

# THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

Volume 13, Issue 4

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## UPCOMING ONLINE CLASSES – Andrea Stith

Below is the information for both the [Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series](#): and the [Elevated MG Skills Training](#) : (all of these count for [continuing education](#)). Reminder you are free to select which you attend, for your 10 hours of required continuing education credit this year. Let me know if you have any questions or issues accessing the classes.

[Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series](#): This monthly zoom series kicked off in January 2021, offering education for the experienced gardener led by OSU horticulture experts from across the state. Take your gardening knowledge to the next level with timely topics from gardening in a changing climate to techniques to extend your season. The webinars will be broadcast via Zoom, **the second Tuesday of the month, at 3 PM**, January through November, 2021. If you cannot attend, all webinars will be recorded here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series> This series is open to the public, and OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers receive 1 Continuing Education Credit for each class taken. You can take one, or take all. Cost is free. I do encourage you to register as soon as possible as we have found the day of registration does not work well. (Thank you Annabelle for letting me know that.)

- January 12: Understanding Seed Characteristics ([watch recording here](#))
- February 9: Multifunctional Hedgerows ([watch recording here](#))
- March 9: Dirt gone bad: When your soil amendment has been contaminated ([Register here](#))
- April 13: Dazzling Dahlias ([Register here](#))

Registration not open yet:

- May 11: Water-wise Gardening
- June 8: Unique Winter Vegetables to Grow
- July 13: Fire-wise Landscaping
- August 10: Season Extension Techniques
- September 14: Gardening with Native Plants for Pollinators
- October 12: Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change
- November 9: Using Life Cycle Analysis to Understand the Sustainability of Your Garden Products and Practices

March flowers



Crocus



*Iris reticulata* – rock iris



*Fritillaria pudica* - yellow bells



*Lithophragma glabrum* – smooth prairie star



*Dodecatheon conjugens* – desert shooting star

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Bruce Lavier

**Time to take your garden's soil temperature. Then you can get the seeds out and start planting.**

One of the best ways to determine when to plant is to use soil temperature instead of using the calendar.

Early morning is the best time to monitor soil temperature. You want the coldest temperature, not the temperature of the soil after it's been warmed by the sun later in the day. You need to know the coldest temperature your seeds will experience. If the soil is too cold your seeds may not sprout and could rot.

### Measuring Soil Temperature

To take your soil's temperature use a metal thermometer designed to take soil temperature, not the one in your medicine cabinet. Insert the thermometer 3-4" into the soil. Take the temperature for a few days in a row to be sure it is consistent, and, before planting, check your weather forecast. You really don't want a surprise cold spell to freeze your seeds.

### Soil Temperature for Common Seeds

Optimal means that 100% germination should be expected.

Beans 80 F	Beets 85 F
Carrots 80 F	Corn 95 F
Lettuce 75 F	Peas 75 F
Tomato 85 F	

**Note that the optimum temperatures may seem high.** If you're comfortable with less than 100% germination, say in the 70-80% range, then you could use lower soil temperatures when planting. Realistic temperatures for planting:

Beans 70 F	Beets 45 F
Carrots 45 F	Corn 70 F
Lettuce 45 F	Peas 45 F
Tomato 70 F	

Use the same guidelines for soil temperatures to plant seeds, and to transplant seedlings.

## The DIG NEWS – Cindy Russell

Mother Nature is not very subtle sometimes! I believe the message she was sending with her recent "snow show" was that it's just too early to plant outdoors. However, the focus at The DIG this year will be fruits and veggies, and there are a variety of hardy vegetables that can be started indoors. Broccoli, beans, peas, kale, spinach, radish and lettuce are just a few choices for cool weather produce. If you are planning to grow them in your garden or at The DIG, now is a good time to start them inside.

There are still a few garden beds and containers available for adoption. Please let me know if you would like to participate. It's a rewarding way to fulfill volunteer hours!

We will have a zoom meeting March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. to chat about The DIG and answer questions you have. We'll talk about plant labels, bed signs, Storybook bed props, irrigation, and anything you would like to ask.

Tentatively, we will begin the 2021 season at The DIG on March 27th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. It's earlier than past years, and the water will not be turned on until about April 15th but I'm hoping that by then Covid rules will relax and OSU will allow us to gather outdoors. If so, we will go through Covid protocol procedure as part of the checklist of procedures while volunteering at The DIG.

Garry Peterson will be available to help with irrigation needs. It's important to have a plan in mind as to what you'll be growing so it can be watered accordingly.

Stay tuned for updates. If you are currently going out to The DIG individually, please remember to wear a mask, sign in/out and sanitize.

"Planning is 88% of planting"

# The Dirt Sheet

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## WCMGA Executive Committee Meeting, 2/16/2021

Members present: Marilyn Richardson, Annabelle Lavier, Bruce Lavier, Jens Frederickson, Jean Zylka, Steve Gillette, Ronnie Smith

Extension Representative: Andrea Stith

**Minutes:** Steve moved and Marilyn seconded motion to approve minutes as presented (email). Motion passed.

**Treasurer:** \$11,600.77 as of 2/15/2021. Ronnie made and Marilyn seconded motion to accept Treasurer's report as presented subject to audit. Motion passed. Jens and Jean wrestled through the new required form and submitted them to the state on time. Board members appreciated their effort.

**Coordinator's report:** (Andrea)  
Weekly Monday updates continue.

The mini college will be virtual with registration beginning in March.

4-H kits numbering in the hundreds are completed. Andrea thanks the Master Gardeners who volunteered to help.

Master Gardener of the Year nomination is due to Andrea. The Board or a team selected by the Board will select the individual. Each Board member shall submit a nominee to Andrea within the week.

Presently WCMGA has 31 members with a few application packets lost in the mail. Board members will call past members and ask follow up questions. Andrea will divide the list and email the information to Board members.

Andrea's Sunday posts will feature Master Gardener members. She emphasized that members need to fill out the bio information. She needs something to post.

Jean mentioned that the trainings available have been really good and encourages members to participate and to continue to watch. Andrea reminded members that they need ten hours of trainings for this year. Discussion boards will be cut off in April.

**OMGA** – Ronnie hopes to connect with the members and participate in the meeting.

**The DIG** – Cindy is working on signing up DIG beds to individuals. Bruce and Mark hope to have a working lock on the greenhouse soon. The four keys will be stored along with the other garden keys in the storage shed. The benches are stored inside. Pam Manning will continue to explore the options for "Coffee at The DIG".

Bill Marick has agreed to be President Elect for this year as appointed by the Board to complete the term due to resignation of the elected member.

**Meet and Greet** had 21 individuals logged on. Marilyn mentioned that she thought it went well. Jens agreed.

### **New Business:**

Megan, Hood River Coordinator, asked about arranging a joint meeting of the two Master Gardener chapters. Members agreed that a late afternoon or early evening meeting would be best.

Steve Gillette has a new job and will not be able to attend many meetings. His territory will include southern California, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. Some of his work will be remote, but he will need to travel.

Jean moved and motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

### **Annabelle Lavier, Secretary**

"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today." Beverly Rose Hopper

## Wasco County Master Gardener FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATE

Here's February's insight data for 1/29-2/25. Our posts have reached 2,431 people this month which is down 26% from last month. I'm still working to figure out which types of posts seem to get the most attention, as well as how to walk the line of posting enough to stay current in people's newsfeeds without over-posting content. I'm still really happy with the amount of people we reached!

Even with the decline of post reach, we are up 34% for post engagements which means more people are commenting, reacting, and sharing our posts. I love seeing fellow MG's liking and commenting on our posts. Thank you for your continued support!

At the beginning of February I made a post on The Dalles Happenings fb page explaining who we are and what our mission is. I asked people to like and follow our page and it worked! We are up 54% for page likes with 114 new likes this month which brought our total page likes to 501! We started January with 318 likes so this is fantastic! We also had two plant clinic questions come in this month through the Facebook page.

On 2/7 Andrea started Sunday Spotlights which feature one Master Gardener every Sunday. People are loving these posts with over 1,300 views total! Definitely make sure you check in on Sundays to view these posts and show your support.

Please let me know if you are seeing a trend in plant clinic questions or if your friends and neighbors are asking you about anything in particular when it comes to gardening. These are topics I'd love to post about on the fb page.

Thank you!  
**Hilary Jensen**

## EATING SUSTAINABLY: Green Onions and Leeks – Using it All – Jean Zilka

This year I am going to try growing a couple new vegetables in my garden. I "sort of" tried green onions last year, but lost track of them when everything else got large. I have never tried growing leeks, but do enjoy eating them, so this year leeks and onions are in the trial bed. I am also looking at how to better use all my harvest and found the website [foodprint.org](http://foodprint.org) which defines a "foodprint" as the result of *everything* it takes to get food from the farm to your plate.

While we all use green onions in many recipes and salads, we often discard the top greens. Same with leeks as the leek and potato soup recipes call for the bulb and white portions only. I came across a very interesting article on the [foodprint](http://foodprint.org) site about using the tops of green onions/scallions and leeks! Here are a few ideas from that page: <https://foodprint.org/blog/how-to-use-leftover-leek-scallion-green-onion-tops/>.

For scallion and green onion greens:

- Charred: throw on the grill whole and serve with Romesco sauce.
- Pureed: turn scallion greens into a chimichurri sauce, blending with fresh herbs, olive oil, wine vinegar and seasonings. Use a topping for grilled meats and fish.
- Scallion spread; an easy oniony dip- combine equal parts goat cheese and cream cheese with finely chopped scallion greens, salt and pepper.

For leek tops:

- Grill the greens: the char of the grill is a great complement to leek greens and both tenderizing them and adding smoky flavor.
- Leek pasta sauce: braise the greens in a little stock. Puree until smooth with ricotta and parmesan cheese and toss with pasta.
- Sauteed: see <https://cookingchatfood.com/leek-greens-with-bacon/> for full recipe as well as wine paring!

I plan to really explore the *foodprint* site and learn more about sustainably growing and eating produce.

## Love for Leaves – Kathy O’Hern

Gardeners have a great respect for leaves. We recognize that leaves are critical to plants for photosynthesis – the very basis of life and growth. Leaves help detect issues a plant may have – wilting because of lack of water, signs of various fungal or bacterial infections, and insect infestations. Leaves, along with flowers, are an important component of plant identification,

Leaves also bring us enjoyment – at this time of the year we gardeners are watching anxiously for spring leaves to emerge. And throughout the season changing leaves are fun to watch. Equally pleasurable is the smell of decomposing leaves on the winter forest floor.

I admit to collecting leaves (sometimes compulsively) my entire life. As a child to press in books or make crayon rubbings. On to teen years pressing leaves into the warm wax of handmade candles. Now adulthood and still collecting leaves to use in various art projects.

Enter my latest obsession – Botanical Printing.

The process of Botanical Printing, also called Eco-dyeing, transfers the image of the actual leaf to paper or cloth. This natural dye technique involves:

1. Selection of leaves that have good transfer properties.
2. Placement of the leaves on damp paper or cloth, then ‘bundling’ in a way that creates a good contact between the leaf and the paper or cloth. This is achieved by rolling cloth around a dowel and lashing with string. Paper can be stacked between tiles and weighted with a rock or brick.
3. Application of moisture and heat to the bundle by steaming or boiling for over an hour. Multiple prints are made in one batch, so it’s not a huge waste of power.

Leaves with good transfer properties include Oak, Maple, Sumac, Blackberry, Raspberry, Rose, Geranium, Eucalyptus – the list is long. Leaves that have a waxy surface, such as Oregon Grape, do not work well. Leaves from

perennial plants result in better transfers than annuals, although there are some exceptions. The back side of a leaf, or moon side, transfer a stronger image than the front, or sun side. Summer and fall leaves result in a stronger transfer than newly-grown spring leaves. There is a lot to learn about using leaves in this process!

The type of cloth or paper chosen will make a difference; these can be pre-treated or “mordanted” to improve the leaf transfer. Background color may be added with the introduction of dyes. Botanical Printing can be as simple, or as complex, as you want to make it!

The results are always a surprise and usually, not always, beautiful – especially appealing for admirers of leaves. Like us gardeners!



# The Dirt Sheet

## ONLINE CLASSES, cont. from pg 1

### [Elevated MG Skills Training : \(all of these count for continuing education\)](#)

We're excited to offer this new series of 15 trainings for existing Master Gardener Volunteers (including 2020 trainees). Registration is open and you may sign up for as many classes as you like. (Please note that, even though registration is currently open for all classes, that each course will 'open' and become available, across a 10-week period.)

### Overview of 2021 Elevated MG Skills Training and the Learning Platform Thinkific:

This class is **required pre-requisite** for any other course in this series. [ENROLL HERE](#)

- **Zoom Basics:**  
Opened January 29<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Advanced Zoom:**  
Opened January 29<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **iNaturalist for Master Gardener Volunteers:**  
Opened February 6<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Garden Woody Plant ID with the OSU Landscape Plants Database:**  
Opened February 5<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Best Practices for Online Plant Clinic:**  
Opened February 12<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Learning How to Use the Extension Client Contact Online (ECCO) Tool in Plant Clinic:**  
Opened February 12<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Taking Your Master Gardener Social Media to the Next Level:** Opened February 19<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)

- **Best Practices in Youth Gardening Programs:** Opens February 26<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Superpower Your Educational Garden:** Opens February 26<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Community Science and the Master Gardener Program:** Opens March 5<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Showcase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Efforts in Other States:** Opens March 12<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **OSU Extension's Diversity Training for Volunteers:** Opens March 12<sup>th</sup> More information to come.
- **Recipes for a Collaborative Community:** Opens March 15<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Building Community Partnerships to Broaden Outreach:** Opens March 19<sup>th</sup> [REGISTER HERE](#)

If you are on Facebook, you may want to consider joining the private group that we have set up to coincide with this 10-week training period. Connect with other Master Gardeners, ask questions, or share observations. [JOIN THE PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP HERE](#) If you all have issues registering or working through these classes please let me know I am happy to help.



# The Dirt Sheet

Newsletter of the Wasco County  
Master Gardener™ Association

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## Officers

President – Bruce Lavier

President Elect – Bill Marick

Past President – Marilyn Richardson

Secretary – Annabelle Lavier

Treasurer – Jens Fredericksen  
Treasurer in training – Jean Zylka

Historian – Candace Newman

OMGA Rep – Ronnie Smith  
Alternate OMGA Rep – Steve Gillette

## OSU Extension Staff

Andrea Stith, 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

March 3	6 pm	Zoom chat about The DIG
March 6	9am-4pm	BEEvent Pollinator Conference
March 9	3 pm	Dirt Gone Bad class
March 16	2 pm	Board meeting
March 17	2:30pm	Garden chat
March 27	9am-12:00	Work Party at The DIG
March 27		Deadline for April newsletter
July 16-17		Virtual Mini College, info below
Sept. 12-17		IMGC, info below

**Seventh Annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference** March  
6, 2021 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. PST

Click here for information & tickets:

[https://linnmastergardeners.com/BEEvent?fbclid=IwAR1hI5\\_Dmccg6-UyoJX40djalt6gWpkw7bE4Xf7-ERgbIZqqSG29PUPhEWDA](https://linnmastergardeners.com/BEEvent?fbclid=IwAR1hI5_Dmccg6-UyoJX40djalt6gWpkw7bE4Xf7-ERgbIZqqSG29PUPhEWDA)

GREAT NEWS! There will be **Master Gardeners Mini College in 2021**. It's going to be virtual but filled with exciting interactive classes and workshops, exciting keynote presentations, and a lot of the fun activities that have always been a part of Mini College. We have been asked to tell you to Save the Dates: July 16 and 17, 2021; registration will open in March.

**International Master Gardener Conference** (see <https://www.internationalmastergardener.com/about/> for more information)

- schedule to be published in March 2021
- registration to open April 5, 2021
- IMGC: September 12-17,2021