

# THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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Winter Twigs - shrubs



*Cornus stolonifera* - red-osier dogwood



*Philadelphus lewisii* - mockorange



*Ericameria nauseosa* - gray rabbitbrush



*Berberis aquifolium* - shining Oregon grape



puffball?

## MEET AND GREET!

Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm

The Dalles Senior Center

### SAVE THE DATE!

January 15, 2020 will be the WCMGA Quarterly Meeting "Meet and Greet" to welcome our newest recruits to the master gardener program. The meeting will be held at the Senior Center – corner of Cherry Heights and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets – beginning at 6 p.m. Returning Master Gardeners – you know the routine – please bring a finger food to share. Put it in your calendar and plan to attend to visit with friends and introduce yourself to our new Master Gardeners!



Classes begin soon!

# The Dirt Sheet

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – MARILYN RICHARDSON

I am looking forward to my year as President of this fantastic organization. Steve and Bill have both helped me this past year to learn the responsibilities and duties of the President. In anticipation of writing this column, I went back and read every issue of the Dirt Sheet for the past year. I was amazed again at all the work volunteers have put into making the greenhouse, The DIG, the school camps, and all the other projects successful, as well as those who contribute to, and create the monthly newsletter. Thank You to all of you!!

There are some new changes this year. The biggest change is that we will be doing all of our projects, and trainings, without Michelle! This will be a big challenge to keep all the pieces working smoothly without her. But we will try. All of the board members are committed to keeping our trainings going smoothly, and to keep our many projects on track.

We had a good turnout for Michelle's going away party on Dec 10th. About 30 people came to her lunch at Casa El Mirador to wish her well and to thank her for all of her work with us. We will miss you, Michelle! OSU will be filling Michelle's position, but the time line is not yet known. We will look forward to working with another dedicated coordinator sometime in 2020.



Power washing inside the greenhouse

Cindy Russell photos

We had work parties at the greenhouse in Nov and on Dec 9th. We had about 12 volunteers come each time, ready and willing to do the hard work of getting the greenhouse ready for winter/spring planting.

We: took the cover (shade cloth) off the greenhouse and rolled it up

tightened the skin of the greenhouse where it was loose

installed new shut off valves for the hoses

soaked all the trays (many hundreds of them) in bleach water for 20 minutes

pulled weeds that were growing in the greenhouse, then swept the greenhouse

moved all the heavy tables so they could be power washed from all angles;

power washed the tables

sprayed, with a back pack sprayer, all the tables from all angles with a bleach water solution and left them to dry

It was hard and heavy work. Before we could begin the work that day, we found that we had no water, and that the water system needed to be repaired. The guys worked on that, mending hoses, repairing and buying and installing new fixtures. Once water was flowing we could start spraying the tables and dipping all those trays. We still have electrical work to do as we could only use one sprayer or vacuum at a time, or the fuses would blow. But this will wait for the time being. Now we are ready for January and for the work of planting to begin in February.

Thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me, and I will do my best to fill the big shoes that I will need to fill in this position.

**Marilyn**

# The Dirt Sheet

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## Wasco County Master Gardeners Association December 17, 2019

Members Present: Marilyn Richardson;  
Annabelle Lavier; Bruce Lavier; Bill Marick,  
Peggy Peterson, Jens Frederickson

OSU Rep: Michelle Sager

The Wasco County Master Gardeners  
Association Meeting was called to order at  
2:00 pm at the Extension Office Meeting  
Room.

Minutes: Accepted as edited.

Treasurer's Report: \$13,988.03

### REPORTS:

OSU Reports: (Michelle Sager) Michelle  
completed membership handbooks.

Last day is Friday December 27, 2019. Board  
expressed appreciation for Michelle's efforts  
and noted that she will be really missed.

The Naturalist program will probably be  
separate from the Master Gardener program.

The orientation for new trainees will be  
January 15th, 6 pm at the Senior Center.

### NORCOR:

Excellent turn out of membership for a  
workday to sanitize the greenhouse tables  
and plant trays. Jens will ask Eric to turn on  
the heaters and fix the leaking water value  
located at the end of the greenhouse. Peggy  
reminded members that the water lines must  
also be rinsed out with bleach. The skin is in  
good condition.

### The DIG:

Bruce and Mark have almost completed two  
planters, leaving just one planter left to  
rebuild.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Propagation class with Mr. Bell (3/11/2020) will  
need help. It's a hands-on class which will  
include needs for tarps or plastic on the floor.  
Melinda Hill, Home Depot, will donate plants for  
the class. Project Training Day will be the last  
day of the training and held out at The DIG.

MCHA Garden Project— Housing Authority and  
the apartment on W 10th, Heritage Heights are  
in the development stage to develop a garden  
with raised beds. Lori Clement indicated that  
she could use help in March or April to build the  
beds.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Tygh Valley volunteer proposal (Hilary Jensen)  
submitted three ideas for involvement by  
Master Gardeners with local homeowners in the  
area. Board members agreed to encourage her  
and to provide materials such as brochures. Bill  
indicated he was happy to help.

Trainings: Jens and Bruce indicated that they  
would help with logistic operations including  
projector set up. Room temperature should be  
checked by the lead kitchen (coffee maker)  
team members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

**Annabelle Lavier, Secretary**



# The Dirt Sheet

## Wasco County Master Gardeners Association November 19, 2019

Members Present: Marilyn Richardson;  
Annabelle Lavier; Bruce Lavier; Bill Marick,  
Peggy Peterson, Jens Frederickson, Steve  
Gillette

OSU Rep: Michelle Sager

The Wasco County Master Gardeners  
Association Meeting was called to order at  
2:00 pm at the Extension Office Meeting  
Room.

Minutes: Accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: \$14,571.24 November 18,  
2019. Annabelle moved, Marilyn seconded  
motion to accept Treasurer’s report subject to  
audit. Project chairs need to turn in proposed  
2020 budget for their areas. Expenses not  
submitted for reimbursements need to be  
submitted to Jens in order to accurately reflect  
expenses.

### REPORTS:

OSU Reports: (Michelle Sager) Michelle  
distribute flyers for next year’s training.

Michelle has developed welcome packets for  
new Master Gardener trainees and three board  
members have agreed to edit the drafts.

Oregon Garden Club also holds trainings. In  
the future there may be possibility of some  
coordination.

### NORCOR:

Jeff is working on a Memorandum of  
Understanding. A work party to remove the  
shade cloth and begin some of the clean up  
will be coordinated by Jens and scheduled  
possibility for 11/23 (Saturday) at 9:00 a.m.  
Seeds have been ordered (Peggy). Discussion  
on the possible contents of the memorandum.

### The DIG:

Gary pruned the trees and hauled away the  
clippings.

OMGA Report: none at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS:

### NEW BUSINESS:

Mentor Program: Applications are due  
12/12/2019. Marilyn, Jens, and Annabelle will  
contact members asking if he/she would be  
interested in being a mentor. Details on the  
January orientation “Meet and Greet” program  
will be finalized at the January Board meeting.

Trainings: Jens and Bruce indicated that they  
would help with logistic operations including  
projector set up. Room temperature should be  
checked by the lead kitchen (coffee maker)  
team members.

Bill will check with Ronnie concerning the radio  
spots.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

**Annabelle Lavier, Secretary**



# The Dirt Sheet

## Michelle's Final Note

Hello Master Gardeners,

It is hard to know what to say here in my last note to you all in The Dirt Sheet. As the days in my position dwindle, I have been reflecting so much on my last 4.5 years here in this program with all of you. I have learned so much by being in relationship with you, and will forever be grateful for your enthusiasm, patience, and commitment to learning and growing that you have all shown me.

The Master Gardener Program is not for the faint of heart. We ask a lot of our volunteers – we ask for your time, your energy, your ideas, your willingness to know more and learn deeper. We ask you to put yourselves out there and to hold space for others to learn. And we ask you to commit to a partnership to each other and to the program. Each of you has answered the call, and I know it hasn't always been easy. And I have really been humbled by your dedication to service, and hope to carry that forward with me into a new chapter.

Thank you all for sharing yourselves with me. I am so excited to see where you all take the program in the years to come. I know you will continue to do great things.

Please feel free to contact me at my personal email in the future – [sager.mls@gmail.com](mailto:sager.mls@gmail.com)

Onward!

**Michelle**

"If you reap what you sow, make sure it's love that you grow." *Beverly Rose Hopper*

## Good Bye Lunch for Michelle



"Cultivate good friends"

# The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County  
Master Gardener™ Association

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## Officers

President – Marilyn Richardson

President Elect – Candace Newman

Past President – Steve Gillette

Secretary – Annabelle Lavier

Treasurer – Jens Fredericksen

Historian – Bruce Lavier

OMGA Rep – Ronnie Smith

Alternate OMGA Rep – Steve Gillette

## OSU Extension Staff

vacant, Program Coordinator

For those of you not on **Facebook**, you can still view our page and read articles posted there. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/WascoMG/>

## Find Us Online

<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/wcmga/dirt-sheet/>

## Calendar

January 14	2pm	WCMGA Board Meeting
January 15	6pm	Meet & Greet WCMGA Qtrly Mtg
February 1		Deadline for February newsletter
February 19	9am	Classes begin!



A little bit of sunshine in December!

