

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

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Happy Summer in The Dalles...Heat AND Wind!!

As the seasons change through this pandemic, so have our directives from CDC, our Governor and OSU. We ARE Coming Back !!! But differently AND Safely!

If you each complete a few steps, you will now be able to work at The DIG. This will include taking an online COVID training and signing a form for our new "rules of engagement".

All authorized OSU volunteers are asked to take a class on COVID-19. It is pretty straight forward and short. **Please take this as soon as you can and e-mail Kim the certificate of completion.** The following link is specific to Wasco County:

https://envisionextension.thinkific.com/?th_uq=e83a3a1f Kim will mail everyone the expected protocol with an enclosed stamped envelope so you can read, sign and return to her. Both these will need to be done before we can do any "meeting".

We are working through the process of starting the summer Saturday morning gardening presentations, formerly known as "Coffee at The DIG". Most importantly we need your ideas for presentations AND someone who could teach these 30-45 minute workshops. The schedule is below and you can see we have MANY empty program slots.

If you have ideas please forward them to Pam Manning and Marilyn Richardson: pamelasmanning@gmail.com mmrichardson@charter.net

We also are going to need LOTS of helpers to pull this off with the new way of "gathering safely". This computes to volunteer hours for you; something that has been pretty hard to come by this year. If you are available any of these 8 Saturday mornings, again please let Pam and Marilyn know. We are thinking we will need 5-10 volunteers each week. Please sign up for as many as you can. (see schedule on page 2)

All the dates need helpers to set up and help the programmers as well.

Lastly, serving coffee is not going to be part of these gatherings at this point, so we are considering other options for a title: *Mornings at The DIG, Join Us at The DIG?* We are open to your ideas.

Marketing and quick organization are going to be critical to make this happen. Your immediate response would be appreciated. We hope to see you ALL soon!

Kim, Pam & Marilyn

Summer Flowers



Hemerocallis 'strawberry candy' - daylily



Oenothera sp. - evening primrose



Penstemon deustus - hotrock penstemon



Cirsium undulatum - wavy-leaf thistle



Calochortus subalpinus - cats-ear

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Marilyn is taking a break this month.

WCMGA Executive Committee Meeting 6/16/2020

Members present: Marilyn Richardson, Annabelle Lavier, Bruce Lavier, Jens Fredericksen (late), Ronnie Smith, Steve Gillette

Extension Representative: Kim McCullough

Minutes: Approved minutes as presented (email)

Treasury: \$13,312.78 as of June 16, 2020.

Reports:

The DIG: The Food Bank is available to take produce Monday through Friday. Marilyn took 4 lbs. of lettuce. Beds continue to be maintained. Mark & Bruce connected the watering to the beds at the corner posts on the overhead. Two bales of soil prep in the shed are held for the lavender bed. Continue to have open work on Tuesday evenings 7-9pm.

OMGA: No meeting held

Old Business: Virtual plant clinics: continue with the addition of posters advertising the phone service. Steve recommended an internet site to aid in the identification of plants (Picture This). Marilyn continues to deliver and pickup the sign at Saturday Market (Farmers Market).

Garden Chats (Wed. at 2:30) bimonthly meetings need to be more widely advertised. It had only a few participants last week. Marilyn will send out an email to mentors urging them to have their mentees involved.

Radio Shows: KODL at the studio and Hood River is via phone. Ronnie will continue to represent Master Gardeners.

The **Coordinator** position will close June 23. Zoom interviews will follow with in person interviews scheduled for 7/6 – 7/13.

Kim is almost ready to submit a plan to reopen The DIG as a demonstration garden to OSU for approval. The Master Gardeners' section of the draft plan includes precautions that need to take place at The DIG to include: social distancing of 6 feet; availability of hand sanitizers & wipes; use of individual's own garden tools; signed agreement by individual participants; and Covid-19 training. Bruce and Annabelle will have a sign-up and sign-out sheet available to people working in their beds. The information will be submitted to Kim monthly.

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

Gorge Explorers Day Camp is considering having a summer camp on 7/10, 7/17, and/or 7/24.

The volunteer training schedule for next year is still in the planning stage. Episcopal Church usually charges \$1,000 for the use of the space, but because of the abbreviated schedule the charge is 50% or \$500 for the 2019 training.

Adjourn at 3:00 pm

Annabelle Lavier, Secretary

Schedule for Saturday presentations

<i>DATE</i>	<i>PRESENTOR</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>
11 July	Pam Manning	Cherries
18 July	Marilyn Richardson	Rhubarb
25 July		
1 Aug		
8 Aug		
15 Aug		
22 Aug		
29 Aug	Garry & Peggy Peterson	Tomatoes

New post on Oregon Master Gardener Coordinators



[Racial and Social Justice in Oregon's Master Gardener Program: How to Respond to Critical Comments](#)



by [Gail Langellotto](#)

It's been three weeks since we [published our first post](#), calling for increased attention to racial and social justice in Oregon's Master Gardener Program. In that time, the response has been overwhelmingly positive. For every critical comment that I have received, I have received 10-15 encouraging comments.

Thank you. Every Master Gardener who steps forward to say that they value this work makes it easier to weather the criticism. Every Master Gardener who reaches out to say 'FINALLY! This is what I have been wanting to see from the program!' grows our collective commitment to this work.

But what do you do, if you speak up for racial and social justice within the Master Gardener Program, and you are personally criticized? How might you respond? Where can you turn for support?

Below, we offer suggestions for responding to colleagues or constituents who might question or criticize the relevance of incorporating racial equity work into the Master Gardener Program.

1. Remember that one person's comment is only one.
2. Give yourself time to reflect and respond thoughtfully, and officially. As a Master Gardener coordinator or volunteer, your words are the voice of the program.
3. If you are confronted, criticized, or questioned on the spot, look for allies who can help echo key talking points, if you are at a loss for words.
4. Consistently refer to [OSU's stated responsibility to diversity, equity and inclusion](#), pointing specifically to OSU's stated commitment to inclusiveness.

"As a university community, we must join together to ensure that all members of the OSU community - students, faculty, staff and visitors - not only feel welcomed and safe, but experience our community as a place to thrive. Each and every member of our community must know they are valued, that they belong here, and that we celebrate the rich diversity that they bring to Oregon State University. We should not tolerate anything less." -- OSU President Ed Ray, in a statement delivered May 31, 2020

5. Make it clear that this is not a political statement or strategy. Instead, we are working to do a better job at what has long been an explicit and stated part of our job as Master Gardener Coordinators and Volunteers.

A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is written into the position description of every OSU Extension faculty member.

A demonstrated "commitment to diversity and to ensuring equal opportunity for those wishing to benefit from OSU Extension programs and services" is also included in every [OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteer's position description](#).

This work is also [an expectation of any program that derives assistance from the USDA](#).

Working towards social and racial justice within the Master Gardener Program is thus our collective work and responsibility.

6. As long as you feel comfortable, stay in the conversation. Do not shut down dialogue among participants, unless they fall into particular categories. I have been encouraged to find that some of the people who harshly criticized our [initial statement](#) ended up being open-minded, willing to listen and discuss concerns, and sometimes came away agreeing that racial justice work **is** important.

7. Nonetheless, there may be times when the conversation needs to be shut down, whether it be in person, on social media, or on another medium. These include:

- Hate Speech, which is defined as abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Intimidation or Threats of violence.
- Either of these warrant immediately reporting the incident to your supervisor, the Statewide Master Gardener Program Office, OSU Extension administration, and potentially to local authorities

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8. If you do not feel comfortable responding to critical comments or questions, please reach out to Gail or LeAnn for assistance.

If you are sharing racial justice or diversity, equity, and inclusion posts locally, you may want to include a statement of the OSU Master Gardener Program's ongoing commitment to racial equity. If relevant conversations are occurring locally, you may want to reference those, as well.

If you're not comfortable sharing racial justice or diversity and equity updates in your local communities, you don't have to. If that is the case, we hope that you will continue engaging with this work in other ways.

We will continue to share learning resources that support racial and social justice within the Master Gardener Program. On an individual level, one of the easiest and most accessible things you can do is to take the time to learn more, so that when it comes time to do more, we can do so from an informed perspective.

I wanted to end this post on a positive note. The [Multnomah County Master Gardener Association](#), on their own accord and with no formal input from the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program, developed a statement of commitment to racial justice within their own work. This statement of purpose is the first from a Master Gardener chapter. I look forward to working with them ~ *and anyone who wants to join us* ~ to fulfill our shared responsibility of working towards racial and social justice within the Master Gardener Program.

The Multnomah County Master Gardeners recognizes that silence at this time perpetuates violence and oppression.

We condemn racism and the systemic oppression of Black people created and perpetuated by white individuals and institutions in this country. We recognize that all white people and institutions are complicit in this oppression of Black people.

We stand in solidarity with our Black neighbors and all People of Color in demanding justice: for those who have been killed and harmed by police violence, and for their families and communities.

We affirm that Black Lives Matter.

Our mission calls for "Growing, Educating and Connecting Communities."

We acknowledge that we have not been living up to our mission, especially with our Black neighbors and communities of color. We recognize that we are coming late to this critical issue and we know that we will make mistakes as we do the work we must do to catch up.

We nonetheless commit to doing the work: to engage in critical self-reflection, to make our community antiracist, and to use the resources available to us to transform our organization into one where our Black neighbors, and all People of Color feel welcome, supported, and seen.

Now for the work of moving beyond words into new actions.

[Gail Langellotto](#) | June 26, 2020

Oregon Bee Project

OSU (Oregon) Master Gardener Program volunteers do a LOT for pollinators! Not only do they provide practical scientific gardening information that helps homeowners keep plants and pollinators healthy, but they also volunteer countless hours putting in demonstration pollinator habitat in our communities (like The DIG public garden in The Dalles). Also, Master Gardener Coordinator Dr. Gail Langellotto runs the Garden Ecology lab that is providing better information for gardeners on how to help pollinators.

[#nationalpollinatorweek](#)

This article, with a picture, can be found on our Facebook page:

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

Check it out! – you don't need to be on Facebook to access the page and read the articles. Marcia has been posting on the page daily so there is a lot to see.

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Newsletter of the Wasco County
Master Gardener™ Association

Carolyn Wright, editor
carolynnewright@gmail.com

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

July 8	2:30pm	Garden chat*
July 11	9am	Cherries at The DIG
July 18	9am	Rhubarb at The DIG
July 21	2pm	Board Meeting
July 25	9am	Morning at The DIG
July 22	2:30pm	Garden chat
August 1		Deadline for August 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

BEETS! BEETS! BEETS! – Jean Zilka

We are growing beets again this year and I have to tell you that this has been our best year yet! Colin made some frame structures to cover our raised beds with mesh fabric to help protect the beets from critters and insects. The beets are bigger and better and the greens are not as eaten. We made some frames that are vertical on one side and slant to the other (Jean had a picture of this), some that are square tops and lower and some that are hoops.

We like beets because they are tasty and can be made many different ways. In addition, beets are full of nutrients and low in calories. Sources I researched also indicate that beets can help keep high blood pressure in check. Beets are also noted to help fight inflammation, may improve brain health, improve digestion health and may help loose weight...so, overall, beets are good for what ails you!

This year I made refrigerator pickled beets for the first time and we love them. Recipe is from:
<https://bellyfull.net/refrigerator-pickled-beets/>

Ingredients: 4 medium roasted beets, cooled, peeled, and sliced 1 cup cider vinegar
1 cup water 1/3 cup sugar 1 tsp kosher salt ¼ tsp ground mustard 5 whole peppercorns

Instructions:

Bring the vinegar, water, sugar, salt, and mustard to a boil in a medium saucepan, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Simmer for a few minutes; take off heat and allow to cool for a bit. Add peppercorns and beets to a clean glass jar with a tight fitting lid. This particular recipe fits nicely into a 1 liter sized jar. Pour the brine in, covering all the beets. Cover and set aside for several hours (or up to 24), then transfer to the refrigerator.