



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™



# CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023  
CGMGA & OMGA

## *Notes from the President*

As my term serving as your CGMGA president draws to a close I reflect back on all we have accomplished. All the classroom hours, over 4400 volunteer hours, and all the wonderful projects and activities that were recognized at our ceremony in November. You are amazing and it has been an honor to do my small part in keeping this organization moving forward.

This is also a time of year to reflect on being grateful for our blessings, and I want to highlight a blessing we received over a decade ago that contributes greatly to our activities. Dorothy Metcalf wanted to support our work promoting gardening and, starting back in 2007, numerous bequests were made to our group. Over time those bequests were enough to fund our greenhouse and for us to establish endowments at the Gorge Community Foundation and the Oregon State University Foundation totaling around \$90,000. Those funds have grown in value to over \$122,000 and we have already received grants or have access to \$28,000 in funds. We will continue to have access to grant funds for years to come.

While we each may not be able to be as financially generous as Dorothy, your contributions of time to our communities through this program and others reflect your own generosity. I hope you



*(Continued on page 2)*



## Month at a Glance

**Dec 1:** Friday: 3pm: The traditional OMGA “End of Year Retreat” will be held, via Zoom (details below)

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

**Dec 5:** Tuesday: 3pm: Plant sale committee meeting, via zoom (details below)

**Dec 13:** Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Megan Wickersham for link)

**Dec 15:** Friday: Deadline for submissions to the January CGMGA newsletter

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CGMGA/OMGA	1
<a href="#"><u>Educational Tidbits</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Volunteer Opportunities</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Spotlight on a Master Gardener</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>Gardening Resources</u></a>	13

## CGMGA & OMGA



As GardenTainment draws to a close I hope you have enjoyed the selections you read or watched this past year. Perhaps it provided some variety and also a chance for some reflection on how we interact with the plants and animals in our gardens and on our planet.

The December selection is a serendipitous one since my book club is reading another book by Vita Sackville-West and in looking for that one I came upon her book "A Joy of Gardening." Vita was an aristocratic British writer and poet who designed a world-famous garden at Sissinghurst Castle in 1930. Since the British climate resembles that of our own PNW I thought some of her insights would be relevant to our gardening - and the writing witty and interesting. Thank you for following along on GardenTainment and let me close the series with some quotes from Vita's book "A Joy of Gardening."

"The true gardener must be brutal, and imaginative for the future."

"The behavior of plants is indeed inexplicable. It breaks all the rules; and that is what makes gardening so endlessly various and interesting."

"I have come to the conclusion, after many years of sometimes sad experience, that you cannot come to any conclusion at all."

"Naturally, every garden must be a law to itself."

Leanne

*(Continued from page 1)*

remain interested in continuing with our work in 2024. Growing healthy food, creating beauty and caring for our environment are all things gardeners do. The world needs more of all of those and thank you for working to make the Gorge better in all those areas.

So as 2023 draws to a close, again, thank you for your support during my time as your President. You are an amazing group of self-starters and energetic gardeners. I look forward to seeing where Jennifer leads this group in 2024 as President. And I look forward to spending less time in zoom meetings and more time with all of you out in the gardens!

Leanne Hogie

## OMGA

The Oregon Master Gardener Association's fourth quarter board meeting was held virtually on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highlights of the full agenda are as follows.

Oregon Garden Research Project Fund – Sherry Sheng discussed a proposal to fund garden research at the OSU Garden Ecology Lab that focuses on the study of home gardens. The Garden Ecology League will provide advice and feedback on the Garden Ecology Lab projects, including research findings. They also plan to provide printed research-based garden information to gardeners. Sherry shared that the goal for the OSU Garden Ecology League is to raise \$100,000 annually to supplement OSU funding for the Garden Ecology Lab. Sherry has committed \$50,000 for the League and she is looking for commitments from others to raise the additional \$50,000. This project fits perfectly with the OMGA Mission Statement. OMGA pledged \$1000 towards the project for 2024. *Chris Rusch, OMGA President.*

OMGA approved its budget for 2024. Revenue will come from member dues (returning to the pre-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## CGMGA & OMGA

*(Continued from page 2)*

pandemic level of \$7.00) and a small amount projected from the annual educational conference.

The 2024 Joy of Gardening Conference (formerly Mini College) is scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the OSU Alumni Center in Corvallis. Plans are well underway with an eye to some new features. SAVE THE DATE and watch for updates.

OMGA's Bylaws and Policies & Procedures have been revised and updated. First reading of the P&P was presented and will be voted on at the 2024 first quarter Board meeting.

We are seeking candidates for the positions of President-elect and Secretary. Officers for 2024 will be: President-Chris Rusch, VP-Leslie Ray, Treasurer-

Janet Magedanz. Eric Bosler has been asked to again serve as Past President.

The traditional "End of Year Retreat" will be held, via Zoom, on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM.

Interviews for a new OSU MG manager have been completed and hopefully a candidate will be selected prior to publishing of this issue of the CGMGA newsletter.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer for an OMGA office, or wish the link to attend the Retreat please let me know. Thanks for your interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bosler, CGMGA OMGA Representation

Mary Corl, CGMGA OMGA Alt Rep.

## Central Gorge Master Gardeners Celebrate Successes and Present Awards"

The Central Gorge Master Gardener Association held their annual Recognition Event on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at Riverside Church in Hood River to celebrate successes and present awards.

The Central Gorge Master Gardener 2023 season saw three new educational outreach programs begin. The Educational Writing Crew was formed to write articles for publication in the Columbia Gorge News Home & Garden section on timely topics for local gardeners, the Garden Gathering showcased the four community gardens maintained by Central Gorge Master Gardeners where tours and talks were given, and the Tomato & Pepper Tasting Plus+ brought tomato and pepper fans to the FISH Food Bank garden to select fan favorite varieties while learning about worm composting and garden tool maintenance. The Learning Garden also saw the return of in person workshops in a post pandemic setting with the Raised Beds Workshop at the new raised beds demonstration area.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Leanne Hogie, Anne Gehrig, Jim Black, Margo Dameier, 2023 Recognition, Education Outreach Award*



*Leanne Hogie, Carol Brown, Tracy Willet, 2023 Recognition, Projects Award*



## CGMGA & OMGA

*(Continued from page 3)*

Master Gardener of the Year was presented to Anne Gehrig for her dedication to furthering the educational aspects of Central Gorge Master Gardeners, while Joanne Willis was awarded the Behind the Scenes award for her long standing role as Central Gorge Master Gardener Association Treasurer in addition to serving as Project Leader of the Learning Garden. These awards were announced at the Oregon Master Gardener Association Joy of Gardening event in July 2023 with certificates awarded at the Recognition Event.

Central Gorge Master Gardener Association chapter awards were also presented by CGMGA President for 2023, Leanne Hogie at the Recognition Event.

The Projects Award was given to Tracy Willet for her leadership of the FISH Food Bank Garden and volunteer base. Under her restructuring plan, the garden was allowed to evolve throughout the year, add composting and vermicomposting operations to the site, and incorporate diversity in the volunteer base. Tracy called on new Master Gardener Carol Brown who heads the vermicomposting program to come share in recognition of her award.

The Special Services Award is given to an individual or group that are not Master Gardeners, but volunteer to assist Master Gardeners' efforts. This award went to the Klahre House Alternative School students and staff for their continued and regular volunteerism at the FISH Food Bank garden for many years. Their continued efforts to help maintain the garden are greatly appreciated.

Kelsey Soltysiak was honored for her work in cataloging all of the Plant Clinic questions that Master Gardeners receive throughout the year and using this information to develop the "Tip of the Week" column for Master Gardener Social Media. This information is also used by other Master Gardener projects.

Members of the Educational Writing Crew, Rachael Pirkowski, Anne Gehrig, and Jim Black, were



*Leanne Hogie, Kelsey Soltysiak, 2023 Recognition, Plant Clinic Award*



*MG Class of 2023, Anne Debbaut, Donna DesRochers, Denise Ingebo, Sarah Smeby, Stephanie Gale-McKnight, Carol Brown, Jan Kelley, Nick Peters, Jim Black, Program Coordinator Megan Wickersham, Danica Miles*



*2023 MG of the Year, Anne Gehrig*

*(Continued on page 5)*

## CGMGA & OMGA



*Joanne Willis, 2023 Behind the Scenes*



*Mike Naramore, 2023 The Golden Trowel Award*

*(Continued from page 4)*

presented with the Educational Outreach Award. The EWC was formed by Margo Dameier in early 2023 to write timely educational articles for publication in the Columbia Gorge News Home & Garden section. She then recruited members of the EWC to assist in writing these monthly articles. These writers serve to provide science based information on timely topics of interest throughout the year, and are deserving of this award.

The Golden Trowel Award goes to an exceptional first year Master Gardener who is selected by the Central Gorge Master Gardener Outreach Program Coordinator, Megan Wickersham. This year's recipient is Mike Naramore for his enthusiasm and eagerness to offer his video skills. Mike immediately assisted in live streaming training classes, and taking video of Central Gorge Master Gardener events and workshops. This footage was later made into educational videos to populate the CGMG YouTube channel.

Sixteen members of the Central Gorge Master Gardener class of 2023 received their certificates of completion for the OSU Extension Master Gardener program. These new Master Gardeners successfully completed educational and volunteer requirements, and will now be serving the community through Master Gardener projects and educational outreach. The class of 2023 includes Gemma Althoff, Jim Black, Carol Brown, Anne Debbaut, Donna DesRochers, Stephanie Gale-McKnight, Betsy Greer, Roni Hyde, Denise Ingebo, Grace Mekarski, Jennifer Munroe, Mike Naramore, Nick Peters, Sarah Smeby, Rowan Tanner, and Amanda Van Voorhees. Additionally, forty-six returning Master Gardeners received recertification certificates after completing continuing education and volunteer requirements.



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### Before you buy rural land



#### [Register Here](#)

A free webinar for future landowners, those who have recently purchased land, and real estate agents who want to learn about important topics related to land management and rural living.

#### Topics include:

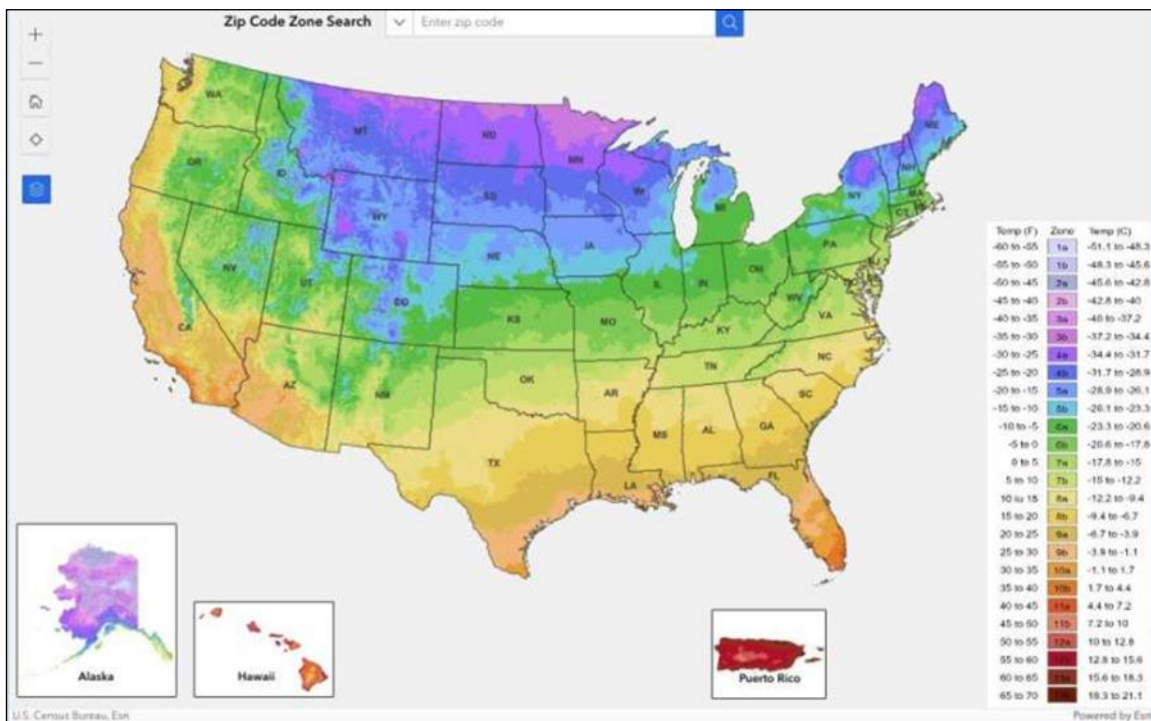
- Soil Capability
- Water Rights
- Wells & Septic Systems
- Farmland Zoning

An audience Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Megan Wickersham

### New plant hardiness map, used by gardeners nationwide, is unveiled

by Steve Lundeberg, [Oregon State University](#)



USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. Credit: US Census Bureau/Esri

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today released its new [Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#), the national standard by which gardeners can determine which plants are

most likely to survive the coldest winter temperatures at a certain location.

The USDA describes the latest map, jointly developed by Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group

*(Continued on page 7)*

## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

(Continued from page 6)

and the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, as the most accurate and detailed it has ever released. PRISM, part of the OSU College of Engineering, stands for Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model. The previous version of the plant hardiness map, also based on PRISM data, was released in January 2012. The new plant hardiness map incorporates data from 13,412 weather stations, compared to the 7,983 that were used for the 2012 edition.

Viewable in a Geographic Information System-based interactive format, the map is based on 30-year averages (1991 to 2020) for the lowest annual winter temperatures within specified locations. The 2012 edition was based on averages from 1976 to 2005. Low temperature during the winter is a crucial factor in the survival of plants at specific locations. The latest edition of PRISM's signature product, the 30-year climate normals, was released in December 2021. PRISM releases new climate normals every 10 years, taking away one decade's worth of data and adding another.

"The addition of many new stations and more sophisticated mapping techniques using the latest PRISM technology led to a more accurate and detailed Plant Hardiness Zone Map but also produced localized changes that are not climate-related," said Christopher Daly, director of the PRISM Climate Group and the map's lead author.

The plant hardiness map is divided into a total of 13 zones, each zone representing a 10-degrees-

Fahrenheit range of temperatures. Each zone is further divided into two half zones, with each of those representing a 5-degree range.

"Overall, the 2023 map is about 2.5 degrees warmer than the 2012 map across the conterminous United States," Daly said. "This translated into about half of the country shifting to a warmer 5-degree half zone, and half remaining in the same half zone. The central plains and Midwest generally warmed the most, with the southwestern U.S. warming very little."

Accompanying the new map is a "Tips for Growers" feature that provides information about Agricultural Research Service programs likely to be of interest to gardeners and others who grow and breed plants. The approximately 80 million American gardeners and growers are the most frequent map users, according to the USDA. In addition, the USDA Risk Management Agency uses the map in setting certain crop insurance standards, and scientists incorporate the plant hardiness zones into research models, such as those looking at the spread of exotic weeds and insects.

Provided by [Oregon State University](https://oregonstate.edu)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library

We've wrapped up the Library garden and put it to bed. Come and join us when the garden wakes up in March. We'll be there Friday, March 15, 2024 from 9 to 11. Save the date!



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Pollinator Garden update

October 28 was a cold and winter-like morning, but a dozen of MG's still bundled up and turned out for a planting party in the pollinator garden. Spring was on everyone's mind as we planted bulbs and seeds and transplants. Some were replacements for plants that did not survive the summer; others were new additions.

Two varieties of penstemon, bleeding heart, lupine, two varieties of desert parsley, blue flax, spreading phlox, winter

heather, little bluestem grass, and goldenrod were all carefully set into the frosty ground. The plants were purchased during an October "field trip" to Humble Roots. An echinacea and an agastache from the old raised beds in the learning garden found a new home in the pollinator garden. We planted 100 crocus bulbs in the ecolawn to provide an early spring meal for pollinators, as well as alliums and clarkia seeds in the beds surrounding the ecolawn.

The pollinator garden site has a lot of shade as well as areas of part shade, so we attempted to locate plants according to their sun/shade preference as well as their watering needs. It's a learning process—but it is, after all, a learning garden. Spring's arrival will determine the success of the planting plan. Stay tuned!

Anne Gehrig



### Plant Sale Committee Forming



The plant sale committee is being formed and anyone interested can join in on the planning.

**We will be planning a first meeting on Zoom on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** This first meeting will review some of the things we discussed in our 2023 debriefing to change for 2024,

*(Continued on page 9)*



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Continued from page 8)

some new ideas that have been suggested to me, and a timeline for our planning. We will do our meetings on Zoom as that seemed to work fine this past year, and we had great attendance.

So contact me soon if you would like to participate and are not already on my distribution list. This project is fun!

Sandi

[swim@gorge.net](mailto:swim@gorge.net) 503-806-7020

### 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.

We always appreciate bowmakers who can help 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!! You will receive volunteer hours for your time spent and while at the Holiday Greenery Event! Years ago Master Gardener Julie Ueland taught us this method of making bows, as seen in this YouTube tutorial: <https://youtu.be/qkagWTpAqA0>.

And Margo shared this link to creating several simple

bows: [How To Make A Christmas Bow](#). That said, also demonstrated in this video are methods using several "bow makers" which I do not have. If you have any techniques that you'd like to share, please do!!!

And, to help get you started with how-to instruction and provide inspiration, Klamath County Extension Service Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Nicole Sanchez offers guidance through her OSU Extension Catalog article titled, "No expertise needed to create fresh holiday wreaths and arrangements".



(Continued on page 10)



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!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*(Continued from page 9)*

Find it online at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/no-expertise-needed-create-fresh-holiday-wreaths-arrangements>

**I hope that you'll join us on Dec 2!!**

Thanks, Shari



## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

### Anne Saxby

A longtime resident of Hood River, Anne Saxby became interested in the Master Gardener program after enjoying several years of MG garden tours. Anne joined the program in 2005, the year that Hood River separated from Wasco County and established the Central Gorge Master Gardener Association.

Anne's interest in horticulture started years prior to that; she and her husband Gil purchased a small orchard on the west side of Hood River and transitioned it to organic in the late 1980s. They primarily grow pears but also have an acre of apples. While most of the pears are packed and sold around the country, they peddle the apples and some pears to local and regional customers.

They built a house on the orchard in 1994 and established a vegetable garden and began landscaping shortly thereafter. Gil is the primary vegetable gardener while Anne focuses on the landscaping. At this stage, much of her work is editing as the flower beds have filled in and overgrown.

Last Christmas, Gil gave her an electric chainsaw, her newest favorite tool. Easy to start and so efficient to limb up trees and remove overgrown shrubs, she reported.

When asked why she likes the MG program, she quickly replied that her fellow Master Gardeners are the best part. "Everyone likes to get their hands dirty; we are a real can-do group!" she explained. As to what she's learned as a Master Gardener, Anne noted that the overriding thing she's learned is how much she doesn't know. However, she added that she's learned where to find the answers to all her questions.

Anne has been primarily involved in the Learning Garden, Garden Tours and the annual Plant Sale. She truly enjoys Plant Clinic and says she always learns something as she researches gardening problems. "I have most every pest and disease we get questions about, so I am able to apply what I learn in plant clinic to my own operation", she explained.

Donna DesRochers





## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER



# Gardening Resources

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



[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.*