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# THE DIRT SHEET

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASCO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION





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## President's Corner

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A very chilly, but enthusiastic, hello to you all! It was good to see so many of you at Soil Class. It was definitely entertaining as well as being educational. We have had our first day of planting in the green house at NORCOR on the 27th. Marilyn has a list of those cleared so far to work there. Mentors, this is a great time to discuss some of the projects and familiarize your new friends with info so they can make good choices on the ones they would enjoy. Some payback hour activities are underway or are coming up soon. They include: the NORCOR green house, the up-coming Rose Pruning Class (It is class time but is also a community service) and the seed exchanges. Hope to see you at classes. I think we all get much more out of it when we share time with each other.

See you soon,  
**Ronnie Smith**



# WCMGA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 2023

County Extension Board Room, 4:00pm

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**Members Present: Ronnie Smith; Jean Zylka; Annabelle Lavier; Candy Armstrong; Tammy Oakes; Marilyn Erikson; Bill Merick; Kendal Johnson representing Extension.**

Minutes:

Jean moved and Tammy seconded the motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report:

\$10,671.26. Tammy moved and Bill seconded the motion to accept the report. Subject to audit. Motion passed. Jean itemized expenditures included \$92.01 cleaning the greenhouse, and \$400 insurance for the greenhouse (half of the amount should be paid by NORCOR and Jean will discuss it with Barb).

Kendall's report:

Classes are ready to start. No contact yet with Google.

NORCOR:

Marilyn reported that she should receive the list of approved volunteers on Monday, 2/27. The work schedule is at this time scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 2:30 to 4:30 pm with students and Wednesday 10-12 am. Barb should have the soil by February 18. Presale will need a committee to work on the details.

Spring Fair: Nancy Lingo wants to train someone. Volunteers are welcome.

Tammy is working on and will send in the OMGA report.

Marilyn reported that the Advocacy Task Force has requested letters for support of additional funding from Master Gardeners for the program in Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties. After much discussion, no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

# WCMGA 2023 Class Schedule

## Class Schedule

Date/Time	Class and Instructor	In-person Location
Tues. 1/31 5:30-6:30	New Member Orientation, Mentor Introductions	CGCC
Tues. 2/7 5:30-8:00 PM	Intro to Master Gardener Program, Online Program Training <i>-Kendal Johnson</i>	CGCC
Tues. 2/21 5:30-8:00 PM	Soils- <i>James Cassidy</i>	CGCC
Tues. 2/28 5:30-8:00 PM	Basic Botany of the Gorge- <i>Christina and Brad Mead</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/4 1-4 PM	Fruit Tree Pruning- <i>Ashley Thompson</i>	Orchard
Tues. 3/7 5:30-8:00 PM	Firesafe Landscaping- <i>Jacob Powell</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/11 1-4 PM	Rose Pruning- <i>Katherine Johnson</i>	Sorosis Park
Tues. 3/14 5:30-8:00 PM	Entomology- <i>Andony Melathopoulos</i>	CGCC
Sat. 3/18 1-4pm	Native Plants and Nursery- <i>Humble Roots</i>	HR Nursery
Sat. 3/25 1-4 PM	Plant Problem Diagnosis- <i>Neil Bell</i>	The DIG
Tues. 3/28 5:30-8:00 PM	Berries, Grapes and Kiwis- <i>Bernadine Strick</i>	CGCC
Sat. 4/1 1-4 PM	Vegetable and Container Gardening- <i>Chip Bubl</i>	The Dig
Tues. 4/4 5:30-8:00 PM	WCMGA Meeting, Final Exam	CGCC

### Locations:

#### **CGCC- Columbia Gorge Community College**

400 E. Scenic Dr. Building 2, Third Floor lecture hall, The Dalles, OR 97058

#### **Sorosis Park**

300 E Scenic Dr, The Dalles, OR 97058

#### **The DIG**

Klindt Drive and Steelhead Way, The Dalles, OR 97058

*Addresses to other class locations will be provided later.*



HILARY JENSEN

## Seed Exchange

Saturday, April 1st from 11am to 1pm  
South Wasco County Library

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The Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club will be providing assistance with a fun craft for the kids that attend.

How you can help:

1. Since we are holding this on April Fools Day, I want to come up with some fun titles that we can put on flyers. If you are creative in that arena, please shoot me some ideas via text 503.438.8727 or email hila-ry1813@aol.com

2. Come and volunteer! We need people to roam and answer questions as well as to sit at a plant clinic table. Contact me if you can help.

3. Bring me your extra seeds! If you have anything to donate, we'd love to take your extras! Opened packages are fine and older packages are fine.

Feel free to reach out with any questions!



CANDY ARMSTRONG

## We are All Rocks

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James Cassidy, Senior instructor in Soil Science & Sustainable/Organic Agriculture for OSU, delivered our Soils class on Tuesday, February 21st. He is truly an amazing teacher. James has energy, knowledge, and passion for his subject area and provides pithy comments that ignite curiosity. He told us that rock is the beginning of soil, that the minerals in the rock dissolve starting with salt, and ending with silicon dioxide which is sand. He said that we are rock since both rock and humans are made up of minerals, organic matter, air, and water.



James talked about the various types of soils and shared information about SoilWebb. Here in the United States 21% of soils are Mollisols, which are considered to be among the most fertile soils on earth. Worldwide only 7% of soils are Mollisols.

This class was packed full of good information and I have pages of notes from it so I could go on and on. However, I won't. Just one final point. James talked about organic matter being the only answer. Since most of us do not have perfect soil, adding organic matter is beneficial. As you plan for a great garden this year, remember to start with a good soil test, minimize tillage, and add organic matter as needed.

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*"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."*

Audrey Hepburn



# Book Review: The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer

The Pacific Northwest Native Plant Primer: 225 Plants for an Earth Friendly Garden by Kristin Currin and Andrew Merritt (2023).

Local native plant enthusiasts know Kristin and Drew as the owners of Humble Roots Nursery in Mosier. This newly published book shares some of their vast knowledge by focusing on 225 choice northwest natives suitable for cultivating in gardens. The book is generously illustrated with excellent photographs throughout.

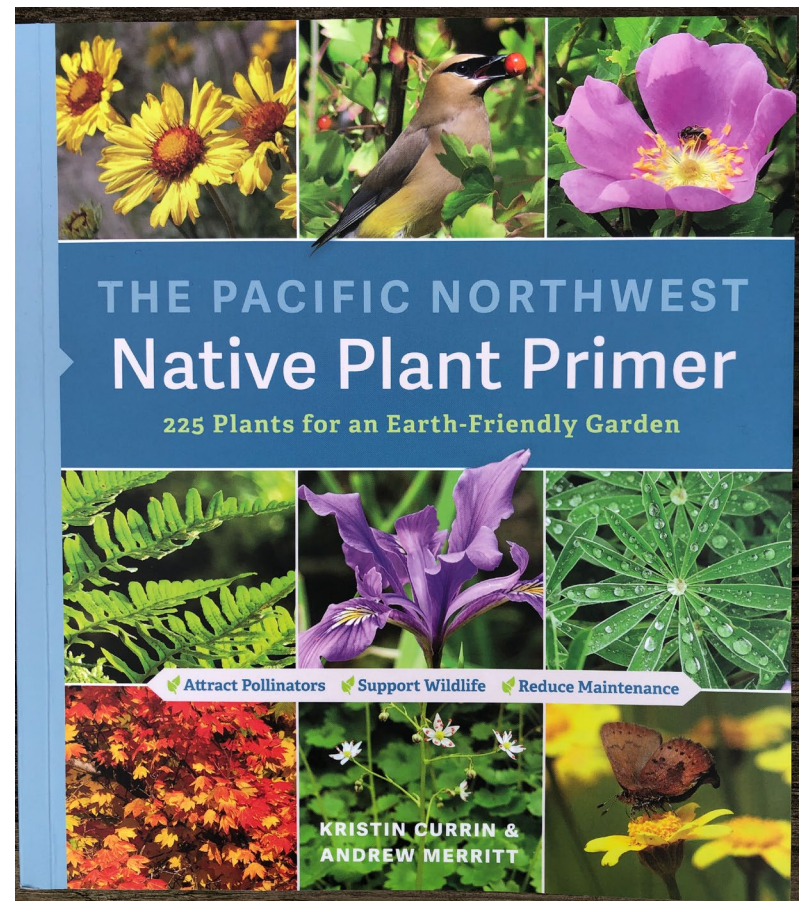
The opening chapters discuss Pacific Northwest habitats, biodiversity, and plant selection and cultivation. These brief well-written chapters should be read to gain an appreciation for the wide variety of habitats and accompanying diversity of plants our region supports and why we ought to be cultivating them. This is helpful for then understanding what plants to select for our own gardens and how to cultivate them.

The bulk of the book is devoted to individual profiles of plants, divided into sections of wildflowers, grasses and grass-like plants, ferns, shrubs, and trees. Each plant profile includes a photograph with common and scientific names and information on its range and habitat, seasonal interest, wildlife value, cultivation needs, and a discussion about the species. Some discussions also include information

about related plants to consider. Given the wide and variable geographic scope of the book the range and habitat information is important to pay attention to when considering what to plant in our own gardens.

The end of the book contains lists of plants for specific purposes, written references divided for both flora and fauna, and online resources. The index helpfully has plants listed by both common and scientific names.

The soft cover book is 263 pages and published by Timber Press in Portland. At \$24.99 it is a worthwhile addition to a gardener's library.







# Spring Minestrone with Grated Egg Pasta

Multiple ingredients in this bountiful spring vegetable soup give it a deep, satisfying flavor. The Parmigiano-Reggiano rind and vegetable umami both contribute a delicious, salty richness, while curly leaf spinach maintains a fresh, vegetal taste that you can’t get from baby spinach. Parmigiano-Reggiano rinds will last for months in the freezer, so save them whenever you buy wedges of cheese.

3	spring onions or 5 large scallions	1.	Cut white and light green parts of spring onions or scallions into thin slices; cut dark green parts into 1-inch pieces.
6	tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil	2.	Heat olive oil in a large saucepan over medium. Add onions, leek, garlic, crushed red pepper, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are just softened, about 5 minutes.
1	medium leek, sliced into 1/2-inch-thick rounds	3.	Add broth, cheese rind, and vegetable umami seasoning; bring to a boil over medium-high.
4	large garlic cloves, sliced	4.	Cover and reduce heat to low; cook, undisturbed, until broth is well flavored, 20 to 30 minutes.
1/2	teaspoon crushed red pepper, plus more for serving	5.	Uncover and remove cheese rind. Stir in remaining 3/4 teaspoon salt and remaining 1/8 teaspoon black pepper.
1	teaspoon kosher salt, divided	6.	Bring broth to a simmer over medium-high. Add grattini, and cook, stirring occasionally, 2 minutes. Stir in asparagus, cannellini beans, sugar snap peas, and sweet peas.
1/4	teaspoon black pepper, divided	7.	Cook, stirring occasionally, until pasta is al dente and vegetables are crisp-tender, about 3 minutes.
2	quarts lower-sodium vegetable broth or chicken broth	8.	Add spinach, and stir until just wilted, 30 seconds to 1 minute.
1	(4-ounce) Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese rind, plus grated for serving	9.	Sprinkle evenly with dill; serve immediately with additional crushed red pepper and grated cheese.
1	tablespoon vegetable umami seasoning sauce (such as Yondu) or coconut aminos		
6	ounces Grattini (Grated Egg Pasta)		
1	pound thin asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces (about 3 cups)		
1	(15-ounce) can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed		
6	ounces fresh sugar snap peas, strings removed, peas cut diagonally into 3/4-inch pieces (about 1 1/4 cups)		
1	cup sweet peas		
2 1/2	cups fresh curly leaf spinach (about 2 1/2 ounces)		
1/4	cup loosely packed fresh dill fronds		



# BECOME A GORGE MASTER NATURALIST

Enhance your sense of place.

## Zoom Information Session

March 7 at 6:30pm

Register here: <https://beav.es/SUe>



**APPLY BY MARCH 26, 2023**

For application and information, visit:

<https://beav.es/SUD>

*Continuing education credit for teachers available*

*Accommodation requests related to a disability due March 26.*

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

*The OSU Extension Master Naturalist Program provides transformative, science-based, experiential learning in outdoor settings, and encourages volunteer service to help protect and support ecosystems and community wellbeing in Oregon.*

## Ecoregion Course schedule

Thursday, April 20	Virtual Orientation
Sunday, April 23	Introduction
Sunday, May 7	Oak Woodlands
Sunday, May 21	Rivers Systems
Sunday, June 4	Grasslands
Sunday, July 9	Western Gorge
Sunday, Sept. 10	Mt. Adams
Sunday, Oct. 8	Capstone

*April 20<sup>th</sup> is a short evening class on Zoom.*

*All others are full-day field sessions, 8:00am-4:00pm*

## For more information:

Contact Ann Harris,  
Program Coordinator

[ann.harris@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ann.harris@oregonstate.edu)



**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service  
Master Naturalist





March 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Restoring Oregon's Dry Side Forests 6pm	2	3	4 Fruit Tree Pruning 12-3pm
5	6	7 Firesafe Landscaping 5:30-8pm ----- Master Naturalist Zoom Meeting 6:30pm	8	9	10	11 Rose Pruning 1-4pm
12	13	14	15 Restoring Oregon's Dry Side Forests 6pm	16	17	18 Native Plants and Nursery 1-4pm
19	20	21 Entomology 5:30-8pm	22	23	24	25 Plant Problem Diagnosis 1-4pm
26 Master Naturalist Application Due	27	28 Berries, Grapes and Kiwis 5:30-8pm	29	30	31	1 Seed Exchange 11-1pm ----- Vegetable and Container Gardening at The DIG 1-4pm



# March Garden Calendar

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Produced by OSU Extension, each month provides reminders of key garden chores, such as fertilizing, pest control, planting and maintenance.

The Oregon State University Extension Service encourages sustainable gardening practices. Preventive pest management is emphasized over reactive pest control. Identify and monitor problems before acting and opt for the least toxic approach that will remedy the problem. The conservation of biological control agents (predators, parasitoids) should be favored over chemical controls.

## Planning

- Plan your vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce and spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

## Maintenance and cleanup

- Lawn mowing: Set blade at 0.75–1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5–2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or weed killers have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.

## Planting/propagation

- Divide hosta, daylilies and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants such as alyssum, phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow and dill to attract beneficial insects to the garden. For more information, see Encouraging

## Beneficial Insects in Your Garden.

- Central Oregon: Plant seed flats of cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels sprouts) indoors or in a greenhouse.

## Pest monitoring and management

Use chemical controls only when necessary and only after thoroughly reading the pesticide label. First consider cultural, then physical and biological controls. Choose the least-toxic options (insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, botanical insecticides, and organic and synthetic pesticides — when used judiciously).

- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use with caution around pets. Read and follow all label directions prior to using baits or any other chemical control.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.

## Houseplants and indoor gardening

- Start tuberous begonias indoors.



# The Dirt Sheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASCO COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER™ ASSOCIATION

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Kendal Johnson, Master Gardener and Community Horticulture Educator

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