

THE DIRT SHEET

A Publication of the Wasco County Master Gardener™ Association

Inside this Issue

President's Corner	2
Facebook Pg Update	2
WCMGA board mtg	3
Rhubarb BBQ Sauce	4
Bok Choy	4
Online class info	5
Calendar	6
Mini College & IMGC	6

Scenes from Work party at The DIG

There was an impressive turnout of people for the Saturday work party at The DIG. Future work parties will be Tuesday evenings every other week from 6-8 pm on April 13 & 27, May 11 & 25, and June 8. You don't have to have adopted a bed to come help, there is plenty to do! This is a fun way to visit with other master gardeners, get in some volunteer payback hours, and help make the garden look wonderful!

Spring flowers



Apricot - *Prunus armeniaca*



Tulip



Puschkinia scilliodes - striped squill



Dicentra cucullaria - Dutchman's breeches



Balsamorhiza & *Lupinus* - balsamorhiza & lupine



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Bruce Lavier

When you see something bubbling forth from the side of your house, do you react with pleasure (it might be oil), or do you think of four letter words? Earlier this year we had brown, smelly liquid oozing out of the snow on the western side of our lot. The plumber and his crew spent the morning digging until they discovered a hole in our neighbor's sewer pipe. We've live in this house for over forty years and didn't know that our neighbor who lives on the street above us has his sewer line run down the western side of our lot.

Needless to say, the 45 year old sewer pipe needs to be replaced. Instead of a bee and bird friendly yard, we now have a bulldozer friendly yard. By this time next month, we hope to have the sewer pipe securely in the ground and equally important, some type of landscaping. Can you imagine the westerly winds and the dust that will flow through our house if nothing is planted?

It's spring, enjoy pulling weeds, setting up the water system, and planting your favorite vegetables. Oh yes, and enjoy the array of blooming flowers. It's prime time to be a Wasco County Master Gardener... even if you're stuck replacing sewer pipe!



Wasco County Master Gardener FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATE

We have officially gained over 200 likes to our page since January 1st, bringing our total up to 522 likes! This last month we've shared tips on starting seeds, using tarps to haul debris, and different on-line learning opportunities; MG spotlights on Laura Klement, Carolyn Wright, myself, and Nancy Lingo; and several funny memes. The memes are generating the most reacts, shares, and views which is really helping the page continue to show in people's newsfeeds.

For the month of March we made 7 informative posts which netted 80 reacts, 11 shares, 19 comments, and 1,308 views; 6 posts with funny memes that have a total of 122 reacts, 44 shares, 24 comments, and 3,332 views; and 4 MG spotlights (only 3 have been published at the time of writing this) with a total of 56 reacts, 6 shares, 24 comments, and 850 views. For only 3 posts, this is incredible! People really love seeing the Spotlights so please send your information in to Andrea if you haven't already.

If you have ideas for gardening tips, come across funny memes, or have any great photos of your gardens and plants, please send them over to me so I can share them with our ever-growing community. As always, your continued support on the fb page is noticed and appreciated!

Hilary Jensen



The Dirt Sheet

WCMGA Executive Committee Meeting, 3/16/2021

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

Extension Representative: Andrea Stith

Minutes: Ronnie moved and Marilyn seconded motion to table approval of February's minutes until the April meeting. Members unable to open sent minutes.

Treasurer: \$11,600.77 as of 2/15/2021. Ronnie made and Marilyn seconded the motion to accept Treasurer's report as presented, subject to audit. Motion passed.

Coordinator's report: (Andrea)

Master Gardener of the Year – Annabelle made and Ronnie seconded motion to nominate Marilyn as Chapter Master Gardener of the Year. Motion passed.

Andrea will continue to post weekly updates of activities and trainings. Members are encouraged to participate with the online classes/training. If there are problems with access, contact Andrea.

Rose pruning is scheduled for Saturday, March 20 from 9-noon. Marv will host the training.

OMGA – Executive Board voted to nominate Marilyn for Chapter Gardener of Year and forward her nomination to state.

The DIG – Cindy has scheduled a series of work parties beginning with a Saturday workshop on 3/27 from 9-noon. At this time the date that Google will turn on the water is expected to be around April 1st. Cindy will contact Crystal Greens to see if it could turn the water on sooner.

Future gathering dates at The DIG are scheduled for Tuesday evenings, 6-8 pm on 4/13, 4/27, 5/11, 5/25, and 6/8.

Cindy has obtained even more seeds from the library. They are stored in the shed at The DIG.

Bruce will have additional key(s) made for the greenhouse. Andrea should have key kept at the Extension Office.

Plant Clinics: Explore the option of a panel discussion with a range of garden questions. The group sessions could be seasonal (spring April, Summer June, and fall, August). Andrea would like other Master Gardeners to add their names to the contact list.

New Business:

Megan, Hood River Coordinator, has postponed the joint meeting of the two Master Gardener chapters until this September.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Annabelle Lavier, Secretary



The DIG in August, 2012

Roasted Rhubarb Barbeque Sauce – Anni Kappus-Lively

4 cups coarsely chopped rhubarb
 3 cloves garlic, peeled
 1 cup water (plus more, as needed)
 3 TBSP balsamic vinegar
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ¼ cup ketchup
 1 TBSP Worcestershire sauce
 1 TBSP chili powder
 ¼ tsp cinnamon
 Dash of cayenne pepper
 Salt and black pepper, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray generously with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Place the chopped rhubarb and garlic cloves on the prepared pan. Roast for 15-20 minutes, or until rhubarb is soft.
3. Transfer the rhubarb and garlic to a food processor or blender. Puree with one cup of water until smooth.
4. Pour the puree into a medium saucepan. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Add additional water, as needed, until sauce is desired consistency.
5. Bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Simmer for 10-15 minutes. Cool before pouring into storage containers. Keep refrigerated. This recipe makes about 2 cups (depending on how much water you add). Will keep in refrigerator for a month. You can also process in canning pint jars for 20-25 minutes in a water bath or freeze.

Courtesy of letsdishrecipes.com

New Trial Vegetables continued... Bok Choy – Jean Zilka

Another new vegetable for me this year is Bok Choy. It is a type of Chinese cabbage. I purchased 6 starts this week and brought home to do some research on how to grow and when to harvest. This is not a vegetable that I normally purchase or eat, so lots to explore.

I found that Bok Choy is a cool season crop and is best grown in late summer and fall. It is frost hardy, and continues to grow in cold weather after insect pests are gone. It is suggested to plant seeds in the fall in full sun and in small batches every few weeks to produce a steady supply.

However, I have my starts now! In reading about growing for spring the biggest problem is bolting. It is a biennial and as such if exposed to frost or extended low temperatures, then a rise in temperature will trigger it into the second year flowering stage. If they begin to bolt, best to harvest immediately. So, I will have to keep indoors until safe to put out... It is all an experiment.

Using my bok choy looks easy. It can be used in a stir fry, soups, or on its own. A quick search on the internet brings up lots of recipes. This one caught my attention as it incorporates shrimp and mushrooms with the bok choy in an easy stir fry. I look forward to trying it in a few weeks when my little starts are big enough to eat!

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/shrimp-with-chinese-greens-stir-fry-695180>

The Dirt Sheet

ONLINE CLASSES – Andrea Stith

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

[Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series:](#)

The webinars will be broadcast via Zoom, the [second Tuesday of the month, at 3 PM](#), January through November, 2021. If you cannot attend, recordings of all webinars will be here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/growing-oregon-gardeners-level-series> Master Gardeners receive 1 Continuing Education Credit for each class taken. You can take one, or take all. Register as soon as possible as we have found the day of registration does not work well.

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

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

We're excited to offer this new series of 15 trainings for Master Gardeners. Registration is open and you may sign up for as many classes as you like.

[Overview of 2021 Elevated MG Skills Training and the Learning Platform Thinkific:](#) This class is **required prerequisite** for any other course in this series. [ENROLL HERE](#)

- [Zoom Basics: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Advanced Zoom: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [iNaturalist for Master Gardener Volunteers: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Garden Woody Plant ID with the OSU Landscape Plants Database: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Best Practices for Online Plant Clinic: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Learning How to Use the Extension Client Contact Online \(ECCO\) Tool in Plant Clinic: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Taking Your Master Gardener Social Media to the Next Level: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Best Practices in Youth Gardening Programs: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Superpower Your Educational Garden: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Community Science and the Master Gardener Program: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Showcase Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Efforts in Other States: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [OSU Extension's Diversity Training for Volunteers: Opened March 12th More information to come.](#)
- [Recipes for a Collaborative Community: REGISTER HERE](#)
- [Building Community Partnerships to Broaden Outreach: REGISTER HERE](#)

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/>

The Facebook page is open to all:

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

If you are on Instagram here is the link:

<https://www.instagram.com/wascocountymastergardeners/>

Calendar

April 13	3 pm	Dazzling Dahlias class
April 13	6-8 pm	Work party at The DIG
April 20	2 pm	Board meeting
April 21	2:30pm	Garden chat
April 27	6-8 pm	Work Party at The DIG
May 1		Deadline for May newsletter
May 11	6-8 pm	Work Party at The DIG
July 16-17		Virtual Mini College, info below
Sept. 12-17		IMGC, info below

You can report your volunteer hours online at the following:
<https://mqvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu/>

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; watch Andrea's emails for more information to get registered.

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