



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™



# CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023  
CGMGA & OMGA

## Notes from the President

Summer is upon us and we've made it to the longest day! More time for Gardening!!! I hope you are all starting to enjoy the fruits, and vegetables and flowers, of your labors. My primroses have all run their course but I have nice foliage left. The foxglove is almost over and now it is on to Shasta daisies and Jupiter's beard. Peas and lettuce lead the garden contributions, but my blueberry and cherry crops look to be record breaking. Yummm!

Thanks to all who participated in the Garden Gathering in June. The gardens were all amazing as was the dedication of the volunteers. If you have not yet had a chance to check out the gardens there are many "opportunities" for volunteer hours during the rest of the summer.

We are also entering into my favorite part of the Master Gardener year – where we have more opportunities to just socialize together and enjoy some wonderful gardens in the Gorge – and no need to weed. Check out the Garden Visit information later in the newsletter and I hope you can make them. Great fun and I usually learn some new gardening tip to take back home.

Speaking of gardening tips, I'll be heading down to the OMGA

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## Month at a Glance

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

**July 6:** Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

**July 7-8:** Friday/Saturday: Joy of Gardening conference at OSU (details below)

**July 12:** Wednesday: 9-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Christie Bradley for link), lunch provided (more details to come)

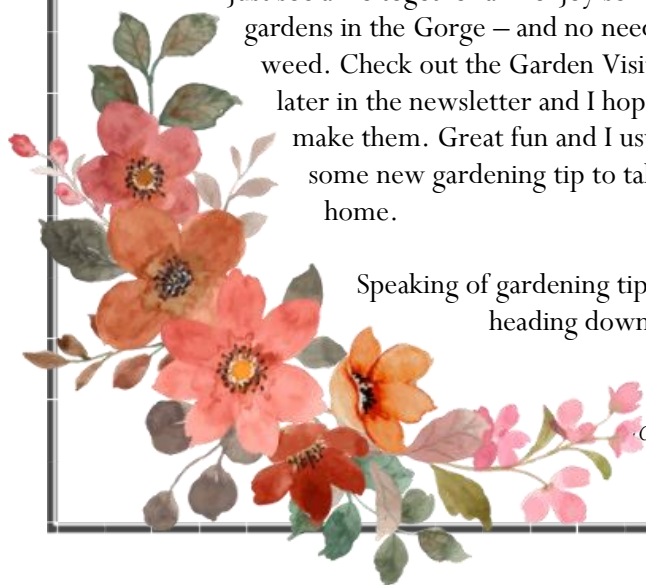
**July 13:** Thursday: 5:30-7:30pm: Garden Visit to the Hope Ranch Lavender Farm (details below)

**July 20:** Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

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## CGMGA & OMGA

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mini-college in Corvallis in July for the first time in many years. I learned some great tips there in the past and hope for a repeat this year. If you're interested in attending let Eric or I know. We'd love to see more of a Gorge presence there. There's also some great biking nearby that I hope to get to around the classes.

Finally, the Hood River County Fair is in July and we usually have a booth. Plans for this year's booth are underway but we'd love to have more ideas for our CGMGA presence. The Fair is also a great opportunity to enter your favorite fruit, veggie or flower for prizes! My goal every year when I enter items is to win enough (yes there is money in addition to ribbons) to cover the cost of admission and an elephant ear. Let's see if I succeed this year. Hope you enter some things as well.

Leanne Hogie



GardenTainment is taking a summer break. Go out and enjoy the outdoors! And send me any suggestions you have for future garden themed books or movies.

Leanne Hogie

## OMGA

Most notable since the last report was the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter OMGA Board of Directors meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sadly, this was probably the last MG meeting that Gail Langellotto will be involved with. She has resigned as State MG Coordinator. Gail is "taking a solid year off from anything MG." She remains a full professor at OSU and is looking forward to re-focusing on her science and teaching. But it's a good bet that we will see her again soon bringing her passion, expertise and humor to teaching assignments aimed at the MG

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**July 21:** Friday: Deadline for submissions to the August CGMGA newsletter

**July 26-30:** Wednesday-Sunday: Hood River County Fair, CGMGA booth in 4-H building (more details to come)

**Aug 17:** Thursday: 5:30pm: Garden Visit at Elaine Johnson's house in Hood River (more details next month)

**Oct 7:** Saturday: 4pm: Garden Visit at Dennis Carlson's to tour his homestead focused on growing food.

### Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Fri, July 7: 8-10am

Learning Garden:

Thurs, July 13: 8-11am

Thurs, July 27: 8-11am

Parkdale Memorial Garden:

Sat. July 15: 9am (contact Nancy Slagle)

FISH Garden:

Sat. July 1: 9-12pm

Wed. July 5: 3-5pm

Sat. July 15: 9-12pm

Wed. July 19: 3-5pm

Sat. July 29: 9-12pm

program. Thank you, Gail, for your dedication to our program. We are all the better for your contributions.

On a similar note, the finalists for the State Coordinator position are being vetted. Master Gardeners were able to attend, via zoom or in person. OMGA is hoping a decision is made before the Joy of Gardening Conference, aka Mini College on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in Corvallis.

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## CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 2)

The Oregon legislature's current budget is below OSU's Continuing Service Level and this does not bode well for Extension, particularly where vacancies exist. There was a strong lobbying effort headed up by Sherry Sheng and, while it did not move the legislature, the word did have significant impact on OSU and progress was made for Extension and the MG program.

Finally, the OMGA Board of Directors have chosen to return OMGA dues to the pre-pandemic level of \$7.00 for 2024. There had been a lot of discussion on raising the budget but it was decided to move from the pandemic \$5.00/optional level back to the rate it has been for over a decade.

CGMGA was well represented at the Board meeting as Alt. Rep. Mary Corl attended her first quarterly. Eric, CGMGA rep

## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### HRSWCD Weed of the Month: Purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an exotic invasive plant from Eurasia that infests wetlands and riparian zones throughout North America. It is a perennial, upright bushy plant with purple flowers. The plant can grow to be over 6 feet tall with hundreds of flowers. Stems are four to six sided and leaves are lance shaped with smooth edges. Purple loosestrife prefers to live in moist, marshy areas and forms dense clumps which out competes native vegetation and reduces wildlife habitat.

Purple loosestrife spreads by seed and rhizomes. Plants can produce over a million seeds per plant! Purple loosestrife is widely established in Oregon along rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, seeps, and wet meadows. Disturbed sites and artificially created wetlands are particularly vulnerable.

Small patches can be hand pulled, but hand pulling often

leaves root fragments behind which can regrow into new plants. Be sure to remove the entire plant and roots. Cutting the plant can reduce seed production but will not kill the plant. Late summer herbicide treatments have been shown to effectively manage small patches of purple loosestrife. Care should be taken when using herbicides around water and desirable vegetation, and this method is not recommended for typical landowners. For sites larger than a quarter acre, biological control is an option. However, biological control only slows the spread and will not eradicate the infestation. Purple loosestrife control is tricky – nip this one in the bud early!

Heather Hendrixson,  
HRSWCD





## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### Garden Gathering Achieved Goals

By Margo Dameier

The first Garden Gathering took place on Saturday, June 17, 2023. This typical late spring day in the Gorge offered temperatures in the mid to upper 60's, mostly sunny skies and our usual summer wind. Perfect weather for visiting with and providing education to our Garden Gathering guests. All four of our educational gardens were looking their best with flowers in full bloom at the Water Wise and Parkdale Memorial Gardens, berries and vegetables in bloom at the FISH Food Bank Garden, and bees happily gathering pollen from the blooms at the Learning Garden.



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Above: FISH garden, Tracy Willett and Wasco Co MGs.; Carol Brown.



Photos of the Learning Garden, top to bottom: Sally Munoz, Jim Black, Rowan Tanner, Roni Hyde; Jen Harty and PC Client; Shari Bosler, Sandi Rousseau.



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

*(Continued from page 4)*

We gained a total of 86 contacts between our four gardens which exceeded our goal for this first year event. Several new Central Gorge Master Gardeners volunteered in the gardens, while others took this opportunity to tour the gardens before deciding which garden(s) they would like to earn volunteer hours in.

The Water Wise Garden collaborated with the Hood River County Library who provided a display of books on Water Wise gardening. Homemade cookies and iced tea were available at a table adorned with fresh flower arrangements at the Learning Garden where members of the Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association provided information about bees and how to protect them through backyard practices, while Steve Castagnoli talked about Native Bees and their preferred living quarters. The FISH Garden which works together with the FISH Food Bank and Spirit of Grace

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*Above: Water Wise Garden at the Hood River County Library.*



*Above: Bill Sturman, Nancy Slagle, Parkdale Memorial Garden.*



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

*(Continued from page 5)*

Church, was alive with Central Gorge Master Gardener volunteers showing worm composting activity and how to trap voles. Meanwhile, the Parkdale Memorial Garden, in collaboration with the Parkdale Garden Club, set out annual plants for a hands-on experience to teach proper planting techniques. A hand washing station and cool drinking water were available for participants to refresh themselves after this activity.

What's coming for future Garden Gatherings? That's up to us! Your input for educational seminars and demonstrations in our educational gardens is welcomed. If you're interested in helping to shape how the Garden Gathering will grow, please send an email to Margo Dameier, [margodameier@gmail.com](mailto:margodameier@gmail.com), or Megan Wickersham, [megan.wickersham@oregonstate.edu](mailto:megan.wickersham@oregonstate.edu).



*Water Wise Garden, guests with Norma Benson, Barbara Spezia.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Pollinator Garden Update

May was planting and irrigation month in the Pollinator Garden. Thanks to several Master Gardeners, Kim Pfautz, Denise Ingebo, Elaine Johnson, Anny VanNatta, Jen Harty, Marilyn Day, Roni Hyde, Rowan Tanner and Megan, we transplanted over 70 pollinators. Meanwhile Sandi Rousseau & Barbara Spezia worked tirelessly on our irrigation system. More plants will be added in the fall while we work on purchasing and laying flagstone paths throughout the garden this summer. The flagstones will enable the public to enter the garden without disturbing the garden beds, view the beehives and allow the Master Beekeepers to tend to the bees. Stay tuned for more opportunities to create an amazing garden.

Sandy & Anne





## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Pollinator Garden at the Learning Garden Receives Grant

The pollinator garden crew received word on June 21<sup>st</sup> that we received an \$800 grant from the Gorge Community Fund. Gorge Community Foundation is one of the two foundations where CGMGA has some money invested, and they offer grants yearly to nonprofits.

We applied in May for the development of the pollinator garden emphasizing how every individual can contribute to earth stewardship to enhance our ecosystem. Some wording from the grant application ..... 'The need to practice conservation measures that can contribute to protecting insects and bees that are the lifeblood of our biodiversity of plants and necessary for essentially all our food production will be demonstrated with plantings and signage. The goal of helping every person understand that he/she can make a difference by instituting only one or a few changes in their landscapes ..... whether it be on an apartment deck, a very small yard, or a larger area of land .... will be a key educational focus of the garden.

Bees will also be a focus in the garden, both honey and wild bees, demonstrating their habitat and foraging habits. Plantings will be chosen to maximize both pollen and nectar collection. A goal is to utilize approximately 70% native plantings to provide for three season availability. Our partnership with Columbia Gorge Beekeepers Association will continue to provide mentorship to existing beekeepers in the art and science of beekeeping as well as sharing information related to pollinators and sustainable practices. Master Gardeners share a commitment to raising awareness of the importance of bees and promoting pollinator friendly practices in our community.'

Thanks to all of you who have participated in this project with many more opportunities to come.  
Sandi



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

Please join the Hood River Library team for two special summer work sessions from 8 to 10 on July 7 and August 4. We will resume our regular third-Friday work parties in September.

Questions or comments? Text Norma at 509-969-2187.

### FISH Garden

The FISH Garden is installing a new drip tape system and harvesting vegetables three times per week for the food bank. Carol Brown has a new composting and vermicomposting area up and running. Our work parties are July 1st 9-12pm, July 5th 3-5pm, July 15th 9-12pm, July 19th 3-5pm, and July 29th 9-12pm.

Tracy

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Garden Visits—Save the Date!

Please join your fellow Master Gardeners for informal garden visits and potlucks this summer. It's always fun and educational to see what other Master Gardeners are doing with their own gardens. 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. If you are unable to bring a dish to share, your company is enough.

July 13<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM at Hope Ranch Lavender Farm (see the article which follows for more details)

August 17<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM at Elaine Johnson's house in Hood River (more details next month)

October 7<sup>th</sup> - 4 PM at Dennis Carlson's to tour his homestead focused on growing food.

Thanks much,  
Beth Flake



### Don't Miss the Garden Visit to Hope Ranch .... a Lavender Farm

**Put the date of Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar now!**

Our next garden visit will be at Hope Ranch in the Pine Grove area. This is a garden visit to not miss as it is a beautiful setting with double mountain views, lavender will be in full bloom, the pot luck will be yummy per usual, and Ivy and Mike Roulette (owners and hosts) will be demonstrating their vast knowledge of lavender including uses, recipes, and more.

Topics they will demonstrate and share with us are:

- How lavender oil is distilled
- How different varieties of lavender oil vary and can be smelled on the property
- Hydrosol .... what it is, including sampling and smelling
- Lavender ice cream and/or lavender popsicles
- Lavender lemonade
- A favorite lavender cookie recipe
- Answering questions on how to harvest lavender in your own garden to cook with and dry
- Growing lavender tips and lessons that Ivy and Mike learned along the way
- Lavender oil and lavender products will be available for sale.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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U-cut lavender will also be available.

Date: Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Hope Ranch, 2585 Fir Mountain Road, Pine Grove area.

Families, including kids, are welcome.

Directions/Parking: As you drive east from Highway 35 on Fir Mountain Road, you will fairly quickly see a vertical lavender sign at the first curve of Fir Mountain and then it goes uphill a bit and to the right. When it levels out there is a "Welcome to Hope Ranch" sign and a grass lot to park in between the garden and the

lavender field on the left side of the road. Their house is further up on the left, but park in the lower area. (They have 22 acres.)

Potluck: Bring all of the usual accessories if you can, ie chair, plate, fork, napkin, drink, and dish to share, **but if life gets in the way, we always have plenty of food so don't worry about bringing a dish to share. We want you to attend for fun and not be stressed out about it.**

*the gorge magazine:* There is a lovely informative article about Hope Ranch and Ivy and Mike and their three children Grace, Ben, and Olivia in the Summer edition of this magazine. Check it out on page 64. Magazines are free around Hood River.

Sandi

## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

### Mary Corl

By Anne Gehrig

And the answer is....Gardening!

After the first few minutes interviewing Mary Corl, it became clear that "gardening" was the answer to nearly all my questions. What's your passion? Gardening. What do you do in your free time? Gardening. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Gardening. Mary Alice Corl is a woman who loves to garden and who has devoted her life to its pursuit.

What motivates a person to find and follow one's passion? Mary's interest in gardening grew from her roots in Sunnyside, Washington where her family raised grapes, asparagus, and other crops. Participation in 4-H club further enhanced her knowledge of gardening while deepening her curiosity about all things agricultural and horticultural. After high school, she earned an Associate Arts degree in interior design and moved to Portland, helping clients with home design and businesses with window design. Eventually a client encouraged her to become a mortgage broker, but she found this career



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change to be too restrictive for her creative nature. In 2002 she purchased what was supposed to have been a vacation home in Skamania Landing; today it's home to her husband, their two dogs, a cat, and 150 houseplants. While some folks collect antiques, books, or coins, Mary collects plants. A member and volunteer of Hortlandia, the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, she is always on the lookout for new plants to add to her extensive collection.

Mary has combined her love for gardening and design in a half acre garden which she describes as a "jungle". She begins each day with YouTube videos on gardening, "visiting" gardens worldwide from her office and gaining knowledge and insight that she brings to her own outdoor spaces. Armed with water, snacks, and music, she often spends entire days gardening. She waters each quadrant carefully by hand because installing irrigation would disrupt the ground where so many plants flourish. Mary sees her garden as a series of "vignettes" that flow together, with no bare ground to interrupt that flow. She believes that interior design and exterior design go hand in hand, so she puts a great deal of thought and planning into making those spaces beautiful.

The Master Gardening program opened Mary's eyes to the whole picture: everything from the underground root system to the tree canopy is interdependent, and one's actions have a ripple effect. "We killed everything growing up," she commented, referring to the effects of pesticides, farming practices, and bird control by bullet on the family farm in Sunnyside. Today she rejoices in the abundance of bird, insect, and plant life in her Skamania Landing garden. "Everyone," Mary says, "should become a Master Gardener." There is so

much that can be learned from the program, and the knowledge can help people better understand and appreciate plants and their role in the environment.

While this is only her first year as a certified Master Gardener, Mary has enthusiastically embraced the volunteer opportunities afforded by the program. She's active in the FISH food bank garden and is serving as our chapter's OMGA alternate rep. She wishes she could spend time helping with other project gardens but there are more volunteer opportunities than there are hours in a day. In addition to her CGMGA activities, she also volunteers as a fire commissioner for Skamania County, serves on the architectural committee of her HOA, and is helping her sister to bring a healing garden to the Sunnyside Cancer Clinic.

Her advice to new master gardeners? Pace yourself. Education doesn't stop when classes end, and time spent volunteering often far exceeds the hours required for certification. Still, Mary sees herself continuing the program in the years to come and hopes to mentor new trainees as well. Her enthusiasm for gardening and for the Master Garden program is infectious and inspiring. "There's still so much to learn and know," she says, "and I want to do it all."



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!





# Gardening Resources

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|--|--|
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>Hood River County Master Gardeners</u></a>                              | ◇ <a href="#"><u>Area</u></a>  |
| ◇ <a href="https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/"><u>blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/</u></a> | ◇ <a href="#"><u>GardenSmart: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants</u></a>   |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>Growing Your Own</u></a>  | ◇ <a href="#"><u>Where to Pickup a free copy of GardenSmart</u></a>  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>OSU Publications</u></a>  | ◇ <a href="#"><u>Oregon Flora</u></a>  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>Monthly Gardening Calendars</u></a>                                     | ◇ <a href="https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/"><u>https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/</u></a> |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>PNW Handbooks</u></a>   | ◇ <a href="#"><u>Transplanting Established Trees &amp; Shrubs</u></a>  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>HortSense</u></a>   |  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>UC IPM</u></a>  |  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>OSU Gardening</u></a>   |  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>WSU Gardening</u></a>   |  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>Weed Identification</u></a>   |  |
| ◇ <a href="#"><u>Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management</u></a>                      |  |



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