSU Extension Service grounds

Project leader: Joanne Willis,

joanne.cgmga@gmail.com

The Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association joins forces with the CGMGA by talking about bees at their beehives located in the Learning Garden. There are also several new projects going on in the Learning Garden, including a Pollinator Garden near the beehives, and plans for a new bioswale to handle water runoff from the OSU Extension Service roof.

The FISH Food Bank Garden at the Spirit of Grace Church

Project leader: Tracy Willett,

willett.tracy@gmail.com

The FISH Garden is a collaboration of the Spirit of Grace Church, FISH Food Bank, and CGMGA, along with the help of many local volunteers. The fresh produce that is grown here is harvested for FISH Food Bank clients. There is also an active worm composting bin at this site.

The Parkdale Memorial Garden at the intersection of Dee Hwy and Baseline Road

Project leaders: Nancy Slagle, njslagle@gmail.com and Bill Sturman, wmsturman@gmail.com

The Parkdale Memorial Garden is a combined effort between the Parkdale Garden Club, the CGMGA, and community members. This garden honors our nation's veterans, received a Blue Star Memorial Bi-Way Marker in 2021, and won the Garden of Distinction Award from the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs in 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Visits—Save the Date!

Join your fellow Master Gardeners for informal garden visits and potlucks this summer. Garden visits are open to Master Gardeners and their partners to gather together, learn from each other, socialize and most importantly enjoy a potluck meal.

June 15th from 5:30 – 7:30 at Beth Flake's house 3690 Westcliff in Hood River

July 13th from 5:30 - 7:30 at Hope Ranch Lavender Farm (more details in the next newsletter)

August – Any volunteers?

Please consider volunteering your garden for a

(Continued on page 11)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Continued from page 10)

visit. It's very simple to host. MG's will bring a dish to share as well as lawn chairs and your own plates, cups and utensils. Our gardens are always a work in progress and the fun part is talking about challenges and future plans. Contact Beth Flake for questions or to sign up elfio@yahoo.com, (541) 645-5415.

Happy Spring! Beth Flake

Spotlight on Master Gardener

By Jim Black

Katie Schmidt Finds Her Roots with a Hügelkultur raised bed "I'm a peasant," she says quite seriously. Then she smiles and explains. Her family's history has been rooted to the earth for centuries—farmers in Germany and in Catherine the Great's Russia—and the family continued their craft when they immigrated to the United States, settling in Tigard, Oregon. "Everyone I knew growing up gardened," she said. Katie Schmidt, in her second year as a Central Gorge Master Gardener, believes her grandparent's landscaped acreage in Tigard was where she first became a gardener, at least in her mind, though she didn't spend much time in a real garden until recently. Her father, like his parents, is also an accomplished gardener, still managing a large home garden in Sherwood. But Katie's interest in gardening laid latent during her first years of marriage, then raising her two sons, Elias and Saul. Now in high school, the boys are becoming more independent, giving her time to get back to her "peasant" roots and to find the gardener in herself. She and husband Ian VanDeHey live north of Trout Lake on a small acreage along the White Salmon River. It's gorgeous. Nature has done the landscaping and most people would call that good enough. But Katie wants to work the soil, and that's the challenge of the site. There is no soil: it's stones, gravel, and a bit of dust or mud. Hügelkultur The previous owner had brought in a small mound of soil, placing it along a log that served as a raised bed and allowed some planting of perennials. Katie says it was an attempt at Hügelkultur, a centuries-old technique of building soil developed in Germany. That was an inspiration for her, merging a need with her heritage, so she studied Hügelkultur, and, in the past two years, has experimented with creating four new beds, each more complex in its makeup. The most recent bed, which



was constructed last fall, is not unlike the lasagna method of gardening, she says. But the basic materials are surprising for conventional gardeners. First a layer of logs (Katie used Cottonwood, which is one of the preferred species) is placed side by side as the base of the bed. Then succeeding layers of ever smaller logs are interspersed with soil reclaimed from a neighbor's abandoned garden, compost from a local farm, and manure. Katie says that traditionally the beds can be built as high as six-feet, though she's happy to limit height to make the project less difficult. Once she had placed a final layer of soil on top, she seeded a pea and barley mix then covered the entire bed with a thick layer of pine needles and left it to overwinter. The technique is perfect for her site. Not only are the materials close at hand, but in time, the beds provide

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

the soil for the peonies and perennials she wants to grow, plants her grandparents grew. Like an oversized compost pile, the rotting organic matter also may add some soil warmth enabling her to extend the short Trout Lake area season. The new beds are giving her hope, but the challenges in Trout Lake aren't limited to soil. In the short growing season, Katie has had to run out of her log home flailing her arms, wearing only pajamas and slippers to scare off wild turkeys, and had to shoot the invasive ground squirrels that not only compete with the indigenous squirrels, but can wipe out a garden in no time. Added to the natural enemies, snow and freezing temperatures can threaten even in

traditionally warm months. It's not difficult to understand why many in the area stick with a few potted plants and leave the rest to nature. Katie, the peasant, was inspired by the same passions that drive all gardeners. She hopes to convince her father to build near her so she can have a resident expert at hand. And we all can appreciate her excitement for gardening in the greenhouse, where she is learning all of the plant sale greenhouse duties.

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 | ◇ Area |
| ◇ blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/ | ◇ GardenSmart: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants |
| ◇ Growing Your Own | ◇ Where to Pickup a free copy of GardenSmart |
| ◇ OSU Publications | ◇ Oregon Flora |
| ◇ Monthly Gardening Calendars | ◇ https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/ |
| ◇ PNW Handbooks | ◇ Transplanting Established Trees & Shrubs |
| ◇ HortSense | |
| ◇ UC IPM | |
| ◇ OSU Gardening | |
| ◇ WSU Gardening | |
| ◇ Weed Identification | |
| ◇ Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management | |



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