

August 2016



THE GRAPEVINE

Columbia County Master Gardener Program
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dreamstime.com

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program>

It has been decided to have a newsletter dedicated to just our membership/ organization. This newsletter will be published once a month and will be edited by the President of the Columbia County Master Gardener's Association. Please send any news items, pictures, etc. to Chuck Petersen @ chpete@opusnet.com by the last Thursday of every month.

The President's Corner

Well the County Fair has come and gone and the Demo Garden had over 500 visitors and some nice comments on its appearance during the Fair.

Congratulations and thanks to those that worked so hard to make it ready for the Fair. We only have the Fair to prepare for but the Garden is used by many who rent space at the Fairgrounds for pictures most of the year. So many people enjoy it which makes it a very special place for many.

Brian and Crystal Abel have had a notice sent out for the Master Gardener Picnic and I hope many of you can come out and enjoy a few hours with all of the rest of the Master Gardeners.

There is still a need for volunteers at the Demo Garden and if you have ideas for how we can improve, change or modify please come on out and share with us as we cannot see or think of everything and new ideas are always welcome as is the extra help.



Upcoming Events

MONDAYS:

Demo Garden work on Mondays, 10 am to Noon

August 4

Demo Garden & Project Mtg 10 am

August 4

Board Mtg 10:30 am

August 18

Bug Crew Meets 1 pm

August 20

Annual GardenFest, Scappoose Senior Center

August 28

CCMG Annual Picnic

CCMG Board of Directors

- Chuck Petersen, President
- Wes Bevans, Past President
- Linda Bainbridge, Vice President
- Angela Sorensen, Secretary
- Kathy Johnson, Treasurer
- Lavina Patterson, Historian
- Pat LaPointe, OMGA Rep
- Wes Bevans, OMGA Alt. Rep

I have asked if anyone would be interested in handling the Field Trip Coordinator position and have had no takers. I have had at least one person ask if they could set up a field trip and have happily agreed. If anyone else is interested in setting up a field trip to somewhere they feel is of interest please let me know. This wouldn't obligate you to more than that one trip and if several people wish to collaborate on a trip that is even better.

Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and your gardens and yards look as nice as you want them to, til next time.

--Chuck Petersen, CCMGA President

Demo Garden: Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

To everyone that helped, before and during, the Columbia County Fair. Because of your hard work the garden is beautiful and every visitor thought it was the best garden ever.

--Thank You, Demo Garden Assistant, LaVina

Scappoose Garden of Weed'in

LeRoy tightened the final connection on our sink so now we supply dust-free, clod-free produce. The past few weeks we have been fighting a weed epidemic with determination! One tenacious gardener looked as if she was napping between the tomato cages but on closer look she was indeed wrestling with a fistful of weeds. In an effort to withdraw some of the deposits in our weed bank, we planted half of the cornfield while we manage the fallow half. (Hint: This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in experimenting with weed management.) The peas and blueberries are about done, beans are nearly ready for harvest, zucchini is taking over its corner, and cabbage heads are rolling. We left many of the bolted cole crops to supply local pollinators and bene-bugs with a treat while we busied ourselves with other vegetables, but the time has come to remove them and plant fall crops—lettuce, spinach, peas, chard, and cabbage for a fall harvest. To date we have donated 214 pounds of produce.

--Deb Brimacombe

The St Helens Food Bank Garden Update

The 2016 garden season has started off well despite the erratic temperature fluctuations in the spring. The total produce to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank as of July 26, 2016 is 1,065 pounds. This is on track with last year's 3,505 pounds of total production. The last few year's new garden beds have been added and existing ones enlarged to hopefully increase harvest. A little more garden space was added this spring. Two more raised beds will probably be added next season. New mason bee houses were placed on the garden shed. Birds are raising families in the many birdhouses. The garden was a very helpful living example for the St. Helens "Seed to Supper" classes at the senior center.

An important part of our garden group's work is to plant and harvest produce in coordination with the community meals program. Keeping this in mind, the plan is to plant vegetables generally requested by the cooks. Kathy Bauska, Director of Community Meals, lets the group know what will be needed and we plan accordingly. The garden also has fruit trees and berries. The pear tree and small plum tree are heavy with fruit. The blueberries and raspberries did very well. The thornless blackberry crop is beginning and looks great. Italian plums will be ready a little later.



The Spring temperatures have left us with issues of powdery mildew on the squash. We have been experimenting with ways to combat this. The plants are still producing and show signs of new growth. The on and off very hot then unseasonably cold weather caused a few problems. The answer to some of this was to simply replant.

This year our garden crew has two new volunteers. We have welcomed Steve Blanchard and Peter Snell. Both are graduates of the 2016 OSU Master Gardener's class. They are a great addition to the work crew. Longtime members of the garden Mary Woicck, Eldon Burger and Thea Hewling are still hard at work. Scott Bauska is doing an excellent job as the garden coordinator and contact. The group is an example of how great planning and organization of a small team gets positive results.

--Scott Bauska (scottbauska@gmail.com) and Colleen DeLong (colleendelong@hotmail.com)

HOPE Garden of Rainier

With a new fence protecting the raised beds, this improved garden is flourishing. Fresh lettuce, broccoli, summer squash and strawberries are being harvested and distributed at the HOPE Emergency Food Pantry in downtown Rainier.



Beautiful flowers line the front and 3 new compost bins are in the back. This wonderful garden is located next to the HOPE Building on East A Street. Some volunteers meet on Monday mornings to harvest and do general gardening while others work in the garden throughout the week. Anyone is invited come see what's growing in Rainier and join us in gardening for HOPE. For more information contact Lynn Green, (503)728-4723 or at lynncgreen4@gmail.com.

--Lynn Green

You are invited to the 2016 Annual Columbia County Master Gardener Potluck Picnic!

When: August 28th, 2016. 12 noon - 3 pm.

Where: Scappoose Bay Marina, 57420 Old Portland Road.

What: Burgers, Drinks, and Corn on the Cob provided.
Please bring a Potluck Dish to share.

Parking: Included. We encourage carpooling to conserve parking passes.

Bonus: There will be a drawing for door prizes.

RSVP: Vicki Krenz
By e-mail: vicki.krenz@oregonstate.edu
By phone: 503-397-3462



Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2016

President Chuck Petersen, Presiding

Housekeeping:

Secretary's Report - accepted

Treasurer's Report – minutes accepted. Kathy Johnson also noted that two vendors have not paid for fair booths and will not be invited next year

Correspondence - None

Committee Reports:

- **CC Fairground Garden (Linda)** – LaVina Patterson is responsible for fair volunteers. Overall the garden looks great. All beds planted and started taking produce to the food bank. An information packet has been updated and looking to get a quote from Paulsen, a local print shop to get packets done.
- **Spring Fair (Kathy) – Reported** that the total amount cleared from the fair is \$3,678.69
- **Rainier Food Bank Garden** – Moving along well.
- **Scappoose Garden** – brief discussion about the “garden of weeding” article in newsletter
- **Bug Group** – LaVina Patterson talked about work with 4-H kids – about 100 kids used nets to catch bugs.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Facebook Page** - Angela provided summary of information about setting up a Facebook page and associations who have one. Will contact other associations to see if we can get someone to come and speak to us (or call in) to help guide us at the August board meeting.
- **CC Master Gardener Picnic (Chuck)**– Brian and Crystal Abel have agreed to host this next month.
- **Mini College** – Can sign up online. Need things for silent auction. Budget allowance for this is \$200
- **OMGA Report** – Pat LaPoint couldn't attend due to the train accident.
- **Field Trips** – Linda mentioned that Susan Snyder cannot continue this, so she is helping.
- **Awards** – Chuck Petersen wants to add this to the next month's agenda. We need to choose people AND why they were selected

- **Transfers** – LaVina Patterson asked about the process concerning people who are master gardeners who want to transfer into our area. Do they have to take the recertification test? Will have to check with Chip Publ.

Adjournment: 11:45 am

Respectfully submitted by Angela Sorensen, Secretary.