



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™



# CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023  
CGMGA & OMGA

## Notes from the President

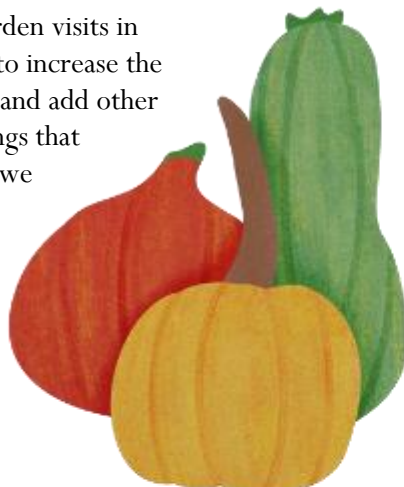
The look and smell of fall is now around us and I hope you have been able to enjoy both the beauty and the benefits of your gardening activities this summer. If you're like me, you can get caught up in all the garden tasks that need to be done and not just sit back and enjoy the wonder of what you have been able to create – with the help of Mother Nature. I encourage you to take some time this month to simply revel in the wonder of the gardens, either yours or the ones you have worked on with Master Gardeners.

If my encouragement is not enough, there is now actually scientific evidence that enjoying nature is good for your health. This article goes into the details of how that works. But the bottom line is that 2 hours a week in nature is enough to lower blood pressure, enhance immune system function, reduce anxiety and improve mood. So, for your health, go out to just enjoy your gardens.

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/ecopsychology-how-immersion-in-nature-benefits-your-health>

There are no planned garden visits in September but we hope to increase the number of visits in 2024 and add other fun and educational outings that we can do together. But we need your help in determining what some of those new activities could be.

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## Month at a Glance

**Sept 7:** Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

**Sept 13:** Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Christie Bradley for link)

**Sept 17:** Thursday: 9-10am: La Jardinería radio show in Spanish <https://radiotierra.org/>

**Sept 22:** Friday: Deadline for submissions to the October CGMGA newsletter

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

### Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Fri, Sept 15: 9-11am

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## CGMGA & OMGA

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Early in September we will be distributing a survey to all of you asking a few quick questions about your thoughts on our different garden projects and what motivates you to volunteer on certain projects versus others. We are also looking for ideas on what new projects, or fun activities, we could do next year. It is a short survey and I really hope you will take 5 minutes to complete it and let us know your thoughts. It will help us make the CGMGA program even better and more interesting for you in 2024.

Leanne Hogie



I need to get busy reading and watching more things to provide you with some new GardenTainment ideas. I don't think Barbie qualifies in this category – but it is a fun summer movie.

My suggested read for September is a book I have not yet read but I heard a lot about, since my husband's book club read it. Also, when we were back in Minnesota, where I grew up, we visited some of the sites mentioned in the story. The book is "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson. It is available at the Hood River Library and on Library2go and as well as for purchase downtown at Waucoma.

September is the time to think about seed saving and this book looks at several generations of Dakota women who protected seeds during the hard times to carry on their culture and traditions for future generations. As one reviewer noted "it invokes the strength that women, land, and plants have shared with one another through the generations." I hope we all enjoy this as a fall read.

Leanne

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Learning Garden:

Thurs, Sept 5: 8-11am

Thurs, Sept 21: 8-11am

FISH Garden:

Sat, Sept 9: 9-12pm

Sat, Sept 16: 9-12pm

Sat, Sept 23: 9-12pm

Sat, Sept 30: 9-12pm

Parkdale Memorial Garden:

Sat, Sept 23: 9-12pm

Wed, Sept 27: 9-12pm

## OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardeners Receive Awards

The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association has selected two deserving Master Gardeners as recipients of the Master Gardener of the Year and Behind the Scenes Awards for their contributions to the OSU Extension Central Gorge Master Gardener program.

Master Gardener of the Year for 2023: Anne Gehrig

Anne has played a crucial role in CGMGA for many years. Anne served on the Executive Committee as President-Elect and President and continues her

service as Past President. She has helped guide CGMGA on its current path and is a thoughtful contributor.

Anne started the Master Gardener program in 2011 and quickly became involved in



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## CGMGA & OMGA

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projects. She has led the Herb Garden redevelopment. While teaching, she selected a group of 5th grade students to paint the Learning Garden worm compost bin. She consistently participates in the Learning Garden planning and is currently working with a group on the expansion of the Pollinator Garden which will be complete in 2023.

Anne has been a vital participant in the 2023 plant sale planning and has led the development of a first time Growing Gardeners Kids' Corner which provides fun activities to engage children in gardening.

Along with others, Anne worked with the Hood River County library and Hood River Supply to launch a tool lending library which provides an opportunity for the public to borrow gardening tools in lieu of purchasing them. She also participates in the planning and instruction of Seed to Supper which has proven to be an empowering resource for the community.

Anne is a leader, shares ideas, works with others, and solves problems in a kind and collaborative manner to make our CGMGA programs successful. She is very deserving of recognition as the 2023 Central Gorge Master Gardener of the Year recipient.

### Behind the Scenes Master Gardener of the Year for 2023: Joanne Willis

From the very beginning, when Joanne Willis began taking her Master Gardener training classes in 2019, she has been active in a number of our chapter activities. She participated in the Learning Garden work parties, contributing toward the planning of various garden features. Later that year, she assumed the leadership role of this huge garden project



and continues in that role today. She communicates well with the many Master Gardener volunteers in that garden, organizing work parties, planning for renovations and special events.

Joanne began attending our Executive Committee meetings in 2020 and has been an outstanding Treasurer since January 2021, moving CGMGA into QuickBooks online banking which will help to improve succession planning for this position in the future. As we returned to attending training classes, she tracked Covid restrictions and requirements and followed through with enforcement.

In addition to these notable activities, Joanne is a workaholic when it comes to behind-the-scenes activities. She leads much of the plant sale planning, specifically spreadsheet intricacies and improvements in layout and documentation. Recently, Joanne took it upon herself to spend hours designing several versions of a new CGMGA logo for presentation to our Executive Committee. She has continued to put together our membership directory annually since 2020. It's obvious that when Joanne takes on a project, it's always done with deliberation and skill.

Joanne dove into Master Gardening with enthusiasm and devotion and is very deserving of this Behind the Scenes recognition.

## OMGA

While summer is a very busy time for Master Gardeners, it's not so much for the Oregon Master Gardener Association. Once Mini College is complete, OMGA begins looking toward the planning retreat which is normally in early December. OSU, however, is back in "hiring mode" as the candidate selected to fill the position of MG Statewide Coordinator (Manager) declined the offer. Finding someone to fill Gail Langellotto's shoes was always going to be a difficult task. Gail, on the other hand, is enjoying some extended traveling and connecting with family and friends around the world. As the search proceeds Brook Edmunds has stepped in to temporarily fill the position.

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## CGMGA & OMGA

### Remembering Cindy

Approximately 20 Master Gardeners joined others at Cindy Collins' lovely Celebration of Life in her barn on her fifty-acre orchard.

Sandi



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During the most recent OMGA Exec Board meeting, Brook updated us on hiring efforts for several Program Leaders around the State. Funding from the Oregon Legislature turned out better than expected and OSU is paying attention to the needs of the Extension Outreach programs. Brook also told us that, as many MG Chapters are working on training classes, it has become very apparent that significantly fewer speakers and instructors are available to participate at in-person trainings.

Several of the OMGA Exec Board members have been slogging through a review and re-write of OMGA's bylaws, policies/procedures and program guidelines. There have not been many changes. Rather, the process has brought the documents more in line with current practices. I for one am looking forward to the end of weekly meetings that have been needed but have grown tedious.

Thanks for lending me your attention. See you around the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Bosler  
CGMGA rep



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### HRSWCD Weed of the Month: Tree of Heaven



Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) sounds lovely – but it is not. This very invasive deciduous tree has spread vigorously along waterways, roadways and agricultural areas. It has pale grey bark, light brown twigs and large, pinnately compound alternate leaves. Each compound leaf is made up of 11-25 leaflets, arranged opposite each other. The compound leaves can grow up to four feet long, and each leaflet has one to several glands near their base.

Identification can be difficult as its leaves are similar to black walnut, sumac and ash. Tree of Heaven can be distinguished by its fuzzy brown twigs and seed heads that stand erect. It also has a strong stench, particularly from its flowers, that has been likened to cat urine. Perhaps

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## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

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the best identifiers are the glands at the base of the leaves, as seen here.

Tree of Heaven is a prolific seed-producer which is why it is outcompeting native species. It has large showy clusters of small yellow-green flowers in June that produce flat, single-seeded winged fruits in summer. One tree can produce an estimated 325,000 seeds each season. It can thrive in harsh conditions, which is why you see it growing up in parking strips and through riprap.

Tree of Heaven can be controlled numerous ways. The best way is to not plant it in the first place. The next easiest is to pull out the small seedlings before the tap root develops. Larger trees can be cut, although that will only slow it down, not kill it. Cutting will also cause the tree to re-sprout vigorously. If cutting down trees, it is recommended that cutting be followed by painting the stump with an herbicide to improve control. Check with the OSU Extension Master Gardeners for advice on effective herbicides and always follow the herbicide label instructions. Subsequent herbicide treatment of root suckers may also be needed.

You can also reduce the spread of this tree by cutting and bagging the seed heads on female trees. Tree of Heaven is dioecious, meaning plants are either male or female. Targeting reduction of female trees is a strategic way to slow this weedy and persistent invasive.

HRSWC Heather Hendrixson





## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### At the Tomato & Pepper Tasting Plus+

at the FISH garden on August 26th, we had a wealth of varieties from known favorites like Sungold to unusual treats like Red Velvet. The fan faves were Joanne Willis with Little Napoli (paste), Leanne Hogie with Berkeley Tie Dye (slicing), Joanne Willis with Sungold (cherry), Dennis Carlson with Black Magic Jalapeño (hot) and Tracy Willett with Carmen (sweet).



### Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

The Library Waterwise garden work party will meet at its regular time, the third Friday, September 15, 2023, from 9-11 a.m. All are welcome! Contact Norma. 509-959-2187 with any suggestions or questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Golden Star Marker in the Parkdale Memorial Garden

The Parkdale Garden Club will be dedicating a Gold Star Marker in the Parkdale Memorial Garden at 1:00 on Saturday, September 30. The following is information to explain this marker:

Gold Star Families is a non-profit organization created to provide support to those who have lost a loved one in service to our country through the United States Armed Forces. Their mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together. The name Gold Star came from the custom of families of service members hanging a banner called a service flag in the window of their homes. The service flag had a star for each family member in the United States Armed Forces. Blue Stars represented living service members while a Gold Star represented those who had lost their lives. NGC clubs work with Gold Star Families to honor our fallen



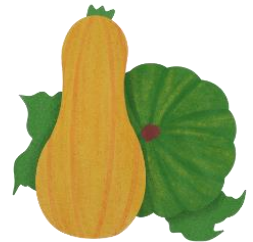
heroes with Gold Star Markers.

Please join us for this dedication. Also, if you are interested in helping spruce up the garden, we have work parties scheduled for September 23 and 27 going from 9:00 am to noonish.

### Garden Visit

Mark your calendar for our October garden visit on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5:30pm to Dennis Carlson's to tour his bountiful homestead focused on biodiversity, habitat and food production. The address is 3801 Barrett Dr in Hood River. Park on the vacant lot to the right of the long driveway that is shared with two neighbors. Families, including kids, are welcome.

Thanks, Beth Flake



## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

### Shari and Eric Bosler

By Anne Gehrig

In the world of horticulture, companion plants are defined as those which share a mutually beneficial relationship. In our Master Gardener chapter, Eric and Shari Bosler represent the human equivalent of companion plants. For more than fourteen years they have supported CGMGA, OMGA, and each other, sharing and spreading the joy of gardening.

Shari and Eric were not natural-born gardeners. Neither was bitten by the gardening bug as a child, although Eric remembers "hanging out" in his mother's vegetable garden when he was young. Their shared interest in gardening

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## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

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sprouted from practicality when they began growing vegetables to make baby food for their two daughters. Experience is a powerful teacher. One lesson they learned in those early years was never, ever plant 13 hills of zucchini!

When Shari retired after a 33-year career as a speech pathologist, she wanted to do something that she had not had time to do while working: volunteer. In 2006 she signed up for Master Gardening classes in Clackamas County. Over dinner on class days, Shari would enthusiastically share all that she'd learned, and Eric consumed knowledge as readily as he did his meal. When Shari graduated, the post-ceremony potluck sealed the deal: Eric decided to join the program and became certified in 2009. Master Gardening has been a team effort ever since.

When they moved to White Salmon, they brought with them a wealth of ideas gleaned from the Portland Metro Chapters. They found the CGMA chapter to be smaller, more local, and more personal—the perfect climate for introducing, nurturing, and growing new projects. In 2010, in conjunction with Pam Crider and Elizabeth Daniel, Shari introduced the Holiday Greenery Project, adapted from a similar activity in Multnomah County. In 2015 she assumed responsibility for the chapter newsletter. Eric noted that Shari has a “highly developed sense of the need to communicate” and that the newsletter is a natural extension of that need.

Meanwhile, Eric introduced the Seed to Supper program after learning about it at Mini College. In 2018 he became actively involved in the construction of the CGMGA greenhouse, utilizing skills he'd acquired while renovating and building their own

homes. Until 2016, the chapter had used the old greenhouse on the campus of MCAREC. When that structure was needed for research purposes, the chapter decided to use a donation from the Dorothy Metcalfe Foundation to help fund the construction of a new one, working with Sandi Rousseau, Bud Lacey, Paul Pennington, Bill Sturman, Bill Winfield, Shari and many others. Both Eric and Shari have served as presidents of our local chapter and as OMGA reps. Eric assumed the presidency of OMGA in 2019, a position he would not have accepted without Shari's full support.

As their gardening knowledge grew, so did their garden. It's currently home to five varieties of berries, grapes, fruit trees, five raised beds, and the “Annex”: a flat area for crops like squash, beans and corn that require a lot of real estate. They describe their style as “organic” rather than structured, focusing more on production than appearance. In the past few years, they've turned more of their attention to perennials and landscape plants, although neither claim to have any experience in design principles. Eric jokes that since he holds a pHD (post hole digger), he digs the holes while Shari deals with the plants. She makes the decisions; he supports them. Teamwork apparently does make the dream work.

Even though they consider the Master Gardener program to be a team activity, there's still room for each of them to utilize individual talents and pursue their own interests. Shari spent 5 years on the board of the Gorge Heritage Museum in Bingen, where she led a chapter project to renovate the garden there. She's also been an active volunteer with the local library and Community Partners. Eric is the Fire



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## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

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Prevention officer for Klickitat Fire District 3 and has taught a class on landscaping for fire mitigation at Mini College.

When they're not volunteering, both enjoy reading, learning, and spending time with family and their Corgi Tanner. Eric also enjoys doing projects around the house. He maintains a sophisticated irrigation system that frees up time for travel in their newly-purchased travel trailer.

Their advice to trainees and newly-certified MGs is to experience the vast differences between the projects and look to see what's available. The program has enough aspects to it that anyone can find a fit for their skill set. Finding a passion within the program will lead to a more satisfying experience.

Like companion plants, Eric and Shari enhance and complement each other's growth— and have been doing so for almost 53 years. They are shining examples of the power of commitment, the spirit of volunteerism, and the strength of shared passions.



## PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY

Let's share ideas, tips, successes and learning experiences. Please send me your thoughts to share with others in our chapter. When thinking about harvesting, preservation is often an integral part. In addition to having your personal preservation supplies ready to go, many are available through Hood River Extension, by reserving them online through the Hood River Library: [Library of Things Kitchen Equipment](#). Thanks, Shari [sharibosler@hotmail.com](mailto:sharibosler@hotmail.com). When harvesting lettuce to tomatoes, beans to squashes, it's made easier with appropriate harvesting items. At the Joy of Gardening conference, I saw a "harvest apron" in the silent auction. Curiosity got the best of me, so I looked further into it. The apron has a pouch into which you can place your harvest.



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!

Various designs give you space for many kinds of crops and even flowers. Check online to see the various styles available, including ones you can create yourself!

Overrun with cucumbers? I found a recipe online for **cucumber Bread**, similar to zucchini bread.

Delicious! You do need to let the shredded cukes drain for a least 30 minutes. I got over a cup of water!

Jen Harty shared: I don't have any tips but I did harvest quite a few tomatoes the other day, roasted them and made **tomato soup**!

I've also had lots of requests for my zucchini salad recipe and I thought what better place to put it than in the newsletter and drive readership there. Here is a link for it with some suggestions. If you want an intro: "I brought this to two potlucks in August and it received rave reviews as a way to use zucchini. It's from a new cookbook called "6 Seasons - A New Way with Vegetables" and is quite easy to make - especially once you've made a batch of the marinade. Enjoy. My tweak is to add some borage flowers for garnish and a pop of color. Leanne Hogie"

<http://lisaiscooking.blogspot.com/2017/06/squash-ribbons-with-tomatoes-peanuts.html>



# Gardening Resources

- |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ◇ <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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