



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Notes from the President

The nip of fall is now in the air and it is time to start putting most of our gardens to bed. It is also time to reflect back on your gardening year. The successes and beautiful flowers and veggies, the plants that did not thrive, and the things you would like to do differently. If you are like me, it is hard to keep track of all those things over time so I have found a garden journal to be very helpful. Some of the entries remind me of when things have bloomed or fruited in the past. Others remind me of when it is time to prune or spray. And the winter entries remind me of the dreams I have for my garden for next year.

As we reflect back on this gardening year it is also time to reflect on those in our group who showed an extra effort to support the goals of CGMGA in different

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Month at a Glance

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

Oct 11: Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Megan Wickersham for link)

Oct 14: Saturday: 10am: Seminar on gardening in raised beds for the community (details below)

Oct 20: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the November CGMGA newsletter

Oct 27: Friday: 8-9am: KIH 1360, Master Gardeners on the radio

Oct 28: Saturday: Lunch potluck for the FISH Food Bank, community room at 1130 Tucker Rd

Nov 9: Thursday: 6-8pm: CGMGA Recognition Event at Riverside Church

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CGMGA & OMGA

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ways. Listed below are the special awards we have for our chapter. We ask you to nominate people for these awards so we can publicly recognize those good works at our annual Recognition Celebration in November. Think about who you know who is a stand-out in the following areas:

Projects Award: The recipient of this award is an MG who volunteers in several different projects or events or who takes ownership of a garden area/event.

Community Outreach Award: This award goes to an individual who has participated in a project outside of MG that benefits or involves the community.

Special Services Award: This award recognizes individuals who have provided services or done something special to serve or support the program or projects. Recipients of this award need not be a Master Gardener.

Plant Clinic Award: The recipient of this award is someone who has provided reliable plant clinic support.

Chapter Educator Award: This award is given to an individual who has done extra work facilitating educational opportunities: teaching classes or preparing presentations or demonstrations for the chapter or the community at large.

Communications Award: The recipient of this award is someone who shares information about our chapter, writing posts or news articles.

If you'd like to nominate a fellow MG, send their name to me at lhogie@aol.com by October 12. Please include the title of the award, as well as a sentence or two describing their contributions. Award recipients will be honored and recognized at our end-of-year celebration on November 9 at the Riverside Church in Hood River, so mark your calendars! In addition to enjoying a meal together and raising a glass to the class of 2023 we'll vote on our budget and the slate of officers for the upcoming year. Happy Fall!

Leanne Hogie



Staying on the theme of seeds, I'm suggesting a read for October about seed and specimen collecting here in the PNW. I don't recall who brought this book to my attention, but it is a fascinating read of the travels of David Douglas in this area in the 1820's. He is best known as the person who named the Douglas Fir, but he identified and named a plethora of plants in our region.

"The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest" by Jack Nisbet is available at the Hood River Library and on-line. The description of places in the Gorge in the 1820's is almost as fascinating as the trials he went through to gather all his collections and get them back to England.

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Work Parties:

Library Garden:

Fri, Oct 13: 9-11 am

Learning Garden:

Thurs, Oct 5: 9-11am

Thurs, Oct 12: 9-11am

Thurs, Oct 26: 9-11am

Sat, Oct 28: 10am Pollinator Garden
fall planting, contact Sandy Montag

FISH Garden:

Sat, Oct 14: 9am

Sat, Oct 21: 9am

Parkdale Memorial Garden:

Wed, Oct 25: 9-12pm

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If you want to get even more local, Wilhelm Suksdorf was a botanist and collector who lived in Bingen, Washington starting in the late 1800's. He identified many plants here in the Gorge and also throughout the PNW. The local chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society is named for him – Suksdorfia Chapter. <https://www.wnps.org/suksdorfia> Perhaps some of you are members.

I am thankful for those early scientists who started identifying and cataloging plants in the New World. It still amazes me how they could be as precise as they were given their rudimentary tools. Their work established the foundation upon which future scientists, and Master Gardeners, based their recommendations and suggestions.

Leanne Hogie

First Growing and Belonging Award Recipient

This summer the Oregon Master Gardener Association presented Dennis Brown with the first statewide Growing & Belonging Award. Dennis' work as a MG is an example of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work in action. This link has a full story about his work. An excerpt is below. [https://](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/news/community-cultivator-uses-gardening-enrich-underserved-communities)

extension.oregonstate.edu/news/community-cultivator-uses-gardening-enrich-underserved-communities

The sunflowers that tower over the Victory Garden at Portland's [Bybee Lakes Hope Center](#) aren't there to just supply seeds to the neighborhood birds.

Twice a month, volunteers at the transitional housing complex in a north Portland warehouse district harvest a few sunflower bouquets to sell at the St. Johns Farmers Market. The rest of the bright-yellow blooms form a living billboard aimed at the residents, who are people experiencing homelessness.

"The flowers attract people to come out here and look at things," said Dennis Brown, a Master Gardener who invites anyone who

visits him to attend his monthly drop-in classes in the garden – or simply join him for a few minutes as he harvests potatoes, green beans or ears of corn.

"The garden is both educational and a place of respite," Brown said.

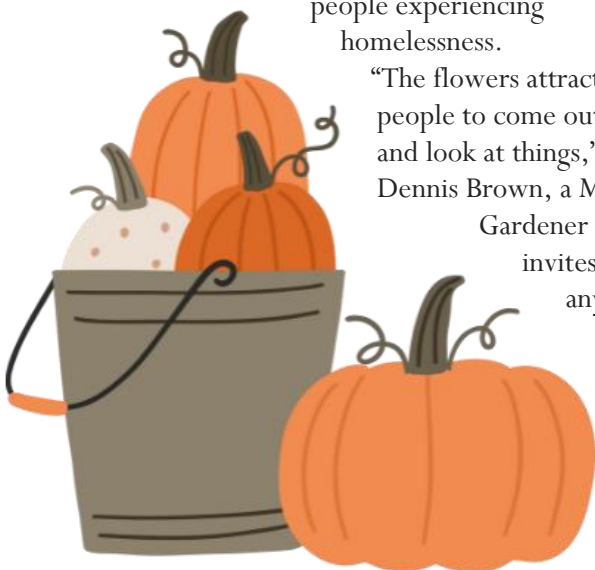
Brown's work with the Bybee Lakes Hope Center is just one of his innovative volunteer projects. In the summer of 2023, the [Oregon State University](#)

[Extension Master Gardener Program](#) and nonprofit [Oregon Master Gardener Association](#)

presented Brown with their [first Growing and Belonging Award](#) for his work teaching gardening skills to African American community organizations, immigrant workers, military veterans and people experiencing homelessness.

"The key to the success of each of these community projects has been how well Dennis listens to the needs of the community and adapts how Master Gardeners can support, educate, and serve," said Marcia McIntyre, program representative for the Metro Area OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program. "He's a community cultivator."

"Leading garden education classes for the Bybee Lakes community and other local nonprofits knits together my interests in environmental stewardship, sustainable agriculture and connecting communities," Brown said. He hopes that the award will inspire other Master Gardeners to search out creative new ways to share their expertise with people from historically underserved communities.



CGMGA & OMGA



2023

**Central Gorge Master Gardener
Association**

Graduation and Recognition Ceremony

NOVEMBER 9TH

6-8PM

BYOB POTLUCK

RAFFLE

DOOR PRIZES

AWARDS

***SPOUSE OR PARTNER
INVITED TOO!**

LOCATION:

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
317 STATE ST, HOOD RIVER, OR**



**RSVP to Jennifer Harty
jenniferh@centralgorgemga.org
or 541-716-1331**

CGMGA & OMGA

OMGA

No update on the search effort to fill the OSU MG program manager position left open when Gail Langellotto left to assume other duties in the Department of Horticulture. Brooke Edmunds is doing an outstanding job of temporarily filling the position.

OMGA has already begun planning for next year's educational conference. Joy of Gardening (formerly Mini College) will be at OSU Corvallis on July 12th and 13th. Mark your calendar! More details as we get closer.

It is budget time and, like individual chapters, OMGA is putting the final touches on a proposed budget. The main feature will be that, as with the past few years, the budget will reflect significant savings as OMGA will continue to conduct many of its meetings using a virtual format.

Evaluation of the year's activities and planning for 2024 will be the main topics of this year's annual OMGA Retreat. Details regarding date, format, location and topics will be coming soon. One topic sure to be on the agenda will be a discussion of how to overcome difficulties with communications between the various entities in the Oregon Master Gardener program. CGMGA is fortunate that our membership is accessible, and we have several well-established pathways to communicate with one another and the various aspects of our program.

Review and revamping organizational documents can be a tedious project but is vitally important. Programs progress and evolve and critical documents such as Policies and Procedures must be reviewed and adjusted as needed. OMGA is in the final phase of an extensive review of bylaws and policy & procedures. The effort has revealed some interesting features and requirements for substantial changes. The bylaws have been approved by the OMGA Board of Directors and the policies and procedures will be up for approval in October or November.

OMGA is actively seeking individuals willing to serve as officers on the state level. Chris Rusch, current OMGA president, has agreed to remain for one more year but is encouraging of anyone qualified and interested in pursuing the position. President Elect and Secretary

position are also seeking candidates.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bosler

CGMGA rep

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

The function and selection of cover crops

When selecting a cover crop for a particular field, keep the end in mind. How does the crop need to function? Are you in need of a permanent crop like grass to stabilize soil and reduce erosion? Or perhaps you're looking for a crop to increase soil organic matter and supply a nitrogen source in the winter between cash crops. Maybe you need a summer cover crop to help control and suppress weeds before planting a cash crop in the fall.



Crimson clover: Photo by Nick Andrews

Excerpt from OSU Extension. For complete article:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/crop-production/soil/function-selection-cover-crops#:~:text=Some%20common%20nitrogen%2Dfixing%20cover,before%20planting%20a%20cash%20crop>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

Hello to all CGMGA gardeners,
The HR Water Wise Gardeners invite you to join us on October 13, 2023, from 9-11 a.m. to plant bulbs and some transplants to fill in bare spaces, to trim/prune, and to generally clean up our sweet and very public garden at the Hood River Library. All you need to bring is your pruners, a bucket, gloves, knee pads if you like to use them, and any ideas for new plants or design ideas. I'll bring brooms, rakes, loppers, and other large tools, and I'll haul away the compostables. It's a fun and social way to earn volunteer hours, and we'd love to have you join us! Contact Norma Benson at 509-969-2187 with any questions or ideas. (Note that 10/13 is the second Friday of the month, not the regular third Friday that we usually meet.)

Learning Garden

Raised Bed Gardening

At the OSU Extension Center in Hood River, the Learning Garden has been undergoing a rebuild of the bioswale and replacing the raised beds that are located at the back of the extension center building. A key objective of the changes is to reduce the maintenance required to keep up the garden. OSU Extension, along with CGMGA, purchased three beds from Durable GreenBed. Durable GreenBed offers a unique bed construction that is extremely durable and non-toxic. The sides of the beds are made of a woodchip-cement composite material that doesn't rot and will last 20 to 25 years. The top of the beds are finished with cedar trim to enhance the look of the beds.

On Saturday, September 16th, a group of Master Gardeners met at the extension center to build two of the raised beds. Because the sides of the bed are made from heavy, 4' x 26" composite slabs, the bed must be constructed in place. Equipped with drills, squares, levels and an adequate amount of muscle, we managed to construct both beds in about two hours. The third bed will be built on Saturday morning, September 30th.

FISH Garden

The FISH garden has two last work parties in October: 14th and 21st at 9am. Both will focus on putting the garden away. On the 21st Mary Corl and Grace Mekarski will be planting the foundational natives for the new hedgerow.

We did not plan any more work parties, because we are optimistic that we can be done by then. Counting on you!!

Mark October 28 for the end-of-year get together for all garden volunteers. It is a lunch potluck indoors at the FISH Food Bank community room. Address is 1130 Tucker Road, Hood River.

Have a good winding down into fall.

Tracy



UPCOMING EVENTS

Garden Visit

Mark your calendar for our October garden visit on Saturday, October 7th 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

John Stevens



By Donna Des Rochers

John Stevens likes to look for color, height, texture and interest when checking out a landscape. He had this in mind when he and Master Gardener volunteers started the Waterwise project in front of the Hood River Library. It is a xeriscape format---a style of landscape design requiring little or no irrigation or other maintenance.

The south facing entrance to the library was a new project offering its own set of challenges because of the

debris from the 2002 library expansion /remodel was dumped there. Crystal Pickard and a group of Master Gardeners cleaned this up and started a native plant garden there. The area did not have irrigation like the rest of the library property. Master Gardener volunteers prepared the site and put in the first plantings. John still wants to know what the original group did there because that section is fertile to this day. John became project leader after Crystal, and a year later Audrey Schneider joined him and they became duo project leaders.

In 2004, John came to Hood River to care for his mother-in-law for a short time. The plan was for him to be her full-time caregiver until his wife Carolyn retired in five years. However, after her mom passed, John and Carolyn decided to stay in Hood River.

John was looking for an activity to meet other people and joined The Dalles Chapter of Master Gardeners. There he met Elizabeth Daniels, who invited him to the newly started Hood River chapter. The next year, John changed groups and the rest is history.

Throughout his childhood, John was expected to maintain, mow, rake and trim the yard, in addition to helping in the garden. "Mom always had a vegetable

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SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

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and rose garden with lots of annuals”, even though the roses struggled, and the annuals were hailed out yearly in the cold environment of Miles City, MT.

Around ten years of age John started taking care of yards for some of the neighbors. He made \$2.00 a lawn and that included doing the trimming on his knees. John’s first purchase was Lesley Gore’s “It’s My Party and I’ll Cry If I Want To” album. John’s most memorable project was “Sifting Manure” for his neighbor Mrs. Smith. This started with a shallow box with a screen bottom then a scoop of composted manure was put in it and John had to shake it back and forth screening out the fine particles from the large ones. While breaking up the larger lumps, John kept thinking “God keeps me humble”. By then he was a weekly customer at the record store.

John’s gardening style is self-described as “Casual”. His yard consists primarily of perennials, ornamentals and shrubs, with over 30 roses and, at last count, 128 Hosta varieties. Living on the east side of Hood River, the deer will eat the first buds and move on after that. He grits his teeth and calls this the “second pruning”.

John’s three grandchildren keep him busy. His daughter and son-in-law share John’s passion for gardening, doing good-looking landscape designs. The “kiddies” garden a bit and, unlike their grandparents, do well growing veggies.

Collecting plants is a shared passion with his wife Carolyn, with Hostas being the current hot item. They both love to visit private nurseries, especially SeBright Gardens, outside of Salem. Each year he looks for a new variety of Hosta. When asked what his favorite Hosta, John quickly replied “It is the one I am standing next to.” John noted that they never go away empty handed when shopping at plant nurseries. Carolyn is always reminding him not to buy much but she herself cannot be held to her own caution. If John picks out one, Carolyn picks out 8 or 9 more. Even though Carolyn is the main planter, John is by her side with the wheelbarrow.

Their method for selecting a location for a new plant is simple: Put the new plants in the wheelbarrow and

start wandering through the yard. “The plants tell you where they want to be each time”. Sometimes the plants ask for shade but really need sun, which results in a some yearly “try again” movement in plant location. Each year John looks forward to viewing the yard with a fresh eye to evaluate what needs done, then asks Carolyn to do the work of moving things.

In addition to the xeriscape at the Hood River Library, the full Library landscape and the Hood River Museum landscape were redone by Audrey Schneider and John. Years ago, when the Hood River Library closed due to funding issues, the landscaping needed some “tender loving care”, so John and Audrey were asked to redesign the borders around the entire library. They were given a nice budget and had a few months to do the job. He still gets called when the Library is wanting some advice on their landscape. When the Library lost a large tree just to the right of the entry door, John was the one who suggested the replacement with birch trees. He also was happy to help Maya Yasui design the rock wall and plantings around the Yasui Memorial Rock on the big Library lawn.

The reason John has been a Master Gardener for nearly 20 years is because of “the wonderful folks” who join in the program. “I’ve met and enjoyed knowing some of the best people in my life right here at CGMG. People come and go but everyone that I have connected with over the years have made life just that much richer for me and Carolyn”. John believes the leadership remains strong and that Megan is the right person for our organization. “Good luck, folks, everyone!”



PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY

Pressure canning tomatoes, drying tomatoes, pickling cucumbers in 2% salt, and pickling radish in 5% salt.

Dennis Carlson



I did harvest quite a few tomatoes, roasted them and made tomato soup!

Jen Harty



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!



PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY



In our recently established Herbiary are my perennial herbs: chives, oregano, thyme and winter savory. Separating them from our annual herbs, such as basil and cilantro, has helped with garden maintenance. I've canned thick tomato sauce, bread and butter pickles and pear butter. I've dehydrated lots of nectarines, plums and Asian pears to be added to breads and breakfast cereals. Thankfully, our apples store well in the cool garage in open weave plastic crates, which we typically can enjoy well in to March. With an abundance of fruit ripening all at once, creativity is paramount.

Next month...we'll harvest the squashes! Shari

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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