



Oregon State University  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™



# CENTRAL GORGE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024  
CGMGA & OMGA

## Notes from the President

As I write this post we are bracing for our second snow/ice storm of the season. Hopefully by the time you read this we will be back to our average winter 40 degree temps and not 0 degrees!!

You know what does like the cold though? Peonies! I relish the thought that a cold winter should mean my peonies are getting their required amount of chilling time before setting bud for the Spring. Chilling time? What does that mean. In fact, what do you know about endo and eco dormancy of woody plants? In endo dormancy the plant acknowledges the short days and cool temps and puts itself in a dormant state. It must go through the required amount of chilling hours it needs for its species before moving to eco dormancy. This period of eco dormancy means the plant could start to bud out but won't until the temps are warm enough.

This is the stage that often causes damage with warmer weather and then a late frost. For more detailed information on winter dormancy and woody plants check out this publication from MSU extension

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/winter-dormancy-and-chilling-in-woody-plants>



and check out this publication from WSU on trying to force dormancy in Fall by cutting off water to the plant. <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/>

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## Month at a Glance

**Feb 13:** Tuesday: 3pm: Plant sale meeting (details below)

**Feb 14:** Wednesday: 10-12 pm: CGMGA Executive Committee meeting at Extension meeting room and via zoom (contact Megan Wickersham for link)

**Feb 16:** Friday: Deadline for submissions to the February CGMGA newsletter

**Feb 23:** Friday: 8am: CGMGA on the radio, K1HR 1360

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## CGMGA & OMGA

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### winter-watering.pdf

I did not know all this information that I just provided to you but I have learned to look it up and research my information using extension sites and other .org sites. This is exactly the kind of information we will all be learning in classes for the remainder of Winter/ early Spring and I cannot wait! I always learn something new and even though I have been at this for many years I appreciate the reminders of things I learned in the past but ultimately forgot or needed 7 years of classes to finally sink in ! Education will be first and foremost in

## OMGA

Just as the winter months slow activity in our gardens so goes things with OMGA. Slower but not totally dormant as we continue to work on administrative responsibilities and planning. January sees the collection of Chapter data for the reports to the State of Oregon and IRS. Changes and additions in Chapter leadership are correlated into OMGA's contact database. Training for new reps and, as needed, familiarization for new officers at the state and local level.



my mind as we move through this year. It is my goal to make sure that your volunteer time with CGMGA and OSU extension is both fun and rewarding. That you come away knowing you just learned something new and perhaps even enlightened some others along the way! See you in class!

*Jennifer Harty*

*she/her/hers*



Just as our garlic grows under the cover of snow, plans are developing for OMGA's annual educational event. The Joy of Gardening (formerly Mini College) will again be held at OSU. Save the dates of July 12 and 13 and watch for details as speakers, workshops, tours, and activities are finalized.

Beginning the end of December, Dr. Leslie Madsen assumed the position of OSU Extension Statewide Master Gardener Manager. This culminates a lengthy nationwide search to fill the position vacant as Dr. Gail Langellotto advanced to other duties at Oregon State. Brooke Edmunds maintained the position as interim Program Coordinator and has returned full time to her position of Community Horticulturalist for Polk and Marion Counties. Check out these sites:

Dr. Madsen:

<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/>

Dr. Langellotto:

<https://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/users/gail-langellotto>

<https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/gardenecologylab/>

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bosler, OMGA Rep.

Central Gorge Master Gardener Association

CGMGA &amp; OMGA

# Central Gorge Master Gardener Association



## Year in Review 2023

Jan 2024



This year was a more 'normal' year in post Covid terms. Classes and activities were held with no restrictions.

**Logo/Letterhead:** A CGMGA logo was developed with the words 'Learn – Grow – Share' (Aprende – Crece – Comparte) which is now used on garden announcements, communications, etc.

**Membership:** The year started with 54 recertifying members, 14 associate members, and 27 trainees of which 17 became fully certified. Volunteer hours totaled 4,841 (a record) with 2,364 contacts.

**Classes:** We held all classes in person at Hood River Valley Christian Church, with the option to join on Zoom. Approximately 45-50 attended each week in person, and 8-12 attended each week on Zoom. Our improved audio/video equipment helped make the presentations more audible for Zoomers. This system will continue to be fine-tuned.

**Webinars:** OSU continued to offer the Level Up series with speakers once per month, and these were attended by some of our members.

**Plant Clinics:** Plant clinics were

held in person at the OSU Extension plant clinic office. A total of 85 (including Saturdays and special events) were offered and staffed by 57 MGs. Extra clinic work was also completed by volunteers outside of clinic hours when the workload exceeded the time scheduled for the clinics. A total of 168 questions were answered. Saturday plant clinics were continued at Ace Hardware and Tum-A-Lum in Hood River, and we tried a few clinics at Walmart, but client numbers were low.

**Plant Sale:** Our plant sale was again a hybrid with 50% of our plants sold online and the rest sold at the in person day of sale on the Saturday before Mother's Day. We continued to successfully use Shopify as our online sales platform. We had nine seed starting/up potting work parties with 6-10 volunteers plus 2 leads at the Master Gardener greenhouse and ten smaller work parties at Apple Core Farm with 2-3 volunteers per work party. We had 71 Master Gardeners participate in some way in the plant sale activities. We planted approximately 3200 seeds and ordered approximately 1200

plants from Vanguard Nursery. The sale was financially successful with over \$8000 profit (~\$13,000 gross).

**Garden Tour:** This event was not held in 2023 as the usual goal has been to host this biennially.

**Garden Gathering:** This was a new event this year that showcased

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## CGMGA & OMGA

*(Continued from page 3)*

our four demonstration gardens on June 17 as a day of gardening education for the public as well as providing an opportunity to promote the CGMG program in the absence of our regularly scheduled Garden Tour. Each project garden was staffed by MGs to tour and answer questions from the public.

**Projects:** All of our projects continued in full force this year with volunteers feeling more Covid safe in outdoor environments.

**FISH/Spirit of Grace Garden:** The garden produced 1250 lbs of food for the FISH Food Bank in 2023. There were 7000 visits to the food bank by families and individuals. The AmeriCorp volunteer, who in years previous had organized volunteers, gardened, and maintained records, left at the end of 2022 and was not replaced for 2023. We stepped up to lead the project for this season and divided up the work in a new way. We used only the west half of the plot, asked Master Gardeners to take primary responsibility for a crop, targeted high value crops, and continued to manage soil testing, fertilizers, irrigation, volunteer coordination, and all other aspects of the garden. We installed new drip irrigation in the west field, resumed composting, initiated vermiculture, planted the native hedgerow, received a grant for signage, replenished the east field with cover crops, and did extensive site cleanup. We had six sizeable groups of students in the garden for educational visits. We also continued to have small groups of regular youth

volunteers from schools, with whom we loved working and talking. For the first time we hosted a public Tomato & Pepper Tasting at the garden and welcomed people as part of the CGMGA four site Garden Gathering.



**Holiday Greenery Event:** This was held in December at the greenhouse with 12 MGs creating 42 wreaths and swags to donate to the FISH Food Bank and WAGAP (Washington Gorge Action Programs). Two bow-making work parties were held. We receive many thanks from these organizations that provide the greens free to customers.

**Learning Garden:** We continued with specific leaders for the various garden features, but most work parties for every garden feature were staffed by the core group of LG volunteers in addition to some others. Two specific areas of focus were:

**Pollinator Garden:** Several work parties were held to add compost around the ecolawn, do Spring and Fall plantings, install irrigation, and plant crocus bulbs in the ecolawn.

**Raised Beds:** The crumbling raised beds were removed, and three Durable GreenBed raised beds (woodchip-cement composite) were constructed in two work parties. They were prepared with the Hugelkultur technique to showcase the layers and process for a community workshop that was held in October. Then they were planted with a cover crop for the winter.

**Library Garden:** The Waterwise Garden at the Hood River Library thrived with the tender care of its champion gardeners who met monthly to prune, weed, and from time to time make hard decisions. Sometimes the bossy and unruly plants got nixed. Sometimes empty spaces got new life. Shy ones stepped up, and new colors or textures filled in. The objective was to achieve a workable balance through the heat of summer, the cold rains of fall, and the ice and snow of winter. All plants were labeled this year.

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## CGMGA & OMGA

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**Parkdale Memorial Garden:** This garden continues to be maintained as a joint effort between the Parkdale Garden Club, community members, and CGMGA. In September, the garden received a Gold Star Memorial Bi-Way plaque which is a tribute to the memories of all Gold Star Families (those who have lost a family member in service to our country).

**Educational Outreach:** It was decided earlier in the year by the executive team that CGMGA needed a focused team to support, create and implement further educational opportunities for the public and our own members. The Ed outreach team was created in September and is busy coordinating workshops for the public, collaboration with other nonprofits, furthering educational opportunities for our own members, educational writing for our print and social media outreach, and furthering the benefits of the you tube channel. This committee is always accepting new members and ideas!

**Garden Visits:** Four garden visits were held from June to October and included three Master Gardeners' homes (Beth Flake, Elaine Johnson, and Dennis Carlson) and Hope Ranch, a lavender farm of a former Master Gardener, Ivy Roulette. Tours were given and discussions ensued about the landscaping and plans for changes/additions. An educational session on lavender varieties and cultivation was provided at the lavender farm, and three sites hosted potluck dinners.

**Hood River County Fair:** We staffed a booth at the fair for four days, July 26-29 from 12-6 PM each day. Sixteen MG volunteers handed out seeds and information on pollinators, weeds, and vegetables. Volunteers answered and collected plant clinic questions. We had a Pollinator Jeopardy game for kids and adults to answer questions about pollinator health and habitat, and we handed out a large number of prizes. We had a total of 238 contacts at our booth.

**Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:** The JEDI initiative included a program 'La Jardinera' in Spanish on Radio Tierra (broadcast fourteen times) and available at 95.1 FM (Hood River), 95.9 FM (Stevenson), 96.7 FM (Carson), 107.1 FM (Parkdale),

and 107.7 (The Dalles). The purpose was to provide gardening information and answer questions with the intent to increase our outreach in the Valley. A Tool Lending Library was also established at the Hood River County Library to assist those who cannot afford or cannot store tools. The most popular items checked out were the pH soil tester, hand tiller, and hoe.

**OMGA:** In addition to accomplishing its educational goals, funding its ongoing grants & scholarships, and continuing to adjust to the post COVID demands on the Association's ability to serve Oregon's Master Gardener Chapters, OMGA carried on as a resource to the Chapters it serves. OMGA successfully produced its mandated annual educational conference 'The Joy of Gardening' and is planning for 2024. OMGA is also still seeking individuals to fill the open executive positions of Secretary and President Elect. A search was made for a new State MG Coordinator (now State MG Manager). Dr. Leslie Madsen started December 29<sup>th</sup>. <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/> OMGA capped off a successful 2023 with the annual "retreat". Conducted via Zoom the session focused on planning for 2024 with special focus on goals for the upcoming year. Seven ambitious goals for 2024 include: 1) Continue commitment to diversity, inclusivity and accessibility, 2) Host a successful Joy of Gardening (formerly Mini College) Conference, 3) Investigate and develop an alternative for the annual educational conference, 4) Assist chapters with technology challenges, 5) Build on its successes of advocacy for the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, 6) Improve communications with and between chapters, and 7) Develop a 5-year strategic action plan for OMGA. The complete goal set can be reviewed at: [chrome-extension://](https://chrome-extension://)



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## CGMGA & OMGA

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efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://omga.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-OMGA-Goals.pdf

**Newsletter:** We continued to publish a newsletter every month which is sent to every MG via email. The articles summarize recent events and project updates, provide educational articles, spotlight various MGs, recognize award recipients, and provide gardening resources. A calendar of events is also provided.

**Publicity:** The Publicity Team saw new growth in 2023 with the addition of two new educational outreach programs and a videographer to take charge of populating the CGMG YouTube Channel. The Educational Writing Crew was formed and wrote ten educational articles that were published in the Columbia Gorge News Home & Garden section, March through December. The Garden Gathering showcased our four demonstration gardens on June 17 as a day of gardening education for the public as well as providing an opportunity to promote the CGMG program at this time of year in the absence of our Garden Tour. Sending frequent photos with captions of CGMGs in action to the CGN and MG social media proved to be an effective way to keep the CGMG program and volunteer activities in the public eye. Feature articles and commentary on CGMG events were also published and posted on social media. The Social Media Crew continued to expand CGMG outreach with 831 Facebook and 329 Instagram followers. Tip of the Week continued to answer popular Plant Clinic questions through social media posts. The CGMG YouTube channel now includes videos of CGMG

educational seminars and events.

**Radio Broadcasts:** We continued our bi-monthly radio show *Mid-Columbia Today* on AM 1340/98.3 FM KIHHR in Hood River and News radio 1300/103.9 KACI in The Dalles. Current gardening topics and Master Gardening programs and projects were discussed.

**Survey:** A total of 54 members responded to an online survey in the Fall to assess how we are doing as an association and if what we are doing is valid and current. Of the projects that we currently run, importance to the community and personal education/learning were the strongest reasons why we volunteer. The projects that received the most interest were those that serve the community best and include the Fish Food Bank, plant sale, and Seed to Supper projects. We are clearly interested in the state of our climate as the Waterwise Garden also received a high amount of interest. The thoughtful comments helped us to consider new ways of providing education to our members and the community, broaden our interests with the Indigenous community, have more social opportunities for like-minded gardeners to get together, and plan some fun field trips.

**Recognition Event:** Our annual membership recognition and graduation event was held in November at a new location, Riverside Church, in Hood River. A potluck meal was enjoyed by all. Our Master Gardener of the Year, Anne Gehrig, and Behind the Scenes MG of the Year, Joanne Willis, were recognized along with other local chapter awards for jobs well done!

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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!

## CGMGA & OMGA

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**New Ventures:** Some discussion occurred regarding the creation of an outdoor educational area in the Learning Garden behind the OSU Extension building. A landscape plan was designed and several cost estimates for the hardscaping were obtained. More preliminary planning and funding will be pursued in 2024.

**Remembrances:**

Cindy Collins: MG since 2006 <https://osu-wams-blogs-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/blogs.dir/3198/files/2022/07/June-2022.pdf>  
<https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/obituaries/obituary-cindy-collins/>

[article\\_0644e1bc-1f4e-11ee-a26a-032d9f473276.html](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/obituaries/obituary-fred-paige/article_e171bbd0-a684-11ee-b386-ff08e17c9420.html)

Fred Paige: MG since 1995 [https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/obituaries/obituary-fred-paige/article\\_e171bbd0-a684-11ee-b386-ff08e17c9420.html](https://www.columbiagorgenews.com/obituaries/obituary-fred-paige/article_e171bbd0-a684-11ee-b386-ff08e17c9420.html)

**Coordinator:** Our program coordinator continues to be Megan Wickersham. She leads with a calm demeanor, shares ideas from other chapters, and continues to bring new and creative ideas to our program to consider.

## CGMGA Financial Summary

Shown below is our starting balance sheet for 2024. As you can see, 2023 was a good year for our association from a financial standpoint. Our Retained Earnings increased by about \$7K from 2022. This was mainly due to our success in obtaining grant funding which totaled \$8,700 for the year. These grants came from Intel, OSU Foundation, Gorge Community Foundation, and OMGA Karl Carlson Fund. Some of these grants cover work that was done in the past while others are dedicated to future work. The Gorge Community Foundation grant will facilitate the completion of the Pollinator Garden expansion at The Learning Garden and the Karl Carlson grant will be used exclusively for the FISH Garden.

In addition, we were provided with a \$2,000 stipend from OSU Extension to assist with renovation of the Learning Garden Bioswale and Raised Bed areas. OSU Extension has committed an

additional \$2,000 for this purpose in 2024.

Cindy Collins, an orchardist, and long-time Master Gardener (2006) sadly passed away in 2023. The Cindy Collins Memorial Fund was established in her honor and CGMGA received private donations in excess of \$1600 to develop a community education program focused on Home Orchard Maintenance. More to come on this in the upcoming months.

Community support of CGMGA is truly appreciated. This has allowed us to enhance our educational programs and expand our community outreach. If you have an idea for a project or event that brings gardening education to the community, please bring it to the CGMGA Educational Outreach Committee – we want to hear your ideas!

*Joanne Willis, CGMGA Treasurer*



## CGMGA &amp; OMGA



**Central Gorge MG Association  
Balance Sheet as of 01/01/24**

	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Umpqua Checking	\$22,903
Umpqua Money Market	\$24,713
PNWFCU Savings	\$100
PNWFCU Fixed Rate CD (5%)	\$40,854
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$88,570</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Expendable Funds Held by Others*	\$11,862
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$11,862</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$100,433</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$100,433</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Earnings (2023 Ending Balance)	\$100,433
Net Revenue	\$0
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$100,433</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$100,433</b>

\* Held in Foundation Accounts



## CGMGA &amp; OMGA

# Fred Paige



I first remember meeting Fred when I became involved in the Learning Garden Steering Committee in 2003. Fred was not much of a 'meeting' person, but he contributed a lot with his knowledge of construction and composting. Fred and his wife Patricia have a large place with multiple

compost bins, and at garden visits, they gave tours of the various methods they had ongoing.

Since Fred was in the construction business, his knowledge was particularly helpful when he stepped up to lead construction of the Learning Garden shed. He drew up an impressive building plan and had his gaggle of guys who helped him with construction of the building and then later pouring the concrete floor. He also drew up plans for a Learning Garden entry gate with worm bins, but this never developed in our plans. Fred was quite the character. He sort of marched to his own drummer. As lead for the Learning Garden during this time, it was always a bit of a challenge to get estimates, receipts, etc. from Fred, but eventually it all happened ..... and our lives were enriched just knowing him!

*Sandi Rousseau*

Fred was unique, always very inclusive, providing transportation for MGs during numerous training classes in The Dalles. Being a Seabee (part of the Construction Battalion) in the Navy explains some of his skill in construction. Fred was also very interested in composting. He was a mentor for me. He used his front end bucket to turn his compost pile! Fred was a very strong supporter of the Master Gardener program.

*Scott Finch*



I know that Eric and I worked with Fred on several construction projects at the Learning Garden,  
*Alan Yenne*

I can remember a Saturday class when Fred did a demonstration of how to maintain your garden tools. He brought quite a few of his own and demonstrated sharpening and cleaning. One tool was a small lopper he pruned rose bushes with. I had to have one. The internet was newer and I looked and looked but never found one. Kept me busy for days. One year we had a garden tour at their place. Lovely and very well maintained. The real eye opener was his compost operation. When a home gardener uses a front-end loader to turn the compost, that is indeed impressive. Wonderful people.

*Fred and 'George' John Stevens*

## CGMGA & OMGA

Yes, they started in 1996. They were always active with plant clinics from the beginning. They were instrumental in getting the shed built at the Extension office. They were involved in almost every project in those early years as well as from the time I was the program assistant from 2001 through 2013. Fred and Patricia both had great building construction expertise. They hosted many MG gatherings at their home in Parkdale and were on the garden tour. They attended mini college many times. They were CGMGA MG's of the year in 1996. They were always available and very active in the program. They were very supportive when we started the Hood River Chapter. I have a lot of memories of them.

*Elizabeth Daniel*

In addition to Fred and Patricia being Master Gardeners of the Year in 1996, they were also honored with being Behind the Scenes Master Gardeners of the Year in 2002! Fred also modified the irrigation system at the Hood River Care Center.

*Kathy McGregor*

What I remember about Fred was his dedication to and passion about teaching others about gardening. His and Patricia's involvement with the Master Gardener program predated mine (I started here in August, 2000). Fred was always eager to help with projects, including all those others have already mentioned. One project that Fred helped spearhead that not too many may remember was a larger-scale compost project on the MCAREC farm using pickup truck loads of leaves and waste fruit from MCAREC research projects. We turned the piles with the front end loader on the tractor. I also remember Fred showing me some mason bee cocoons he harvested from nest boxes he managed. That was the first time I had ever seen those.

*Steve Castagnoli*



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### Why is our Greenhouse not green?

**It's all about the light.**

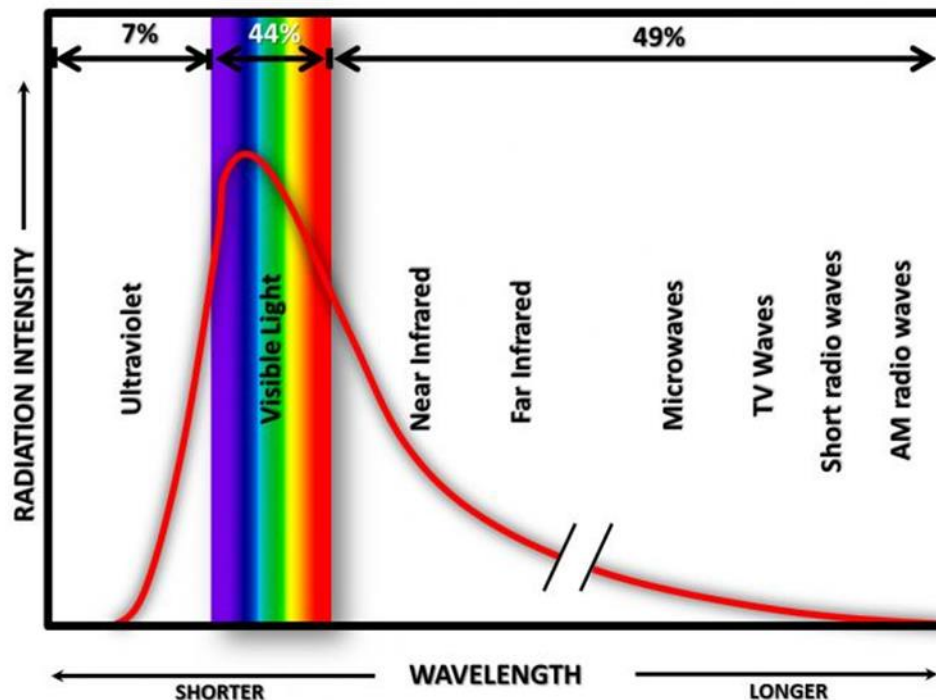
#### Light and Vegetables:

Our eyes, actually our brains, fool us all the time. In the days before digital cameras, which automatically adjust for light conditions, photographic color film was made in variations which "corrected" for different lighting. Outdoor sunlight, indoor incandescent, and indoor florescent were the three main variants. Our eyes never showed us a difference but a picture taken on daylight film of someone visiting the office cast them

with weird green skin. There is a lot of different light that our eyes don't necessarily show us. But plants know!

Now the technical stuff. But not too much! Light energy is measured in wavelengths from 40 through 700 nanometers (nm). Our eyes only perceive a small portion of that energy.

## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS



Specific light qualities have precise effects on plants. For example, blue (B) and red (R) light are the most effectively utilized wavelengths during plant photosynthesis because the photosynthetic pigments mainly focus on the B (400–500 nm) and R (600–700 nm) light range.

### Household light bulbs:

Incandescent are short on Blue and Red light. Florescent: Strong Blue lacking Red LEDs: May be full spectrum but most are not. So how do you pick a light source to propagate those tomato starts for your spring garden? You can try window light. This will give you the full sun spectrum but if not in direct sun the light will shift off to the blue spectrum. Grow lights. There is a wide variety. I use a tried and true method of florescent light. A two-tube florescent fixture with one “cool” and one “warm/daylight” tube does a great job of getting Shari’s starts off and running.

Florescent Grow Light Bulbs. There are bulbs specifically made as “grow lights” or you could do the mix.

Incandescent Grow Lights. They are still available but are very inefficient. LED Grow Lights. Should this be ‘LED Grow Lights might be the best way to go’?

<https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/led-grow-lights-for-plant-production.html>

<https://www.advancednutrients.com/articles/led-grow-lights-pros-cons/>

Seems odd that green plants don’t like green light but there are a lot of options to use in providing the light that is critical to growing healthy plants. Whether you are just propagating starts or want to do full on year-round vegetable production there are many light “tools” to choose from.

**GO FORTH AND GROW!**

*Eric Bosler*



## EDUCATIONAL TIDBITS

### Wildfire Impact

Topics around wildfire are of great interest to Master Gardeners. Our home landscape plays a huge role in the risk of home damage or destruction during a wildfire event. There are a large number of sources for information regarding wildfire risk and mediation and many of these will be highlighted as we move into spring and “wildfire season”. One source will be our training class (Zoom webinar) scheduled for Sat. 3/2 9:00am-noon. Firewise Landscaping will be presented by Amy Jo Detweiler, Community Horticulturalist and MG Program Coordinator for Central Oregon. Amy Jo is also one of the key authors of **“Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes”**: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-590-fire-resistant-plants-home-landscapes>.

A major factor of wildfire is smoke. We have all experienced the impact of wildfire smoke. There are a number of different sources of information regarding the topic. A recent addition to the resources is “Smoke Ready Gorge” <https://smokereadygorge.org/>. This cooperative effort includes Hood River Extension’s Lauren Kraemer. Many of us will recognize Lauren. She is a vital member of the Hood River County Extension program and has actively supported many of the Master Gardener programs and activities.

Eric



Decorative rock surrounds pineleaf penstemon in this example of fire-resistant landscaping.

Credit: Amy Jo Detweiler,  
© Oregon State University

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Plant Sale Planning Continues

Planning for the Spring plant sale is going well. We have set dates for our seed starting and up potting work parties, and SignUpGenius will be sent out soon. We are having thirteen work parties with 8 at the Master Gardener greenhouse and 5 at Apple Core Farm. We will be asking that only trainees sign up for the work parties during the first four days to allow them priority in signing up for these opportunities at these educational and fun events.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*(Continued from page 12)*

We have added several new plants to our inventory including Monarda, Columbine, Marjoram, Dianthus, and Goble Thistle. Our Educational Outreach team is planning some ideas to increase information sharing with our customers including companion planting, planting tomatoes, combining plants in pots, etc.

Our online selling platform *Shopify* will be opened April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will ask all Master Gardeners to not place an order during the first week to allow our customers to order first. As we did last year, we will sell only 50% of our plants online and the other 50% will be available for sale at the in-person sale. Master Gardeners will be allowed to shop the day before this sale for anything that was no longer available online, so rest assured ..... you will not miss out on anything!

*Sandi Rousseau*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hood River SWCD plant sale

Greetings Master Gardeners~ The **Hood River SWCD is now taking orders for our annual spring plant sale!** With over 30 different species, we are offering a large selection of conifers, deciduous trees, and flowering shrubs! We are beginning to sell out of some species so get your order in soon and we will take orders now through March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Orders will be ready for pick-up and planting on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. Check out our website to make your purchase at <https://hoodriverswcd.org/plant-sale/>

Just in case you miss out on pre-ordering or the species you want sells out, we will have limited quantities of most plants available for purchase during the pick-up days.

We are happy to announce this year we will also have limited quantities of potted native wildflowers available, species such as: Yarrow, Oregon Iris, Camas, Columbine, Bleeding Heart, Mountain Strawberry, Blanket Flower, and more! Depending on the species, these will be sold in 3.5" containers or small band pots, starting at \$4 per plant. These **will only be available for purchase on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>** and will not be available for pre-order.

Native plants offer a wealth of benefits to the landscape and your yard. Once established, native plants require minimal inputs such as fertilizers, constant irrigation, and maintenance, thereby reducing chemical runoff, water use, and labor. The blossoms feed pollinators, branches provide nesting sites, berries and nuts provide food for birds and other wildlife. Tall trees provide shade for streams and the extensive roots systems stabilize the soils (some plant species even fix nitrogen into the soil).

We could talk native plants all day so feel free to reach out with any questions or ideas to Kris at 541-386-4588. Also check out our partners, [Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District](#) and [Underwood Conservation District](#) for additional plant sales!





## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

## Laurel DeTar

Moving to Hood River in 2006, Laurel DeTar was active at the Hood River County Library and looking for another group to join. As a frequent visitor to Master Gardener Plant Clinics and seeing the fun volunteers were having while doing “good stuff” in the community, Laurel took notice.

Later, Laurel crossed paths at three different appointments with Sandi Rousseau, a long time Master Gardener. Answering an ad in the Hood River News seeking “a member of the public” to join the Japanese Heritage Garden committee where Sandi was also a member, it was beginning to fit together.

As it turned out, Laurel was the only member of the public to show up and join the committee. Along with Rita Saling, who first conceived of the JHG, and other MG’s including Sandi Rousseau, Pat Morrison, Ellen Penswick, Anne Saxby, Jordan Kim, Cindy Collins and Norma Curtis, of the Odell Garden Club, Laurel helped plant the garden. Master Gardeners met her two criteria – have fun with respect. Laurel knew this would be a good organization to join and filled out an application.

Moving to Aunt Marie’s farm as a four year old, Laurel loved being part of the “always something to do” farm lifestyle. She remembers her first job was picking up sticks in the yard. This then included weeding the family sustaining garden and learning how to “really clean the house” before she left for school. Laurel proudly states she can process all kinds of food, from fruits and vegetables to chickens, but empathically declares she won’t be processing chickens ever again. Living on the farm, where no one was ever allowed to be bored, Laurel developed a “can do work ethic”,

which she demonstrates even today.

An admitted “Peony Addict”, Laurel points the finger at Lore Sampson of Rarity Gardens as being her “pusher” and responsible for her 30 plus peony garden. Every year Laurel looks forward to meeting with Lore to discover new peonies to add to her collection. With a city lot size back yard there is lots of room to spread out.



Laurel’s secret passion is reading. Detective stories are the current favorite, with Kerry Greenwood’s Phryne Fisher series and Corina Chapman books all time favorites. She is currently reading *My Name is Barbara*, Barbara Streisand’s memoir and highly recommends the 1000 page book.

Recalling her most embarrassing gardening experience, Laurel sheepishly tells of cutting the extension cord while running a hedge trimmer at a Master Gardener work party. Husband Bob came to the rescue, gifting her a battery operated hedge trimmer last Christmas after

she did it a third time. Speaking of Master Gardener work parties, Laurel is very grateful to the MG’s who came to her house one year to help out while she was recovering from a surgery. “A wonderful example of Master Gardener’s generosity.”

In the 1980’s Laurel was a Research Analyst for the California Department of Justice. She began her career there as a clerk and advanced to Research Analyst in less than 10 years, an amazing accomplishment. Her job was to record California homicides and this involved traveling the State to talk to detectives about solved and

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## SPOTLIGHT ON A MASTER GARDENER

*(Continued from page 14)*

unsolved homicides. During that time most homicides were gang, drug or acquaintance related. In 1982 she published the Homicide Report in California.

As a past Project Leader for the Japanese Heritage Garden, her group participated in designing and enlarging the garden size to include the area where signage is for those who donated to the original garden.

Laurel took on the maintenance of the garden's irrigation system several years ago. She knew little about filters, pumps or how to bring the new dedicated service line into service but with the help of Steve Castagnoli she slowly learned the ins and outs of irrigation 101. Laurel thanks Steve for his advice, guidance, help and, most of all, his patience, with getting the irrigation project updated. "This was an example of Master Gardener opportunities to continually learn something new."

For a couple of years, Laurel was Plant Sale co-leader with Kathy Lien. Laurel fondly remembers the times of potting parties in the "old days" when volunteers went to local gardens, dividing plants and dug starts to sell at the Plant Sale. She has watched the Plant Sale evolve from potting parties to growing plant starts in the OSU Extension greenhouse to the very organized Plant Sale in the State of the Art greenhouse facility now in place. The past 4-5 years, Laurel has enjoyed ordering annual and perennial starts, going to Vanguard Nursery to pick up plugs at the end of March and leading the up-potting party.

The Plant Sale has gone from the "Wild West/Dark Ages/Long Cabin" organization to a high tech organization in every aspect over the years. One small she cites is the streamlining of the plant labeling process for the Plant Sale, thanks to Christie Bradley. In the past the labels were printed on old-fashioned label paper that were individually placed on the plant pots and then price dots were applied. This was very labor intensive, and it is so much easier to have labels printed directly on the plastic stakes.

Laurel still participates in Learning Garden, Plant Sale, and Japanese Heritage Garden activities.

An outstanding fun time was the year the International Master Gardeners' Convention was in Portland. Laurel and Sandi Rousseau were Tour Guides on two separate buses traveling from Portland to Hood River. As an avid hiker in the Columbia River Gorge and with a Geology enthusiast for a husband, Laurel was happy to share her knowledge of the Gorge with fellow "out of towners" Master Gardeners.

In 2011 Laurel was presented with the Behind the Scenes award and in 2016 Laurel and Kathy Lien were Master Gardeners of the Year. These awards are testaments of Laurel's commitment to Central Gorge Master Gardeners.

This year Laurel decided to become an Associate Master Gardener and step back for a while. That lasted 6 weeks because she was missing the fun, friends, classes and Plant Clinics.

Laurel's advice to new Master Gardeners is "find what you love to do and go for it. Meet the Old Timers because they have lots of institutional knowledge which they love to share. Work parties are a wonderful place to get to know your fellow MGs. Just keep coming and enjoy the potlucks."

Donna DesRochers





# Gardening Resources

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| ◇ <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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