

# THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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## CLASSES BEGIN! Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 - 4



*Galanthus sp.* - snow-drops



*Primula sp.* - primroses



*Lomatium gormanii* - salt & pepper



*Lomatium columbianum* - Columbia desert-parsley



*Ranunculus triternatus* - obscure buttercup

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MORNING CLASS 9-12</u>	<u>AFTERNOON CLASS 1-4</u>
Feb. 19	Botany for Gardeners Chip Bubl	Soil Science James Cassidy
Feb. 26	Insects & Entomology Rich Little	Integrated Pest Management Heather Stoven
March 4	Pesticide Safety Pami Monnette	Pruning Techniques Ashley Thompson
March 11	Propagation Neil Bell	Plant Diseases Brooke Edmunds
March 18	Plant Clinic Training Michelle Sager & MGs	Plant Problem Diagnosis Jay Pscheidt
March 25	Bee-Friendly Gardening Andony Melathopoulos	Sustainable Landscape Design Signe Danler
April 1	Local Conditions & Tech- niques Michelle Sager	Test Review & Project Training Master Gardener volunteers

See page 4 for information about six additional classes being offered by the Central Gorge Master Gardeners in Hood River.

It’s very beneficial to read the appropriate chapters ahead of classes – refer to your handbook for the weekly assignments. When you arrive park in the lower lot, classes are held downstairs. Please be sure to arrive early enough to get settled so classes can begin promptly at 9am and 1pm. Mentors and new trainees are encouraged to sit together. Bring your own plate and cup for snacks and beverages! It can be chilly in the room so plan accordingly. There will be an hour for lunch – you are welcome to bring a sack lunch and join others or to leave to get lunch – your choice. We finish by 4pm but if you can stay and help cleanup that is appreciated!

# The Dirt Sheet

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – MARILYN RICHARDSON

Hello, I hope you are enjoying the mild weather we have received in January. It makes me want to get out in the yard and start cleaning up and getting ready for spring. Then I look at the calendar and it's only Jan, which seems to last longer than just one month, and I decide I need to wait and not get into the soggy flower beds too quickly.

We had a good turnout for the "Meet and Greet" on January 15. 20 people including 4 of our 9 new trainees braved the snow and ice to meet at the Senior Center in The Dalles. We had a time of visiting to meet our new people, introductions, and a budget meeting, as well as a time for good food and information. New trainees received their handbooks, their Master Gardener Manuals and reading assignments along with their name tags. The board members were introduced and participated in the sharing of information about our greenhouse, The DIG, rose pruning, newsletter and OMGA projects. Thank you all for your participation.

For those of you who were not able to meet that night, many of you would have had to drive quite a ways in icy weather, we will take time during our classes to get you the information that you need. You can always call the office or myself or any of the board members to get information. We welcome hearing from you.

Our NORCOR greenhouse planting is getting underway this month. This is the first year I have been participating from the beginning of this project, so this part is new to me and I'm looking forward to being part of it.

On February 19, classes will begin at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in The Dalles at 9 am. They are each Wednesday from 9:00-4:00, with an hour for lunch. We encourage you to bring your lunch and stay through the lunch hour. And we are excited for our new year!

**Marilyn**

## THANK YOU MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

As I begin my second year in the Master Gardener group, I wanted to say THANKS!

Thanks to the MG program I have just spent a couple hours in my green house bleach cleaning trays, pots, and rack. Hopefully it helps my plants and vegetables this summer.

Thanks to the MG program, we have learned more about pruning our roses and fruit trees, all of which were untended for many years. Now we have a huge pile of branches to chip up to use for mulch!

Thanks to the MG program I have learned more about soil, its make up and the make up needed to grow my vegetables. Fertilizer, soil testing, watering... all important needs.

Thanks to the MG program I am learning more about when and how to grow my vegetable gardens. Moving here from Wisconsin 2.5 years ago having lived in dense shade, I had much to learn! Maybe I will even beat the bugs and rodents and get cucumbers this year! Many good plans in the works.

Thanks to the MG program I have learned about plant diseases and how to try to avoid them and manage if present.

Thanks to the MG program I get to work with a fabulous group of people at The DIG and at the NORCOR greenhouse. Everywhere there are people who are willing to answer questions, give advice and help me learn more.

Looking forward to 2020 classes and volunteer events!

**Jean Zylka**

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## Wasco County Master Gardeners Association Executive Board Meeting

January 14, 2020

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

Treasurer’s Report: \$13,828.14 with two new bills. Membership will vote on the proposed 2020 budget at the next general membership meeting (1/15/2020).

### REPORTS:

**OSU Reports:** Marilyn and Jens will pick up the membership notebooks for the new Master Gardeners after this board meeting.

The orientation for new trainees will be January 15th, 6 pm at the Senior Center. Marilyn, Bill and Steve will emcee the events and Annabelle will coordinate refreshments. Various executive board members will present topics during the meeting.

### NORCOR:

Soil needs to be placed in the greenhouse and heating and water systems checked. Jens and Bruce agreed to set a date to check the systems and bring in the soil. A work party is set for February 3, 10:00 am to get the greenhouse ready for planting which should begin the following week. Planting begins the week of 2/10 on Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. with a possible Friday option.

### The DIG:

Anni met with Kathy for a short compost orientation and check on the existing bins.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Art Center Hosting—** WCMGA will once again host the Garden Art event. Finger food for

the Garden Art reception (3/5) need to be at the center before 5:00 p.m.

**Rose pruning —** Marilyn will ask if Garry would consider leading the event.

**Radio shows —**Ronnie and Steve will check their schedules to cover KODL and Hood River shows.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

**Annabelle Lavier, Secretary**

## GREENHOUSE PLANTING DAYS

Our Monday morning work party was able to get the greenhouse ready for planting. We have soil soaking up water and plan to start the seeds tomorrow. There are hundreds of seeds to plant each week. Our new planting schedule will be Mondays from 10:00-12:00, Thursdays from 1:00-3:00. We will keep this schedule through February at least. In March we may need to add more days. But for this month, if you can be in on the plantings, please plan to come this Thursday, and then Mondays and Thursdays.

We are going to develop a watering responsibility schedule. If you can be part of a regular watering schedule, please let me know. The plan is for interested persons to commit to the same day each week to go to the greenhouse to check the water needs of the plants. This needs to be done daily for now, and probably twice a day as the weather warms up. Jens and I will be the backup waterers, so if you commit to a day, and then can’t make it on your day, you would call Jens or myself and we would cover for you. Please let me know if you can be part of this.

A reminder to anyone working at the green house—you will need to have a background check in place with NORCOR before you can work there.

**Marilyn**

# The Dirt Sheet

## Please Join Us!

Wasco County Master Gardeners are invited to attend the Central Gorge Master Gardener Community Classes. Central Gorge Master Gardeners are opening six classes from our education program to the community and would be honored for you to join us! All classes are held at the Hood River Valley Christian Church, [975 Indian Creek Road](#) in Hood River and the following classes will be open to the community.

**Firewise Landscaping** presented by Oregon State University Extension Professor, Amy Jo Detweiler on Saturday, February 8, 1-4 pm

**Healthy Soils** presented by Oregon State University Extension Metro Master Gardener, Claudia Groth on Wednesday, Feb 26, 6-9 pm

**Vertebrate Pest Management** presented by Oregon State University Associate Professor, Chip Bubl on Saturday, March 7, 9 am-12 pm

**Vegetable Gardening** presented by Oregon State University Associate Professor, Chip Bubl on Saturday, March 7, 1-4 pm

**Growing Berries** presented by OSU Professor and Berry Crops Research Leader, Bernadine Strik on Saturday, March 14, 1-4 pm

**Herbaceous Ornamental Plants** presented by Online Oregon State University Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Signe Danler on Wednesday, March 25, 6-9 pm

If you wish to participate in a class, just show up. Wearing your Master Gardener badge or new trainee name tag will allow you free admission and you'll get Master Gardener education hours too. Your guests are also welcome for just \$10 per class. Cash and checks only please. Coffee, tea and conversation with other gardeners will be flowing before the class and at break.

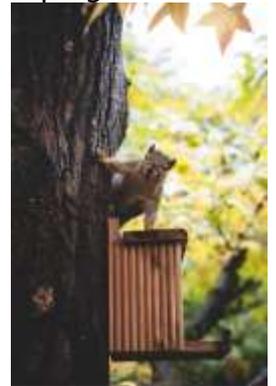
We look forward to seeing you at the Central Gorge Master Gardener Community Classes!



firewise landscaping



healthy soils



vertebrate pests



vegetable gardening



growing berries

Sincerely,  
Your neighboring Master Gardeners of the  
Central Gorge

# 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

February 10	10am-12pm	Planting day at NORCOR
February 13	1-3pm	Planting day at NORCOR
February 18	2pm	WCMGA Board Meeting
February 19	9am	Classes begin!
February 29		Deadline for March newsletter
March 5	5-7pm	Garden Art reception at Art Center



grass widow, Marcia Strader photograph

## 2019 Annual Report of the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program

In Oregon there were 2936 Master Gardeners who provided

221,423 Volunteer Hours which are

Valued at \$5.6 million, equivalent to 106 FTE positions

There are 444 new Master Gardener Graduates

Master Gardener Volunteers completed 36,290 hours of continuing education credits

Master Gardeners are involved with 117 gardens, including 29 School Gardens, 46 Community Gardens, 23 Teaching Gardens, and more.

52.5 tons of fresh food were donated from these gardens and master gardener's own gardens to Oregon's Food Banks and Food Pantries.

You can access the entire report [HERE](#). Or, copy and paste this URL into your browser: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/mgcoordinators/2020/01/27/2019-annual-report/>