



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Notes from the President

Well, the warmth of summer finally found us after our long cool spring. For the first time that I can recall at our Plant Sale, which was very successful, we had to advise people on how to keep their new transplants cool rather than the normal suggestions to protect them from the cold. Nature is always providing us with something new! Thanks to all of you who helped to make the Plant Sale such a success. It is great to see us all working together!

In a very different form, I hope you will all be able to participate in the Garden Gathering coming up on June 17. Either by working in the gardens in advance of the gathering or by being there on the day. Another chance to get to know our gardens better and to share them with the community.

I expect we'll all be busy in our own gardens in June and with all the other activities summer throws at us. This is the month I try and get into a Zen space of coexistence with my weeds. But if you want to up your gardening game, there is also the chance to go to Mini-College in Corvallis in July to immerse yourself in even more garden information and meet other Master Gardeners. Look for information on how to register later in the Newsletter

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Month at a Glance

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

June 1: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

June 15: Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

June 15: Thursday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Christie Bradley for link)

June 15: Thursday: 5:30-7:30pm: Garden Visit to Beth Flake's garden at 3690 Westcliff (details below)

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

June 23: Friday 8-9am: CGMGA MGs on the radio, KIH 1360

June 23: Deadline for submissions to the

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CGMGA & OMGA

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Finally, if you've been reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" and want to discuss it you are welcome to come to my garden. Check out the GardenTainment section for details.

Leanne



For those of you who have had the chance to read some of "Braiding Sweetgrass" and would like to discuss it, come on over to my yard on June 8th at 5 pm. We'll have a little book club meeting, either on the lawn or the porch, weather dependent. Bring a bit to nibble on or something to sip to spark your creative juices as we discuss the book. Let me know if you're planning to come so I can figure out chairs.

Speaking of my porch, since the hummingbirds have returned to my front porch, I thought we would focus on these amazing little creatures for the month of June. Some of the best slow-motion footage on hummingbirds has been done in the Nature documentaries. The new one on "The Hummingbird Effect" showcases an amazing variety of hummers in the beautiful landscapes of Costa Rica. I was fortunate enough to spend 2 years in Costa Rica as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the early 1980's doing – what else – school vegetable gardens. While I'm sure I saw many of the beautiful little birds, what I remember better were the voracious leaf cutter ants.

An earlier Nature documentary on "Super Hummingbirds" was also supposed to have amazing footage but I could not find a good link on-line. The Hummingbird Effect can now be found on PBS. Or just put some nectar out and enjoy watching the birds come to your own feeder – after you've spent a hard day in the garden.

Leanne Hogie

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July CGMGA newsletter

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

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

Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Fri: June 16: 9-11am

Learning Garden:

Thurs. June 1: 8-11am

Thurs. June 15: 8-10am (Prep for the Garden Gathering)

Sat. June 17: 9am-1pm (Garden Gathering)

Thurs. June 29: 8-11am

Parkdale Memorial Garden:

Wed. June 1: 9am (contact Nancy Slagle)

FISH Garden:

Wed, June 7: 3pm

Sat, June 17: 9am-1pm (Garden Gathering)

Wed, June 21: 3pm

Wed, June 28: 3pm

The Joy of Gardening

The Oregon Master Gardeners Association is mandated by OSU to offer an annual educational program. Historically known as "Mini College" the program is an opportunity for Master Gardeners and interested community members from around the Northwest to participate in a 2-day conference. This year, titled "Joy of Gardening" it will offer speakers, advanced classes and roundtable discussions which focus on a wide variety of horticulture educational and

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environmental topics geared toward the home gardener. Registration is now open. You can visit the registration site and drill down under the class selections to pop-up a description of each of the class offerings and roundtable topics. There's a silent auction, bookstore, raffle, and some tour options. The lodging options, lunch options, parking information is also on the site. Again, this year OMGA has worked hard to keep costs at a minimum. CGMGA has scholarships available. For more information just

let me know. See you at Joy of Gardening in Corvallis.

<https://omgajoyofgardening.regfox.com/omga-joy-of-gardening>

Scholarships to the Joy of Gardening Conference are available!

Deadline is June 30th

For details please contact Eric Bosler ericbosler@hotmail.com

the
JOY
of Gardening


Presented by
OMGA™
THE OREGON MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Two days of research-based classes
on edibles, ornamentals, and pollinators.
For new and experienced gardeners!

Bookstore 🌿 Awards 🌿 Silent Auction

FRIDAY, JULY 7
SATURDAY, JULY 8

 CH2MHILL ALUMNI CENTER
725 SW 26TH ST.
OSU CAMPUS, CORVALLIS, OR

In cooperation with
and support of
 Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

<https://omga.org/mini-college-2023/>
REGISTRATION OPENS ON MAY 15

Questions? Contact us at 2023joyofgardening@gmail.com

CGMGA & OMGA

Plant Sale Finale!



I think we could title this article the same as last year 'Plant Sale a Rousing Success' because of all of you who helped along the way. We had a total of 71 Master Gardeners help with seed ordering, purchasing germination and potting soils, seed starting, up potting, ordering plant plugs, plant maintenance activities including watering and monitoring for problems, labeling, Shopify background work and plant descriptions, responding to customer emails, publicity, bundling online sale plants, delivering online ordered plants, day of sale set up, introducing our kids to plants activities, and all of the day of sale activities that are too numerous to detail, answering plant questions, washing trays, and generally cleaning up, and handling the money. Whew ... a very long list of what it takes to pull this off successfully!

Our gross profits are the highest ever at \$13,094 about \$100 higher than 2022. And that is a lot of plants at basically \$3 per plant!! We also had some beautiful pottery vases donated by Jen Munroe that seemed to come in handy for some last-minute Mother's Day gift purchases. We had 130 orders online and 234 customers at the day of sale.

The Growing Gardeners Kids' Corner had only a few participants, but it was popular

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with them. So this was a start for perhaps more things to come. And those kids' booklets were so darn cute and ready to use next year!

So another year under our belts! We are tweaking the process every year to make us more efficient. During some slower times at the activities, I had some discussions with several of you about how to make the sale even more successful, but after many of you working in various jobs, I am sure you have some thoughts on this too. We will have had our debriefing meeting by the time you read this, but if you have had any other thoughts about how to improve our efficiency and processes, please send them on to me.

I appreciate those shadowing some of us to learn more of the details of how we organize the various aspects of the sale, so we can pass the batons at some point. Everyone is welcome to participate on the planning committee which will not meet again until November.

Thanks again for supporting the village it takes to financially support our Central Gorge Master Gardener projects and activities.

Sandi

swim@gorge.net 503-806-7020



Paul Matalucci shared this adorable video of two of our youngest Plant Sale “customers” caring for their new plants. Their mom has given permission to share internally with our MG group. Watch on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) and prepare to smile.



EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Weed of the Month: Scotch Broom

Scotch broom was introduced as an ornamental along highway corridors and in western Oregon as a dune stabilizer. It is now one of the most extensive forest weed species.

Scotch broom is an attractive evergreen shrub. It has many slender, erect, dark green branches with small leaves up to half an inch long. It grows from 3 to 10 feet in height. In May it is covered with bright yellow pea like flowers. The flowers mature to flattened seed pods that contain up to a dozen seeds each. Dried pods will crack and pop open in mid-summer and eject the seeds a short distance. A single

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EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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plant can produce well over 20,000 seeds that last in the soil for more than 30 years (some estimates are as long as 80 years).

Scotch broom easily invades disturbed sites, natural areas, dunes and forest lands. This weed displaces native and beneficial plants and smothers tree seedlings, hampering reforestation efforts. It causes loss of grassland and open forest habitat. Flowers and seeds are toxic to humans and most animals. Scotch broom creates highly flammable fuels increasing wildfire danger. Control costs for this weed exceed \$47 million annually.

Scotch broom can be controlled by various methods depending upon the severity and the location of the infestation. Plants can be pulled when they are small and dug when they are larger. They can be cut between flowering and seed production and stumps can be treated with herbicides (check with the OSU Extension Master Gardeners for advice). Do not put plants with seed pods in compost or yard waste. They should be bagged and placed in the garbage. Do not burn plants with seed pods; when exposed to fire, its seeds burst from their seed pods.

If you are looking for a yellow blooming bush for spring color, rather than planting Scotch broom consider the native Tall Oregon Grape or the ornamental Forsythia hybrid.

Heather Hendrixson HRSWC



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

Please join us Friday, June 16, for our June work party. Lucky for us the very next day we will show off our work at the Library Waterwise Open House from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 17. I hope you can join us for both.

On Friday, bring a trowel, a bucket, and your favorite tool. Norma will have her van and a wide variety of tools you can try out.

For Saturday, bring your sunscreen, your hat, and your welcoming spirit. You might even bring a lawn chair or umbrella for the sun. We'll have some water bottles on ice, too.

The Library Garden gets quite a few passers-by in general, but on this day we can expect even more people to come by and talk with us about the garden's concept, the plants we've chosen, the plants we have abandoned, and the direction for future plantings. It will be a fun way to interact with people who visit our garden. You'll have a plant list and a brief history of the garden to help you.

Call or text Norma at 509-969-2187 with any questions or ideas you'd like to share

FISH Garden

All seeds and transplants are in, thanks to MG row volunteers. The FISH garden has already had its first harvests this month: here Norma Benson delivers produce to the food bank. Carol Brown is getting composting and vermicomposting restarted. We taught classes to Hood River Options Academy on native plants and vermicomposting.

Tracy Willett

See you at the Garden Gathering

By Margo Dameier

Mark your calendar

The 2023 Garden Gathering is just weeks away! This new educational event will take place at each of our four project gardens on Saturday, June 17, 9 AM - 1 PM. If you're intrigued about volunteering in any of our project gardens, this is a great opportunity to get better acquainted with them, and the Master Gardeners who help to design, maintain, and teach in them.

Earn volunteer hours

You can also earn volunteer hours by giving tours to the public in each of the gardens. Please contact the garden leader where you wish to volunteer.

The Water Wise Garden at the Hood River County Library

Project leader: Norma Benson,

benson.norma@gmail.com

The Learning Garden on the OSU Extension Service grounds

Project leader: Joanne Willis,

joanne.cgmga@gmail.com

The FISH Food Bank Garden at the Spirit of Grace Church

Project leader: Tracy Willett,

willett.tracy@gmail.com

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

Bring others

Viewing gardens is more fun when others join you, so invite your family and friends. Everyone is invited to the Garden Gathering! Just drop by and tour one, two, three... or all four of our gardens.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Garden Tour 2024

It is with a bit of disappointment that the decision has been made to “pause” the 2024 Garden Tour. Without specific gardens to feature in Hood River County and without a chair for this committee, it’s been decided that we take time off and reevaluate this project in a future year. It is our intention to continue this project in the future, as it is an educational event that the

public really enjoys and looks forward to. Thanks to those who were supportive as we tried to reenergize this project. I especially want to thank Karen, Jen, Margo, Anne, Mary, and Jim for their support in hanging onto the reins after the very successful garden tour lead by Karen in 2022,

Shari

UPCOMING EVENTS



Garden Visits—Save the Date!

Please 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

Please bring a dish to share, your favorite beverage, personal plate and utensils and a lawn chair if possible. Wear shoes that are comfortable for walking on uneven ground. Parking is somewhat limited, carpool if you can.

July 13th at Hope Ranch (more details in the next newsletter)

August – Any volunteers? Please consider volunteering your garden for a future visit. It’s very simple to host. MG’s 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.

SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

Spotlight on a Master Gardener

By Jeri Richardson

In speaking with Margo, one is quickly impressed with her vitality, energy and genuine love of the Master Gardener program. It runs all the way to her core. She is in charge of publicity for our program, oversees social media, started the educational writing

crew and works at the learning garden as well as the native garden. And we fellow Master Gardeners have terrible snow conditions to thank!

Margo had wanted to join a MG program; however, the closest offering was in Wasco County. Her full-time job in media and

commuting to in-person classes, two times a week was too much. She joined the Hood River chapter MG program the very first year in was offered in Hood River, 2005. That year coincided with poor snowboarding conditions so attending a weekend class *wasn’t too*

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SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

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much of an inconvenience.

Margo grew up in north central Illinois, the fifth generation on a family farm. She fondly remembers her extended family, across the country side; aunts, uncles and cousins all working the soil. It is this same fondness that feeds her desires today. As she stated, "The Master Gardener science-based program has expanded my knowledge and created a burning desire to pass that along to others".

Typical of Margo, she jumped into MG's with all four feet. She began writing the press releases her first year as a way to "help out" and ended up using her career in media to expand and develop the publicity side of our

program. In 2009 she was our chapter president. During her time as president, she understood that sometimes the demands of life make attending class difficult, so she also started the associate MG program. The associate program allows people to still be involved, but at a reduced level.

She loves the community that is created around the Master Gardener program. When personal loss and tragedy struck Margo's world, she too needed to take a break from the program for her own healing. For three years she enjoyed winters in Baja, not wet rainy Hood



River. Yet, during that time she was fed by the kindness and nurturing friendship from other people in the MG program. They became a life blood of support for her regrowth.

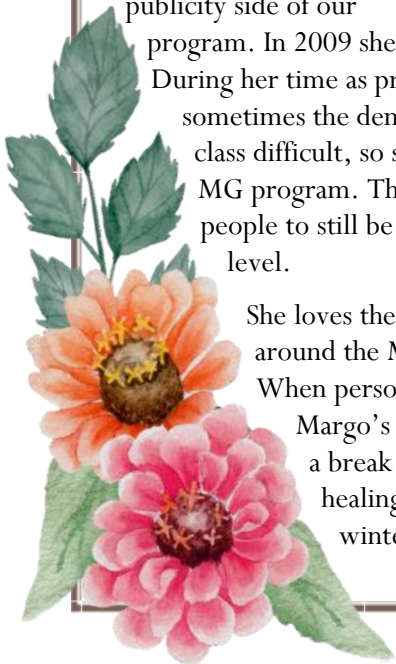
Like many things, the pandemic was a set-back for the Master Gardeners, as the total membership plummeted. It called for new methodologies and Margo jumped in again. She helped create new spaces and places for members to contribute and different ways for the MG's to get their message out to the public. If you have an interest in working with the Instagram, Facebook, creating, writing or editing video, writing for the H&G section of the Columbia Gorge News, she welcomes your involvement. For as she says, "If we nurture the soil, we'll also nurture ourselves and each other".

We are lucky to have Margo, (the snowboarding

Energizer bunny) in our ranks!



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

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



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