



JULY 2022

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 8

THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION



PINK MOUNTAIN HEATHER -
PHYLLODOCE EMPETRIFORMIS



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President's Corner

I was worried that I would not be able to come up with anything to talk about this month. I was thinking about all that has been accomplished so far this year and - maybe we could now just settle back and let our gardens do their thing. WRONG! I just finished mowing my back 40 again, after mowing the lawn. I have raspberries and peas ripe and already got a yellow pear tomato. The cherry tree has been covered to keep the birds off of the fruit and I will have to pick in a week or so. I have a lot of apples on my trees and will have to thin and continue spraying for good fruit. The peaches are looking wonderful so far and my little pear will be productive this year. The prune is loaded and the fig also will produce. I'm glad I didn't expand my garden as I was tempted to do. In addition to what we all have going on individually, here are a few things for our group to focus on:

We have been approached by the City of The Dalles, Parks and Recreation Department to take over maintenance of the Sorosis Rose Garden. They would also let us do the City Park roses if we wanted. The Board discussed this at our last meeting and decided to give it a try. We will have an initial gathering at the Garden on July 10 at 7:00 PM to assess and plan next steps. The Board hopes that this can be an educational opportunity for master gardeners and community members. We hope this could be done on a less-than-regular basis and offer opportunities to those who need more flexible hours to meet their volunteer time commitment.

Our July Board meeting will be held at Hilary Jensen's home in Tygh Valley. This will be a Quarterly meeting in addition to our Board meeting. Hilary will be giving a tour of her garden and explaining the challenges she faced and how she has

overcome them. I guarantee it will be interesting and educational. Please try to car pool considering the current cost of gas. I will have room in my car, but may have to jump into the river and won't return immediately.

Mini College will be July 29th and 30th (more information in this issue). If anyone has questions, please let me know. I have been getting regular reminders that it is coming and am never sure if it is getting out to everyone. The agenda looks good and has many interesting offerings. I haven't been able to attend, but hopefully will be able one of these years. A chance to stay in a dorm room again!

We have an understaffed booth at the Wasco County Fair this year. Ronnie has volunteered to put it together but probably would accept some assistance on getting materials together, out to the Fair and back in again. Please contact her with interest.

The DIG is looking great! Our work parties are productive and the Saturday at the DIG events are being well attended. Join whenever you are able. If there is anyone who loves bugs and wants to help me on the 23rd of July, you will be welcome to join. It will be a fun and educational time.

There are still many opportunities to cover plant clinics, both at the Saturday Market and in the office. With our small numbers, we are stretched to cover them all.

Enjoy the warmer weather we are having. It should bring on the fruits and vegetables that have been waiting for better growing conditions..

Happy Gardening,
Bill Marick

A background image of a field of yellow columbine flowers. The flowers have five petals and prominent stamens. The image is slightly blurred, focusing on the text in the foreground.

HILARY JENSEN

New Computer!

Our plant-clinic office at the college has new technology! Please read the announcement below for updated procedures.

At our last in-office plant clinic, Kelsey and I set up a brand new computer for everyone to use. We've simplified a few things for you all but this is a change from how it was before so here's your heads up notice.

You will only need to log into the computer upon your arrival. It is now set to stay awake for the duration of your plant clinic session (3 hours from the first time you log-in). This means no more repeated log-ins every time it goes to sleep! When you leave your plant clinic session, you don't need to shut anything down on the computer. Just turn out the room light and close the door. The computer knows what to do!

On the computer desktop there are two notes on the screen with information about what you need to know during your time there. If there is anything additional that you think would be helpful to add, please let me know and I'll get that taken care of.

You will also notice that there are two icons under the notes. One is labeled "Internet" and one is labeled "email". Just double click on either one of these icons and you're in! The OSU website is bookmarked on the Internet and so is our personal Wasco County MG page. If there are any other websites you think would be helpful to bookmark, let me know.

You should find this new set up to be much quicker than the last! A big thank you to Kim for making sure we have new equipment before she retires.

MORNINGS AT THE DIG

2022 Summer Gardening Series



Saturdays at 9am

Klindt Dr. & Steelhead Way
in the Port District of The Dalles
Free Event

- Jun 4** Irrigation Techniques for the Garden
- Jun 11** Mason Jar Succulents for Kids
- Jun 18** The Worm Lady
- Jun 25** Sweet Cherry Tasting
- Jul 2** *No Program*
- Jul 9** Oregon Bee Project
- Jul 16** Explore the Herb Garden
- Jul 23** Bugs: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly
- Jul 30** Seed Saving
- Aug 6** Natural Dyes from Flowers
- Aug 13** Rhubarb
- Aug 20** Painting in the Garden with Kids
- Aug 27** Tomato Tasting

Find out more information:

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

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/home-garden-landscape>



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Master Gardener

OSU Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials.

If you need accommodations please contact our office 2 weeks prior to the event at [541-296-5494](tel:541-296-5494).

HILARY JENSEN

July Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 19th at 2pm
83135 Tygh Valley Road, Tygh Valley

Come on out to Tygh Valley on July 19th at 2pm for some educational fun! Experience the board meeting and then take a tour through my garden spaces. Tygh Valley is a bit of a different climate than The Dalles which is very important info for any Wasco County MG to know! I'd love to share with you all what I've done to amend my garden soil, too. Living on the White River means my garden soil is 100% sand. No joke!

Bill, Ronnie, and Jean have offered to drive folks out, so if you'd like to carpool, please contact one of them. Snacks and drinks will be provided and you can **RSVP to me via email: hilary1813@aol.com or by phone: 503-438-8727.** I hope to see you in July!



RONNIE SMITH

OMGA - Mini College

Register Online - Save the Date!
July 29-30

Attention all plant nerds, landscapers, master gardeners and other garden enthusiasts! The Joy of Gardening Conference aka "mini-college" has something for everyone and all are welcome. There will be classes available on sustainable landscaping and regenerative gardening; on native plant why-what-how; fruits and veggies, bees, birds, plants and soil maintenance; tours and field trips and much more. It is a 2 day 4 class format allowing time for Q & A's with instructors and discussion with fellow participants. Master gardeners can earn re-certification credit for all classes.

Scholarships may be available for class expenses. Lodging is available at the Hilton Garden Inn, or you can book a room in the OSU dorms. Other motels and campgrounds are also an option.

For more information or to register online, visit
<https://omga.org/mini-college-2022/>



"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece."

Claude Monet

Review & Reflection on the Greenhouse Plant Project

From Marilyn:

This was my first full season of working in the greenhouse as the Project Leader, and I had a good mentor in Peggy Peterson. Thank you, Peggy. I learned so much this year. We had 8 weeks to plant and grow several thousand plants for the Spring sale on May 7, instead of the normal 14 weeks. We cut back on the variety of plants we grew, concentrating on tomatoes and vegetables for the Master Gardeners and on annuals for the NORCOR sales.

One benefit of the shorter work season was the plants weren't in the greenhouse for the extra 6 weeks, and they were healthy. The weather was cool, which was a drawback for producing flowers, but the plants didn't suffer from disease or pests that sometimes infect greenhouse plants. We will make a decision this fall as to how many weeks we will grow for the 2023 sale.

One positive change was having a short daily meeting before starting each work day. Sometimes we demonstrated how to plant seeds, or trim plants, or tie up tomatoes, other days we just touched base about what we wanted to accomplish that day. Every person knew what the goal was for that day, and felt comfortable in knowing they had an important job to do.

There was some confusion on who was eligible to work in the greenhouse. I didn't make it clear that ALL were welcome, and some people who would have liked to work in the greenhouse felt that they weren't welcome. I sincerely apologize for this.

One change we are in discussion on, is to hold a pre-sale. We will research how this might work, and will advertise this before the 2023 Spring Sale, This should improve our sales which were down this year from previous years.

From Candy:

This was my first year back in Master Gardeners after more than ten years. It was great to see that we still have the NORCOR project going, although there have been a number of changes over the years. For the most part I saw adaptations that had been made to deal with changes in personnel at NORCOR, changes in teachers for the Juvenile side, changes in leadership in Master Gardeners, and the impacts of COVID on all systems. Many of these changes have improved the working partnership, but I think it will be important to sit down in early fall with all of the involved parties and review what is working and what could be improved as we look to next year.

My experience this year as a volunteer at NORCOR was good. I really liked the short meeting before starting work each day. I also appreciated the willingness to adapt work assignments so that we could be more efficient and still give opportunities for every volunteer to learn/practice the various aspects of working in the greenhouse.

Most importantly I want to thank our Project Leader Marilyn Richardson and her mentor Peggy Peterson. Both are extremely competent and helpful. Both put in a tremendous number of volunteer hours so that projects like that at NORCOR can be successful.





Chocolate Chip Cherry Bars

Not sure what to make with cherries? These cherry bars use a blondie base and turn out perfectly every single time! These bars are seriously so good!!

1/2	cup unsalted butter, melted (1 stick)	1.	Preheat oven to 350F. Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with aluminum foil, spray with cooking spray; set aside.
1	cup light brown sugar, packed	2.	In a medium microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter, about 60 seconds.
1	large egg	3.	To the melted butter, add the brown sugar and stir to combine.
2	teaspoons vanilla extract	4.	Add the egg, vanilla, and stir to combine. Add the flour, salt, and stir until just combined, taking care not to over mix or the blondies will be tough.
1	cup all-purpose flour	5.	Fold in chocolate chips, fruit (I don't halve the cherries: I like them chunky and big), and pour batter into prepared pan, smoothing it lightly with a spatula or offset knife if necessary.
1/4	teaspoon salt, optional	6.	Bake for 27 to 32 minutes, or until edges begin to slightly pull away from sides of pan and center is set.
3/4 - 1	cup semi-sweet chocolate chips	7.	Allow bars to cool for at least 1 hour before slicing and serving. Blondies can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week or frozen for up to 3 months.
1	cup cherries (fresh or frozen)		

Sorosis Park Rose Garden

Volunteers Needed!

Please come to a meeting on July 10, from 7:00-8:00 pm at Sorosis Park Rose Garden. In partnership with North Wasco Parks and Recreation District, we will be maintaining the rose garden starting on this date. You will earn volunteer hours, and meet people, and have fun. Refreshments will be served! Please Come!!



July 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 The DIG Work Party 6-8pm	6	7	8	9 The DIG - Oregon Bee Proj. 9am
10 Sorosis Park Planning 7-8 pm	11	12 Level up series- Ecological pest control	13	14	15	16 The DIG - Herb Garden 9am
17	18	19 The DIG Work Party 6-8pm Board Meeting @ 2pm- Tygh Valley	20	21	22	23 The DIG - Bugs 9am
24	25	26	27	28	29 OMGA Mini-College	30 The DIG - Seed Saving 9am OMGA - MC
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The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

Kelsey Alsheimer, Editor
kelsey.alsheimer@gmail.com

Carolyn Wright, Editor
carolynewright@gmail.com

Officers

President – Bill Marick
President Elect – Ronnie Smith
Past President – Bruce Lavier
Secretary – Annabelle Lavier

Treasurer – Jean Zylka
Historian – Hilary Jensen
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