

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

Inside this Issue

President's Corner	2
Pesto	2
WCMGA board mtg	3
2021 Classes	4
Calendar	5
Houseplants/Flipgrid	5

WELCOME, ANDREA STITH!!!

OSU Wasco County Extension extends a warm welcome to Andrea Stith.



We are excited to announce that Andrea Stith will be joining our OSU Extension team in Wasco County as a Master Gardener and Home Horticulture Program Coordinator. Prior to joining us Andrea served as a Master Gardener Coordinator with University of Kentucky Extension for 5 years. Andrea has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University with a concentration in horticulture and a minor in studio art, and a Master of Science from Murray State University in Agriculture Education. Andrea loves flower and vegetable gardening and is excited to learn from everyone at Oregon State University. We look forward to seeing how Andrea applies her diverse skillset to meeting the educational needs of home horticulturists and small acreage landowners in Wasco County.

Andrea will be arriving in October, so please make sure to reach out and help her feel welcome! She will start working October 1, though remotely. Her first day in the office will be October 19th.



leadwort - *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*



Zinnia sp.



Chrysanthemum



Vaccinium deliciosum – Cascade blueberry



Gentiana calycosa – explorer's gentian

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Marilyn Richardson

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the warm days, cool nights when we can use a blanket again, colorful trees, and the crisp feeling in the air. When I have to pull up dead plants, trim back bushes, or trim back perennials, I feel like I'm putting my garden to bed for the year, tucking in plants and mulching them much like pulling a blanket up on a chilly night. It's a good feeling, and I can look back on what went well and what can be improved.

Yesterday I pulled my tomatoes, which have done well. This year I only grew small yellow tomatoes, and I got a ton of them! But it was time to pull them. I also dug my potatoes. I felt so much joy finding those potatoes under the soil. My leeks didn't do well this year, but the onions, peppers, potatoes, and beets did. Always a garden optimist, I'm looking forward to building up my soil and planting more varieties next year. I'm also going to move some flowers so I can have a larger veggie garden.

Plant clinics have continued despite looking different this year. There's been a signboard at the Farmer's Market, telling people how to get help with their gardening questions. We have answered many, many questions from local people, from dealing with wasp nests, identifying weeds and plants and insects, protecting pine trees. A huge thank you to those of you who were willing to help these community members!

This month should bring some good changes. Our new coordinator will be here in the middle of the month, and we are looking forward to meeting her – by Zoom for the time being. We are also planning for a celebration for the current master gardeners that will take place later this month. And planning is taking place for the upcoming year. As we know more, we will share details.

A COUPLE KINDS OF PESTO – Marilyn Richardson

My son grew a lot of basil this year and shared it with me, so I had fun trying to find ways to use it. I made salads, ribboned it into scrambled eggs, had it with tomatoes and mozzarella. Here are a couple of other ways to use an abundance of basil:

Basil Pesto

1/3 cup pine nuts
3 oz. Parmesan, grated (about ¾ cup)
2 garlic cloves
6 cups basil leaves (about 3 bunches)
¾ cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 tsp. kosher salt

Toast pine nuts lightly in ungreased skillet for 2-3 minutes. Mix with garlic cloves in food processor, pulse until finely chopped. Add basil leaves and pulse, while slowly pouring in olive oil. Stir in salt and Parmesan cheese. You can keep this in the refrigerator, covered with a small amount of olive oil to keep it fresh.

To make pesto pasta: cook 2-4 servings of pasta, set aside. Heat 2-3 Tbsp of olive oil in a pan, add pesto along with ¼-½ cup of pasta water. Add cooked pasta, toss and heat. Sprinkle with more Parmesan cheese and serve.

Zucchini Pesto recipe on next page.



The Dirt Sheet

WCMGA Executive Committee Meeting, 9/15/2020

Members present: Marilyn Richardson, Annabelle Lavier, Bruce Lavier, Jens Frederickson, Peggy Peterson

Extension Representative: Kim McCullough

Minutes: Bill moved and Jens seconded motion to approve minutes as presented (email). Motion passed.

Treasury: \$11,732.00 as of August 15, 2020. Bruce moved and Jens seconded motion to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Motion passed.

The DIG: Bruce reported that Google completed their planting project along the fence line.

OMGA: no report.

Kim Reports: Continue to learn how to best produce video gardening posts. At this time, there needs to be more training and discussion on how best to produce the podcasts. None of the previously made podcasts will be aired (posted on the web).

Hiring process: Andrea Stith has signed a contract and will be available soon. Marilyn will notify the Board as well as notify Master Gardeners. The Executive Council will meet the new coordinator at a meet and greet at The DIG on October 8 (Thursday) at 4:00 pm followed by an introduction to the membership during one of the Garden Chats.

Expect another survey from the state to determine the best training topics for next year.

Mary Ann Pauline has a greenhouse to donate along with greenhouse supplies and upon review of the greenhouse have agreed to site the structure at The DIG. Work parties to set up the site and to move the greenhouse are to be determined. At this time the air quality is not conducive to outside activities.

Cindy has called Google and they have given their approval as long as the greenhouse is on the present DIG site. Marilyn has purchased the cement blocks that will be used as part of the foundation.

Officers for 2021: Nomination committee includes the Board with the officers in the open offices to contact prospective candidates. Candace was provided with a possible list of President-elect candidates. Jens also agreed to find a replacement.

Adjourn 3:15 p.m.

Annabelle Lavier, Secretary

Continued from last page

Zucchini Pesto

2 cups grated zucchini
1 clove garlic
2 tablespoons pine nuts
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 cup fresh basil leaves
salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup olive oil

Toast pine nuts lightly in ungreased skillet for 2-3 minutes. Mix with garlic in food processor, pulse until finely chopped. Add basil leaves and pulse, while slowly adding olive oil. Add zucchini and pulse. Stir in salt and Parmesan cheese; keep refrigerated.

I made the zucchini pesto to use up a large zucchini someone gave me. I don't grow zucchini because it is not a favorite of mine, and I always am given some by people who grow way too much!! I used it for pasta pesto, but my husband wasn't too fond of it. I froze it in small, about ¼ c mounds, and then put all the frozen mounds into a freezer bag. When I made chicken soup, I added a couple of mounds of the pesto to the soup and it added a good flavor and body to the soup. Now it's a staple in my freezer for all my soups this winter. A good way to use zucchini when you don't want to make any more zucchini bread!

The Dirt Sheet

Elevate -> Generate -> Populate: Master Gardener Training Classes in 2021

The 2021 Elevated Master Gardener Training will be available to all current Master Gardener Volunteers, including those students who were enrolled in the 2020 Master Gardener training classes (regardless of whether or not they were able to finish their 2020 coursework or volunteer service hours). These classes will be coupled with garden and horticulture education classes that will be available to Master Gardener Volunteers, as well as the general gardening public. More details on the overall *concept* for the 2021 Elevated Master Gardener Training can be found, below.

In order to help us finalize training topics and delivery, we would like to hear from YOU! What classes would YOU like to take? What factors might limit your participation? Share your ideas, questions, and comments with us, by taking a short survey. The survey consists of 16 questions, and will be open through October 4, 2020.

https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GHRZznxFBTSkrX

Questions about the survey or the 2021 Elevated Master Gardener Training may be directed to Gail Langellotto at gail.langellotto@oregonstate.edu or 541-737-5175.

2021 Training • Overview



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener™



ELEVATE

2021 Training for Existing Master Gardeners learn new virtual & online tools

- Deepen topic areas of interest
- Connect with fellow Master Gardeners locally and statewide

For example:

- Webinars
- Online class instruction
- Chat groups
- Interest groups
- Bulletin boards
- Video instruction
- Live chats with experts



GENERATE

Master Gardeners use new skills to develop tools & programs for their local communities

For example:

- Weekly virtual plant clinics
- Podcast for gardening with conifers
- Short video series for pruning fruit trees
- Photo how-to stratifying seeds
- Video visits to area gardens
- Conversations with beginning gardeners Q&A video
- Houseplant troubleshooting series
- How to identify hornets
- 3 projects for gardening with kids



POPULATE

Oregon's gardening public learns about gardening in new ways

For example:

- New beginning gardeners know they can drop in open hours virtually on set days and talk to a neighbor about a pest problem
- People who've never interacted at the office have many different ways to interact with their local experts
- First time gardeners get advice from their neighbors and experts across the state
- Oregonians learn how accessible and knowledgeable Master Gardeners are

The Dirt Sheet

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

October 1		Andrea Stith begins (remotely)
October 14	2:30pm	Garden Chat
October 19		Andrea is here in person!
October 20	2pm	Board Meeting
October 22 (tentative)	4 pm	2020 Year End Wasco County MG Celebration, The DIG
October 31		Deadline for November/December newsletter



INTERESTED IN HOUSEPLANTS AND HELPING TO BETA TEST FLIPGRID?

Brooke Edmunds, Community Horticulturist for Linn and Benton Counties, is creating a houseplant learning community on Flipgrid to try out the platform and would welcome any master gardeners to join in. Flipgrid is an informal video communication platform (<https://info.flipgrid.com>) and I think it could be a fun way for folks to connect and learn from each other.

If you're interested in this volunteer opportunity, please check it out:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4QVtzl48Yk2HqExKJxPBEyIMV-G4o0RAnSTBY4_7WrFURVdQRFFUREMySDE3NkJTvFBKV0lyTUY5SC4u

You will be added to the private Flipgrid group roster and provided with more instructions.

Please note, any time involved with this can be counted as "volunteer hours"

Kim McCullough