

September 2016



# THE GRAPEVINE

Columbia County Master Gardener Program  
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*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](mailto:chpete@opusnet.com) by the last Thursday of every month.*

## The President's Corner

Another summer is starting to fade though it still gets very hot on occasion and we are still setting records. I am getting reports that all the Community Gardens are doing well and donations to local food banks are stacking up. Congratulations to all those who are working there and their good work.

We had the Master Gardener Picnic on August 28 and it was quite a success. More than thirty Master Gardeners and spouses and others attended. A special thanks to **Crystal and Brian Abel** for heading up the effort and coordinating it all. Very well done!

Additional thanks to **Angela Sorensen** for the succulent plant arrangements, **Dennis Snyder** for helping out in general and specifically for getting the corn on the cob ready to eat, **Peter Snell** for the hamburger cooking and getting the parking passes out to those who needed them. **Mean's Nursery** donated over \$200 in plants which were given out to all who attended. The weather participated with a beautiful afternoon and there were many conversations and some even were about gardening. Crystal and Brian have agreed



## Upcoming Events

### MONDAYS:

Demo Garden work on Mondays, 10 am to Noon

### September 1

Demo Garden & Project Mtg 10 am

### September 1

Board Mtg 10:30 am

### September 1

Bug Crew Meets 1 pm

### September 3

Mason Bee Wash, Clatskanie

### September 15

Bug Crew Meets 1 pm

### September 15

Beekeeping class, OSU Extension Service classroom 6:30 pm

### September 22

Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm

### 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

to coordinate the affair next year so I look forward to a great time again and hope even more people can come as we still had extra places to sit and visit.

Vicki will be mailing out this Newsletter to those that do not have internet access and if you are one of those please **let her know** that you wish to receive it that way or she can have copies for you to pick up at the Extension Office. By picking it up you will be saving us postage so please consider that option.

On a less happy note we have lost one of our members. Mary M Newell - Dickenson died on August 20, 2016. Her Obituary is in the Chronicle and can be seen online at [http://www.thechronicleonline.com/obituaries/mary-m-newell-dickinson/article\\_84bebd02-6a2d-11e6-b5c9-d3b427e69a51.html](http://www.thechronicleonline.com/obituaries/mary-m-newell-dickinson/article_84bebd02-6a2d-11e6-b5c9-d3b427e69a51.html) . She worked at the Demo Garden and helped out with Fair coordination last year and always was happy to help others.

Please remember that we have a tasting at our September Meeting at the Extension Office. Bring a favorite "thing" you would like to share that you have grown. It can be a tomato, apple, pear, peach or any other plant type edible you desire just make sure you bring information on it in case others want to try growing it they will know what to look for.

Til next month get your hands dirty and grow something.  
--Chuck Petersen, CCMGA President

### September's Chapter Meeting – Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>

Speaker, Maurice Horn – lowering water usage in our gardens

### Mason Bee Wash at Clatskanie Farmer's Market

The New Bug Crew will be one of the Bee Education Day vendors at the **Clatskanie Farmer's Market**, Saturday, **September 3, from 10 am – 2 pm at Copes Park**. Come celebrate bees and bring your Mason Bee nesting tubes or nests that can be opened to access the cocoons and we will help you clean the cocoons to remove mites and help keep the bees healthy. If you have nesting blocks that are drilled and can't be opened drop by our table at Copes Park and we can give you some ideas about how to keep the blocks clean and reduce mite infestations.

In addition to the New Bug Crew Mason Bee Wash, the Farmer's Market will be a buzz with bee activities and vendors such as a honey bee colony with a plexiglass side so you can see the working bees, you can talk to beekeepers, a solar wax extractor will be on display and a capped honey frame. Bee hats, gloves, suits, tools, boxes and empty frames will also be available for kids to explore and play bee keeper.

--Deb Brimacombe

## CCMG Demo Garden

Work continues at the Demonstration Garden. Volunteers have been busy harvesting crops for the Food Bank. To date 412 pounds of fresh produce have been donated. We continue to meet at the garden on Mondays at 10:00 am

--Thank You, Demo Garden, Linda Bainbridge

## HOPE Garden of Rainier

This year a group of energetic Master Gardeners went to work on the HOPE garden. HOPE of Rainier is an emergency food pantry with raised beds located on the east side of the building and fruit trees in the back. In the spring we tackled 3 big projects. First we added new soil to the beds and wood chips between the beds. Next three large compost bins were set up. But the biggest project was to build a deer fence to keep out unwanted neighborhood animals. Generous donations covered the soil and compost bins but how do you pay for a fence?



Here enters the Master Gardeners Association. First the Board approved the fencing proposal and bid. Then a vote by the membership provided the funds to build the new fence. We were on our way to complete our third big project. Local Rainier Boy Scouts dug the post holes and put up all the posts, a much appreciated job done. Seven foot fencing mesh and a new gate completed the project. Now no night time raiders are eating the new plants or leaving behind unwanted surprises.

The new improved raised bed garden is providing fresh produce to the food bank. Volunteers harvest, water and weed. Now the HOPE patrons have a source of fresh produce, herbs, berries and fruit. Nasturtiums and Bachelor Buttons attract beneficial insects and dress up the front of the beds. This garden is not only supplying important fresh vegetables to those in need but is a beautiful space in our community. Thank you to the Master Gardener Association for reaching out to Rainier to improve this garden. For more information contact Lynn Green, (503)728-4723 or at [lynncgreen4@gmail.com](mailto:lynncgreen4@gmail.com).

--Lynn Green

## Beekeeping class: Getting beehives ready for winter

There will be a free class on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm until 8 pm at the OSU Extension Service classroom about preparing your hives for a successful winter cycle. This class is a follow up to the beginning beekeeping class held earlier. But you don't have to have had that class to attend this one. Many beehives are lost due to poor winter preparation. This class should help guide you through the options you have to reach spring with strong hives.

# From Garden to Table

## The Rite of Spring

Life has once again returned to our little farm after the long, dreary doldrums of winter. A welcome sight of lush green dappled with all the vibrant colors of the rainbow resembling a Renoir masterpiece. The orchard, awash in pink and white, hums with the chorus of bees, clear and loud as a Baptist choir. Spring has finally arrived – overture to the well orchestrated symphony of soil and season, the rhythms of the plate. The rhythms beginning slowly at first, *lento* then *adagio*, *crescendo* to faster and faster tempo.

Like Rip Van Winkle awakening from a long slumber, asparagus poked its head from its winter cover becoming the first to grace our table – sweet and tender. Never has asparagus tasted so exquisite. Spring onions follow suit, trailed by buttery lettuces and spinach, spicy arugula and French breakfast radishes, a plethora of savory herbs, escarole, endive and other salad messes. Young Purple Top turnips, baby Detroit Dark Red and Touchstone gold beets, Southern Giant Curled Mustard, Sorrento broccoli raab, Green Arrow sweet peas and Little Finger carrots will soon join the chorus.



Waiting for their time to join in are Red Acre, Derby Day and Early Jersey Wakefield cabbages, Nero di Toscana kale, Snow Crown cauliflower and Calabrese broccoli. Violetto and Green Globe artichokes follow in harmony. New Yukon Gold Potatoes and the aromatic, succulent Hood and Marshall strawberries complete the first movement.

*Volce dolce*; *diminuendo*; our symphony *decrescendos* into the *Entr'acte*. Planting for the summer season begins. Starts of Japanese eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, melons and okra mark their time in the greenhouse until the weather warms. These divas of the garden will take center stage. Corn, beans, cucumbers and squashes provide the accompaniment.

The days grow shorter ushering in the third movement of autumn when cool weather crops will take their place on stage. Winter arrives, the fourth and final movement of our well orchestrated symphony. The garden sleeps under a sky veiled in a steel gray shroud, surreal, like sepia toned picture postcards from a time long forgotten. A strange and eerie quiet falls on the land. Life in the garden comes full circle, with the promise of life returning with the aria of spring.

The rhythms continue – season by season. Our symphony of soil and season are indeed the rhythm of the plate; our overture indeed the rite of spring.

**Columbia County Master Gardeners Association**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 4, 2016**

**President Chuck Petersen, Presiding**

**Housekeeping:**

**Secretary's Report** - approved

**Treasurer's Report** - Chuck has questions about the budget- is the Demo Garden account over budget? Based on expenses it appears it is. Budget? In the future, if people are going over budget, they need to notify the Board and consider adjusting the budget to be realistic about expenses.

**Correspondence** - insurance bill came in. Angela will leave it at the Extension office for Kathy.

**Committee Reports**

- **CC Fairground Garden** – Had potluck @ Linda's House. During Fair around 200 people attended on Saturday alone. Pat would like to get pictures for his report. Also have contributed 76# of produce to Food Bank garden. Pat also offered to help with the fairground water sprinkler system since we are having trouble with it. Lavina also mentioned that we need to consider what we need to do to prepare for next year – i.e. do we need plants, move things, etc.
- **Rainier Food Bank Garden** – Lynn Green will give a report at the September meeting.
- **Bug Group** – did a presentation to the Kiwanis's about Mason Bees.

**Old Business**

- **Facebook Page** – Angela gave a progress report. Made calls to several local area organizations with no return calls. Pat offered to share information and ask for help when he issues his 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter OMGA report.
- **Picnic** – Chuck said that Brian and Crystal agreed to host this. Some discussion on selecting another location for next year.
- **Mini College** – Kathy was missing from our meeting because she is at Mini College. Can still sign up online.
- **Field Trips** – Linda is leading a field trip to Seabright near Salem next week on August 17.
- **CCMG Awards** – Chuck provided a list of awards and people. Had a discussion about having one of more Master Gardener of the Year awards and we decided to have just ONE person.

**New Business** - no new business.

**Meeting adjured at 11:00 am**

*Respectfully Submitted by Angela Sorensen, Secretary*