



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023
CGMGA & OMGA

Notes from the President

While there has still not been a hard frost where I live, and some of my poor blueberries are confused and putting on flowers, it is clear that it is time to close down our gardens and take our dreams of garden projects indoors

My last big gardening project was to put in a peony bed, motivated by a fascinating tour last spring to Rarity Gardens in Parkdale. Here's hoping we will do more fun events like that in 2024! Having more fun events, in addition to our usual educational ones, was a key result from our Opinion Poll.

Thanks so much to the 54 of you who filled out the survey form! That high number by itself indicates the interest you have in our organization and your desire to make it the most relevant and fun it can be for our members. I want to especially thank the new trainees

(Continued on page 2)



Month at a Glance

Nov 8: Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Megan Wickersham for link)

Nov 9: Thursday: 6-8pm: CGMGA Recognition Event at Riverside Church (details below)

Nov 17: Friday: Deadline for submissions to the December CGMGA newsletter

Dec 2: Saturday: 10-12pm: Holiday Greenery Event in the CGMGA greenhouse

Work Parties:

Library Garden: Fri, Nov. 17: 9-11 am

Learning Garden: Thurs, Nov. 9: 9-11am

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CGMGA/OMGA	1
Educational Tidbits	6
Volunteer Opportunities	7
Upcoming Events	10
Spotlight on a Master Gardener	11
Plant, Grow, Harvest, Enjoy	12
Gardening Resources	13

CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 1)

who participated! We hope this interest continues with many years of participation with CGMGA.

Jennifer Harty did a great job in taking the input from the Executive Committee and structuring it into a form on-line and gathering the results in a user-friendly format. You can find a link here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13hUfnKaBEBWH1t8wJCLUS0pLm3YgqLBC5W8MO4NHhk/edit#responses> so you can drill down as much as you want in to the details. Jen has also presented some of the information later in this newsletter.

Finally, I hope you are all planning to attend our Recognition Ceremony this year on November 9. Master Gardeners do great potlucks and it's a final fall chance to greet each other and celebrate all the wonderful things we did this year.

Leanne Hogie

7 Fascinating Ladybug Facts You Didn't Know

I am sharing some information about a new initiative - the Garden Ecology League -- to support garden research. Below are some key points.

About garden research

Nearly all of the gardening advice given by Master Gardeners are derived from research in the agricultural setting. There is a real lack of garden-based knowledge due to lack of funding.

Spike (my husband) and I began funding the **OSU Garden Ecology Lab (GEL)** about 7 years ago. Although our annual contributions, beginning at \$10K and grew to \$75K, were insufficient to pay the full cost of research, our money served as a catalyst for the founding of this lab and for many projects over the years.

(Continued on page 4)



Now for my favorite end-of-the-year gardening book. I discovered this book back in 2011 just after we finished our first year on our new 2.5 acre spread and I had been working hard on my vegetable garden all year. I was proud of my most bountiful harvest ever – but as an Agricultural Economist I tried to figure out how much that bounty was worth monetarily. Let's just say it is a good thing I also got a lot of psychic satisfaction from my gardening.

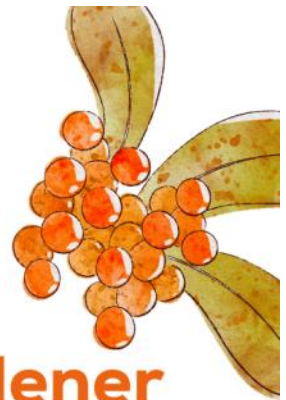
Barbara Kingsolver was faced with some of the same concerns about producing your own food when she wrote the book *“Animal, Vegetable, Miracle - Our Year of Seasonal Eating”*. It is a chronicle of the family's decision to try and eat more locally and to do that by growing

and raising their own and trading near their Appalachian farm. They were on the vanguard of the locavore movement and it is an entertaining tale of the things they learned – like not to name the baby animals. Especially if you have children.

The book was first published in 2007 and they have recently come out with a 10-year update following what has happened with the family members in those years. I hear that it also includes updated recipes! The book is a good reminder of how much work it takes to produce healthy, tasty food – and we should always be thankful for the miracle of the bounty that is available to us.

Leanne

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

(Continued from page 2)

As is the case with anything, working alone doesn't go as far as working together. So, I have decided to give \$50K each year and help raise \$50K to support garden research at a sustained level.

About the Garden Ecology League

I am forming a Garden Ecology League to support research at the OSU Garden Ecology Lab. Members of the league help in three ways:

- Provide advice/feedback on GEL projects --
- Interact with the Lab director to comment on current and potential projects;

Become the first to know about research findings -- Receive briefings on preliminary research findings; and

Contribute money to support and sustain garden research.

About financial contributions

The OSU Foundation has a new fund called **Oregon Garden Research Fund**.

The Foundation will carry out fiduciary responsibilities for the funds, including acknowledging donations and issuing receipts for tax purposes.

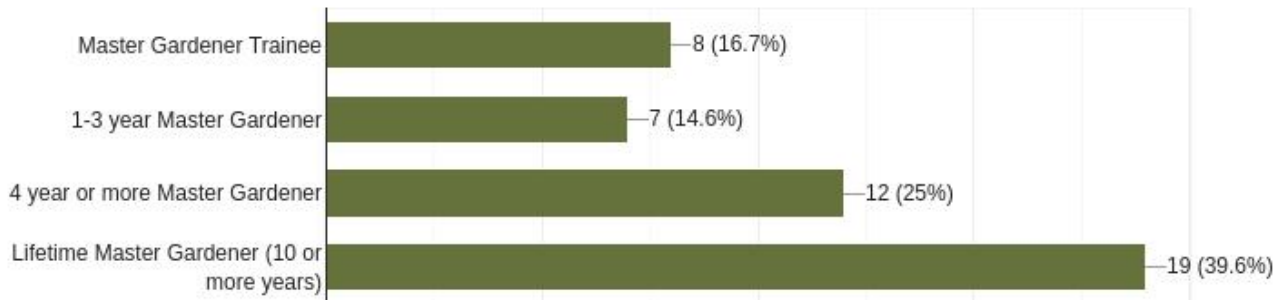
Although I am focusing my energy on forming

(Continued on page 5)

Length of Master Gardener service

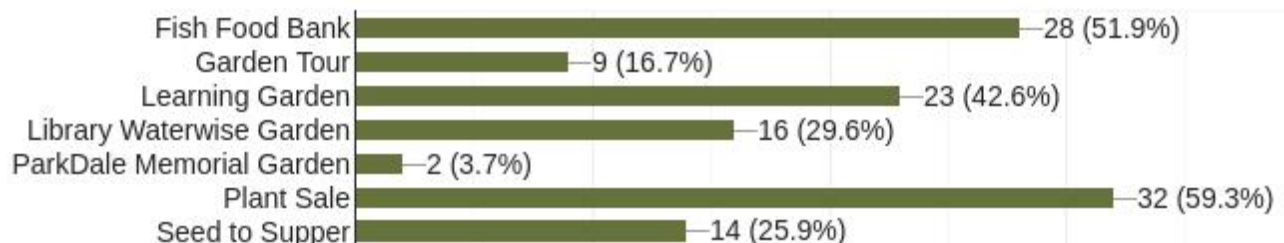


48 responses



From the following list of projects, which projects do you feel are of most value to you, the community and the organization especially if volunteer numbers decrease? Please list YOUR top 3 or 4 priority projects.

54 responses



CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 4)

the Garden Ecology League, we plan to solicit contributions broadly. This is expected to happen in early November when a new website is complete and the OR Garden Research Fund is up and running. There will be a 'donate' button on the website and Gail will mention it in her talks to groups.

Attached is a 2-page briefing on the Garden Ecology Lab. It would be wonderful if the Benton County Master Gardener Association can support this initiative.

Sherry Sheng

Chair, 10-Minute University™

A short-cut to research-based gardening know-how delivered by Oregon State University Master Gardeners

Chair, Advocacy Task Force, Oregon Master Gardener Association

Member, Campaign for Oregon State University, CAS Campaign Cabinet



OMGA



Not much has changed since the October update on “what’s happening” at OMGA. November 3rd will be the regular 4th Quarter Board meeting. December 1st has been scheduled for the OMGA Annual Retreat (Planning) which will be held virtually this year. Both of these meetings are open to all MG’s and if you wish to attend,

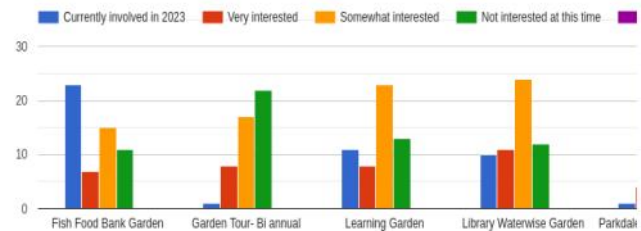
please let me know and I’ll forward you the link as soon as it’s available.

No news on the progress toward a hire for the State Master Gardener Manager (renamed from Coordinator) position and Brooke Edmunds continues to do an excellent job temporarily filling the

(Continued on page 6)

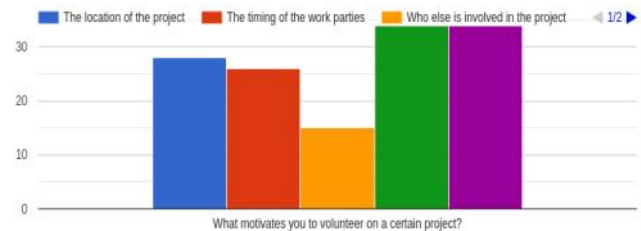
Please answer the following on your volunteer interest for each project. Refer to project description document for guidance.

Copy



Why Do you Volunteer?

Copy



<https://www.facebook.com/gail.langellotto/posts/10231256916384592>

CGMGA & OMGA

(Continued from page 5)

vacancy left by Gail Langellotto.

Gail recently posted on Facebook an interesting piece. Nicole Bell, daughter of Neil Bell and Bernadine Strik, is in the final component of her master's thesis. This entails a social media campaign. Gail is Nicole's advisor. Check out the link and post some positives for this young woman as she makes her own way down the path so well-traveled by her parents.



Visit to Dennis' garden



We were a small but passionate group who toured Dennis's garden on Saturday.

Paul Matalucci

EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

Is your garden home to this problematic pest?

The slug and snail experts at OSU want your samples for a new USDA-funded project. In fact, if you're in Western Oregon with a significant number of these slimy shelled mollusks, they'd like to come pull samples every few weeks. Or, you can even mail them in. Please contact Rory Mc Donnell and his lab via email or phone for details on how to get involved. (541) 737-6146.

rory.mcdonnell@oregonstate.edu



Cornu aspersum (also known as *Helix aspersa*; European Brown Garden Snail)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

The HR Library Waterwise Garden work party for November is on Friday, November 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. Join us for more planting and cleanup fun!



Learning Garden: Raised Bed Gardening Workshop

On Saturday, October 14th, CGMGA held a workshop to discuss raised bed construction and the use of Hügelkultur to fill the beds thereby providing a semi-permanent composting layer at the bottom of the bed. The workshop was well-attended by Master Gardeners and the public. A heartfelt thanks to all the MGs that prepared the beds and helped with the educational workshop! Below is a summary of the information provided during the event.

Over the past several years, our old wooden raised beds at the Learning Garden have fallen into disrepair. This Fall, we replaced them to create a sustainable and self-sufficient environment within the beds. Purchased from Durable GreenBed, these beds offer a unique construction that is extremely weather-resistant and non-toxic. The sides of the beds are 26" tall and are made of a woodchip-cement composite material that doesn't rot and is purported to last up to 25 years. The

depth of the beds allows us to use a layering technique based on the Hügelkultur concept.

From German, Hügelkultur is a word that roughly translates to "mound culture." Typical construction requires a woody layer at the bottom which can be large logs surrounded by twigs, brush, and wood chips. Next is a layer of nitrogen-rich compostable green waste such as garden waste, lawn clippings, leaves and manure. The bed is topped with a layer of soil and compost.

For our beds, we are using a different starting technique since our site is prone to weeds and rodents. Also note that we are prepping the beds for Spring planting. The layering used to fill the raised beds is depicted in Figure 1. A description of each layer follows.

(Continued on page 8)

5. Cover Crop
Austrian Pea & Winter Rye
4. Soil (5")
3. Green Waste (5")
Grass, Leaves, Manure
2. Woody Layer (10")
Logs & Twigs
1. Weed & Hardware Cloth, Cardboard



Figure 1. Hügelkultur-Type Layering Used in the Learning Garden Raised Beds

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 7)

Layer 1: Weed Cloth, Hardware Cloth, and Cardboard - This layer provides a weed barrier which is essential due to our location next to the orchard. The hardware cloth provides a deterrent to the rodents which frequent this area. The cardboard layer serves as an additional weed barrier and provides carbon as it decomposes.

Layer 2: Woody Materials - This layer is comprised of large logs, twigs and bark. It will provide carbon-rich materials that will slowly break down and will provide a continuous source of nutrients and moisture as the woody layer decomposes. The decay process improves soil fertility, water retention and soil warming thus benefitting the plants grown above. Our woody layer is comprised of oak, maple and partially decomposed fir. Avoid using woods that are slow to rot such as cedar, locust and redwood or woods that inhibit plant growth such as black walnut.

Layer 3: Green Waste - This layer provides an essential source of nitrogen for the bed. As the woody layer begins to decompose, it will consume nitrogen. Adding nitrogen-rich compost will offset this demand. The nitrogen uptake of the woody layer will subside after the first couple of years. In our beds, we've used primarily grass clippings and leaves. Any kind of green waste can be used.

Layer 4: Soil - We are using the soil that has been displaced from the construction of the beds. Each bed will be supplemented with a 5" layer of soil. As you add the soil, much of it will fall into the voids below but we're aiming for a consistent 5"- 6" layer on the top surface.

Layer 5: Cover Crop - Since we are prepping the bed in Fall, we are planting a cover crop that will enhance nitrogen availability. Our cover crop is a combination of Austrian Pea and Winter Rye. Both plants fix nitrogen and help aerate the soil as the roots

(Continued on page 9)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 8)

grow through the soil layer. In the Spring, this layer will be turned in to create an additional nitrogen-rich layer of green waste.

Layer 6: Supplement Bed with 50/50 Compost and Soil (Spring) - Once the cover crop is turned, we will supplement the bed with a mix of soil and compost (not shown in diagram). The bed will compress over the winter as the materials below decompose. We expect to add an additional 12" of soil/compost in the Spring before the bed is planted.

Raised beds can be built in many different configurations to accommodate the specific needs of your site and budget. To read more about raised bed design, see [Brooke Edmunds' Raised Bed Gardening](#) publication that is available through OSU Extension Service. Similarly, regardless of your configuration, Hügelskultur can be adapted to your bed by adjusting the depth of the layers which can be above or below ground. Ultimately, this compost mixture will supply the organic matter needed to build rich, productive soil and provide you with benefits for years to come:

Economical – Good soil and compost is expensive. By layering scrap materials at the bottom, you can significantly reduce the cost of filling the beds.

Nutrients – Since the base layers break down slowly, the decaying products become a consistent source of nutrients for your soil and the resulting microbiome.

Moisture – As the base layers break down, they

become spongy and will absorb and hold water. This becomes a consistent source of moisture and is helpful during periods of drought.

Temperature – The decomposition process is exothermic, which can help warm the surrounding soil and possibly extend your growing season.

For More Information:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/fs270.pdf>

[https://solanomg.ucanr.edu/newsletters/Seeds for Thought64606.pdf](https://solanomg.ucanr.edu/newsletters/Seeds_for_Thought64606.pdf)



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



Pollinator Garden plant fieldtrip

Here are some pics from the Pollinator team's field trip to Humble Roots Nursery on October 7th. These plants were planted in the Pollinator garden on Oct. 28th.

Jennifer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Greenery Event

Please join us on Saturday, December 2 from 10-12pm for the 13th annual Holiday Greenery Event. For those who have never participated, this is an opportunity for you to get creative and make swags and wreaths, with a little guidance from fellow Master Gardeners. We create for ourselves and also make a huge variety of items as a service project for distribution through the FISH Food Bank and WAGAP. I will have wreath rings and floral wire, though feel free to bring your own and any other items you might have to contribute, such as ribbon, wreath rings, and miscellaneous décor. **Please, as you put your gardens to bed for the winter, consider saving and/or drying anything you think might look neat in a decorative project, including herbs, seed heads, rosehips and lichen.** Recycling is encouraged and donations of any supplies including ribbon (especially 2" wired) are welcome. It doesn't even need to be holiday colors. Even if you're unable to come to Saturday's wreath

making, any contributions of greenery would be appreciated. We need and appreciate donations of a variety of greenery. Please leave items in the shade structure, next to the greenhouse. And, we always appreciate talented bowmakers who can make up some bows in advance and also be on hand through much of the day. Please contact Shari if you are interested in helping out as a bowmaker!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Plant Sale Calling!



Our 2024 plant sale will be on Saturday, May 11th and we will start early preparations in later November, e.g. seed ordering, greenhouse seed starting date setting, some general discussion of our debriefing from 2023, etc.

If you have an interest in being on the plant sale planning committee, please let me know at swim@gorge.net as I will be making a new distribution list for the committee.

Thanks

Sandi Rousseau 503-806-7020

SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

Sandi Rousseau

Sandi Rousseau moved from Hillsboro, Oregon to Hood River in March 2000. By 2003 she had joined the Columbia Gorge Master Gardeners, which at the time was a single chapter comprising Hood River and Wasco counties. In 2005, Hood River County formed their own chapter and Central Gorge Master Gardeners was born.

A list of all the ways in which Sandi has participated in Central Gorge Master Gardeners would be too extensive for this newsletter. Sandi was awarded Master Gardener of the Year in 2005

(Continued on page 12)



SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

(Continued from page 11)

and again in 2018. She served as President of the Central Gorge Master Gardeners in 2021. In 2022 Sandi was awarded the Projects Award for her leadership of the annual plant sale. Sandi has headed the plant sale since 2022 and will continue in this role in 2024. Other current projects include the Learning Garden and the Water-Wise Library Garden.

Trainees know Sandi as one of the most welcoming and supportive Master Gardeners in the group. Experienced Master Gardeners know Sandi as an enthusiastic volunteer, a wealth of information, a listening ear and a good friend. Camaraderie and friendship are two of the attributes that Sandi values most in our Master Gardener group. “The ability to always be able to find and talk to someone who knows more than you” is something that Sandi appreciates. “The vast knowledge within our group is impressive.”

One of Sandi's most rewarding experiences in the Master Gardener program has been her role in leading the development of the Learning Garden. Her involvement began in 2003 with the formation of the Learning Garden steering committee. By the fall of 2003, a site survey had been performed and the first project, a curb garden, was completed. “I really

enjoyed the development of the Learning Garden. Lots of Master Gardeners were involved, and it was a motivating, stimulating process.” Over the last 20 years, the Learning Garden team has envisioned and created a variety of projects, including a compost area, herb garden, ecolawn, native garden, Japanese Heritage Garden and raised bed gardens. Sandi remains committed to working in the Learning Garden and is “looking forward to the possibility of developing an outdoor Learning space for community workshops and classes.” New features, such as the pollinator garden and the rebuilding of the bioswale continue to motivate her work.

In her own home garden, Sandi really enjoys her perennial beds and planting annuals in her deck pots – all 35 of them! Her vegetable garden includes basics, such as tomatoes and basil, but she also grows lots of pumpkins, which she donates to Halloween-loving friends.

Sandi has many interests in addition to Master Gardeners. She is extensively involved in Masters Swimming. She is a member of Columbia Gorge Masters and serves on the Board of Directors of Oregon Masters Swimming. On a national level, she is a member of the Championship Committee of US Masters Swimming. The committee oversees two

PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY

How to store your squash. I'm sure that many of you have methods that work for you. Please share. Meanwhile, I'll share some of my successes. Storing acorn squash and pumpkins in a cool and dry space, for us in an unheated breezeway, allows us to eat them over the next several months. For butternut squashes, I store them on open shelves in our basement, which is generally 60 degrees. They can be stored there for months. We store our apples in plastic crates in our cold garage and they last well into spring.

Shari

Please share your successes or failures so that we can all learn from one another.

Thank you, Shari



PLANT, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY



Gardening Resources

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ <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> | |



[Click here to download](#)

Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities and materials on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.