

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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On-Line Master Gardener Training

Here's the link if you are interested in signing up for any of the remaining Free Virtual Gardening Series - OSU Master Gardeners:
<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/cgmga/>

Spring-Summer Flowers



Lonicera heckrottii – gold-flame honeysuckle



Paeonia x 'Madame Emile Debatene'



Polemonium sp. – Jacob's ladder



Gaillardia grandiflora 'Goblin' – blanket flower



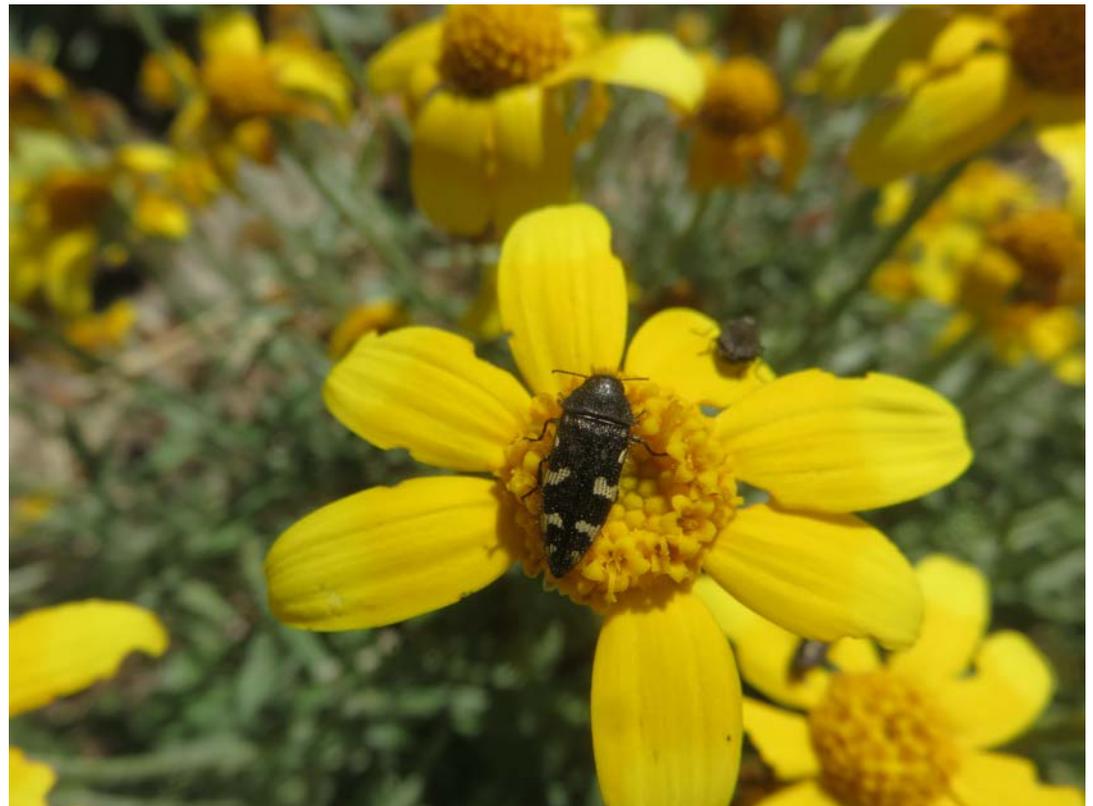
'Iceberg' floribunda rose

Drought Tolerant Plants – June 3 by Neil Bell, OSU Professor and Community Horticulturist

Insect Apocalypse: Real or Hype? – June 17 by Dr. Gail Langellotto, OSU Master Gardener Program State Coordinator

Pollinators – July 1 by Dr. Andony Melathopolous, OSU Professor, Pollinator Health

Pesticide Safety – July 15 by Brooke Edmunds, OSU Extension Linn and Benton County Horticulture Specialist



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Optimism in the Garden

Early in May, I planted tiny little tomato seedlings in my yard, inside a cut-in-thirds toilet paper roll, a technique I learned from Garry Peterson—thank you Garry! (It helps protect the plant until it can grow and survive the wind). Then I put a large tomato cage around each plant.

My husband went out to look at the plants a week or two later and he came in and said I must be an optimist. I didn't know what he was referring to until he told me he saw the tiny tomatoes and the extra large cages around them. That got me to thinking— all gardeners have to be optimists!!

We all face challenges all along the way, this year in some very specific ways. Those tiny seedlings came from green-house plants that we were forced to take out of the greenhouse before they had even sprouted. Many of those plants are planted at The DIG, and a few are planted in some of our gardens. Many didn't make it, the change of location and temperature was too abrupt for them, but many more did survive.

Some of these challenges we can't control, as in this year. Others we have more control over, where we plant, in the sun or shade, the amount of water given, the tolerance for insects, if we want to go organic or rely on some chemical help. I always want to go organic, then I end up going with some help. Right now I need to put systemic on my roses. But I'm learning, and maybe next year I'll have the knowledge and decide to stop using chemicals altogether.

I have taken a couple of online gardening classes. There is a list of them in last month's and this newsletter. I hope you will take some of them too. The class I took from Andony Melathopoulos on bees was so good. I wasn't much interested in bees, they were an unsung hero to me, until I took his class. Now I'm thinking about attracting mason bees to my yard, and will probably be asking for help from some of you who know more about this than I

do. Neil Bell's class on Diagnosing Plant Problems was very good. It reinforced what we've been taught in class, but hadn't really gelled in my mind. This class I could do at my own pace, slow, and it helped the information stick better. There are tests of your knowledge as you complete sections, and you can review the lessons and retake the tests as often as you want to. I encourage you to take the time to seek out these classes and jump in and take one or two.

Keep planting those tiny seedlings or seeds, keep exploring new classes, be willing to jump in and take a garden bed at the DIG, and work at the greenhouse next year. Those tiny seedlings of mine are now a respectable 5-6" tall. Maybe I'll get tomatoes off of them, maybe not, or not so many. But I'll be planting them again next year, because we always have hope. And my hope is to see all of you soon. Planning for next year is already begun, whether we'll be able to have classes in person is still not known yet. But until then, keep gardening, keep sharing, and keep being optimistic!

Marilyn



The Dirt Sheet

Wasco County Master Gardeners Association Board Meeting 5/19/2020

Members present: Marilyn Richardson, Annabelle Lavier, Bruce Lavier, Bill Marick, Jens Fredericksen, Ronnie Smith, Peggy Peterson
Extension Representative: Kim McCullough

Minutes: Ronnie moved and Bruce seconded as presented. Motion passed.

Treasury: \$13,272.78 as of May 19, 2020. Treasurer's report corrected to show Contingency change. Ronnie moved and Bill seconded motion to accept the corrected budget subject to audit. Motion passed.

Reports:

The DIG: Individuals continue to manage their beds.

OMGA: No meetings

NORCOR greenhouse: Removal of the soil and some plants occurred. The potting mix has been offered to master gardeners for a donation. At this point there are no bales left except the two at The DIG for use in the beds. Donations continue to arrive and a final accounting isn't complete.

Old Business:

Virtual plant clinics continue with the addition of posters advertising the phone-in service. Peggy has offered to place the posters around town. Kim will redesign and print the posters.

Board was presented with a **draft plan** from OSU Extension noting that opening for activities will begin in phase II (mid June). Until that point gatherings at The DIG will be gatherings of friends.

Master Gardeners' section of the draft plan needs to include precautions that need to take place at The DIG. Elements in the plan will need to include social distancing of 6 feet;

availability of hand sanitizers, wipes, or washing station; use of individual's own garden tools; agreement by individual participants; and, at some point, COVID training.

Individuals will need to wear face masks when working at The DIG and continue to keep their 6 feet of social distancing.

Radio Shows: Al Wynn, KODL – Marilyn and Ronnie will represent Master Gardeners the first Tuesday in June. The Hood River station hasn't resumed their public talk show.

Annabelle Lavier, secretary

FOOD PRESERVATION CLASSES

Due to the challenges of COVID-19, OSU Extension will not be offering in-person food preservation classes during 2020. Instead, OSU is partnering with University of Idaho to offer a 6-week online food preservation course, which costs just \$35 for the entire series. Given the large interest in gardening this spring, we anticipate an interest in preserving the food produced by home gardeners. The link for info and registration is:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/fanklin/family-consumer/preserve-at-home>. *Registration is required by June 15th.* If you have any questions about this course, please contact Lauren Kraemer at the Hood River OSU Extension Office: 541-386-3343 x38258.

Each lesson includes online text (that can be downloaded and printed), online discussion boards, a weekly real-time chat with instructors & classmates, and open book quizzes. Start Date: June 18 at 1pm MST

The lessons being offered are: Foodborne Illness; Canning Basics; Canning Acid Foods; Canning Low Acid Foods; Canning Specialty Foods; Freezing and Drying.

KOHLRABI DAYS ARE HERE!

Jean Zylka

Just harvested my first kohlrabi of the season and will be preparing them with our dinner tonight.

Kohlrabi was not a vegetable I grew up eating, but over the last few years I have come to appreciate and enjoy it tremendously. I started my kohlrabi seeds indoors in mid February. They were moved out to my garden bed in early April. Today, May 29th, I harvested the first several "space ships."

I have eaten kohlrabi several different ways. It does need to be peeled before being eaten. Some of the many ways to enjoy kohlrabi include: eating raw slices, making kohlrabi slaw, roasted in the oven, and steamed. We did them grilled last year with rave reviews from our guests. Here is how we made it.

Grilled Kohlrabi

2 large kohlrabi, peeled, cut into 1/2" slices, and steamed until tender crisp
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Shredded Parmesan cheese for garnish

While kohlrabi is steaming preheat the grill. Mix the garlic, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar. When kohlrabi is steamed, remove slices to a shallow dish and coat with the olive oil mixture, turning. Grill for 2 minutes per side.

Serve, seasoning to taste with salt and pepper and topping with Parmesan cheese.

Recipe from:

<http://powissetfarm.blogspot.com/2011/07/grilled-kohlrabi.html>

PAM CRIDER

Pam Crider of Hood River was a Master Gardener, originally part of our group when both counties were combined as Columbia Gorge MGs and some of us know her from then. Marcia Strader has shared the following information about Pam, who died May 18th.

Here is the info from Anderson's Tribute Center:
<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/13947352/Pamela-Gail-Crider>

Here is what the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs has posted:

Dear Garden Club Members,

It is with such a sad heart that I have to tell you that Pam Crider passed away suddenly this past Monday. An apparent heart attack while she was sleeping.

I just talked to her last week and we were laughing about her noisy peacocks.

Last year I asked her to take over the OSFGC Facebook page and she did such a wonderful job posting something new every day. She loved taking care of the page and it showed.

I didn't meet her in person until last June during the Convention. She was so much fun, vivacious, kind and giving...

I will miss her happy face and positive attitude as I am sure all of her family, friends, Club and District will.

While I (Marcia) was the program person for our quarterly MG meetings, I had Pam do a couple of our educational presentations. I think one of them was at the Mosier Grange, as I recall. She was so outgoing, vivacious, spontaneous -- oh, and that laughter lol!!

Marcia Strader

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

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

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/>

Calendar

June 3	2:30pm	Garden chat*
June 10	2:30pm	Garden chat
June 16	2pm	Board Meeting
June 17	2:30pm	Garden Chat
June 23		Due date for MG coordinator job
June 24	2:30pm	Garden Chat
June 27		Deadline for July newsletter

*You can participate in the Zoom Garden Chats through your computer, smart phone, iPad, OR you can simply call in from any phone. You will get to hear everyone and interact regardless which method you use. Click on the link:
<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/96900780116?pwd=Lz1eXFSYmE0OTJZWkp5a2dxMXpQZz09>

Phone Dial-In Information: Call one of these numbers 1-971-247-1195 US (Portland) 1-253-215-8782 US or 1-301-715-8592 US

You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID #: 969 0078 0116

CHERRY FRUIT FLY NOTICE

Cherry Fruit Fly models developed by OSU indicate that the cherry fruit fly will emerge in The Dalles Sunday, May 24. According to Dr. Ashley Thompson, OSU Extension Horticulturist, the emergence of the fly signals the beginning of the very important control program against this insect, which is the sweet cherry industry's chief insect pest.

The entire cherry growing area, including the cities of The Dalles, Mosier and Dufur are within a cherry fruit fly control district and all homeowners with a backyard cherry tree, as well as commercial orchardists, are required by law to begin a control program.

The control program means an application of an insecticide beginning immediately and approximately every seven days through cherry harvest. For homeowners, the recommended materials would include any product with spinosad or Malathion as an ingredient and is labeled for fruit trees.

The cherry fruit fly overwinters in a cocoon as a dormant pupa and emerges in response to the rise in temperatures in the spring. The adult fly mates and begins egg laying within five to seven days after emergence. Eggs are laid beneath the skin of the cherry and the eggs hatch into a worm in approximately three days. The worm feeds within the cherry fruit, maturing in approximately two weeks. The worm then eats its way out of the cherry, falls to the ground, and goes into the resting stage until the next year.

There is only one generation of cherry fruit fly per year. Fly emergence occurs over several weeks, however, which requires a season-long control program, Thompson pointed out.

To obtain a free pesticide spray guide for this and other tree fruit pests, contact the OSU Wasco County Extension Office at 296-5494 and leave a message as staff is still working remotely.