

Linn County Master Gardener™ Assn.

Let's Talk Dirt...

Linn County Fair & Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road
Albany, Oregon
Mar/Apr 2015

The Demo Garden in early 2015



The garden is not quite ready to open for the year, but a lot has happened during the off season. Diamond Dave and Larry built an extension to our shed and added more shelves to aid in shed organization. We can now move around the shed to find what we want without having to pull out plastic chairs and garden signs or climb over burlap bags to get to things. What an improvement! Thank you, Dave and Larry.

Another problem nagging those of us who are getting older and cannot lift heavy objects is how to get our large garden cart into the shed without having to lifting it up six inches. Dave, always wanting to help others, designed a way to solve the problem. He built a portable ramp consisting of boards that can be placed wide enough to accommodate the cart tires so we can now roll the cart into the shed. After the cart is inside, we can remove the boards to prevent people from tripping over them. Whew! No more aching backs! Again, kudos to Dave!



The other major project undertaken this winter was an upgrade to our irrigation system. We solicited the aid of Shonnard's Nursery with this improvement. The Demo Garden Team requested a system that would be easy for all the volunteers to manage and one that requires little maintenance. A pre-filter was added to take care of the iron present in the well water and clogging some of our drip lines. A new 4 station Rainbird controller with a three station modular add-on replaced our old inadequate controller. Our numerous old irrigation control valve boxes were removed and replaced with fewer boxes. About 14 of our above ground water faucets were removed and we were left with a simple, bare bones system ready for us to design and lay out drip lines to where the plants need water.



The East gate of the Demo Garden will be unlocked starting on Friday, March 20 (the first day of Spring) and Master Gardeners will be present at the garden on Fridays from 1 – 3 p.m.

For more information contact Stephanie at stephanielow7@gmail.com

Save these Dates

Saturday, March 21 – BEEvent Pollinator Conference at Phoenix Inn in Albany (east of I-5)

Saturday, June 20—the annual "Through the Garden Gate" Garden Tour. Visit a variety of gardens around Albany

More information about these events can be found by visiting our website:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/horticulture>



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The OSU Linn County
Master Gardeners
gratefully thank the
following businesses
for donating
products and support

- **Linn County
Fair & Expo**
- **Nichols Garden
Nursery**

The demonstration garden and related activities are open to the general public.



This one irrigation control valve (ICV) box replaced 4 smaller ICV boxes at the northeast corner of the garden. The two white PVC pipe stubs in front of the box are where we will connect drip lines to two of the five watering zones: the perimeter zone and the north zone

outside the fence. Each vegetable raised bed has a PVC stub for us to connect a drip line and then fine tune with vegetable emitters that have holes every 12 inches to provide half gallon of water per hour.



Other upcoming projects to watch for

- A garden mural will be painted on the side of the shed by Randy's artistic wife, Sali
- A series of summer gardening classes for children
- The picket fence and kiosk will get new coats of paint and who knows what else the Demo Garden Team will come up with this year.

Please visit the Demo Garden often to watch its evolution.



This photo of a hellebore blooming next to our shed was taken on January 9, 2015. Hellebores, which come in white, pink, light green, blue-green, maroon and dark purple flowers provide color to your garden during the dreary winter months.



Just like your yard, the daffodils and grape hyacinths are blooming at the Demo Garden right now.



Brunnera or false forget-me-nots are appearing in the Demo Garden in late February/early March.



A recent photo of Paula Daniels pruning the Himrod grapevines.

Watch Larry Grow



(Remember: standing on the top of the ladder is not recommended. Please do not attempt at home. Larry was under close supervision.)

New Location for OSU Linn County Extension Office

The OSU Linn County Extension Office has moved to Tangent, Oregon. The new address is 33630 McFarland Road. The building is located west of Hwy 99E (Pacific Blvd.) and north of Hwy 34, on the corner of Old Hwy 34 and McFarland Rd.

The phone number **541-967-3871** and URL for our website <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/horticulture> remain the same.

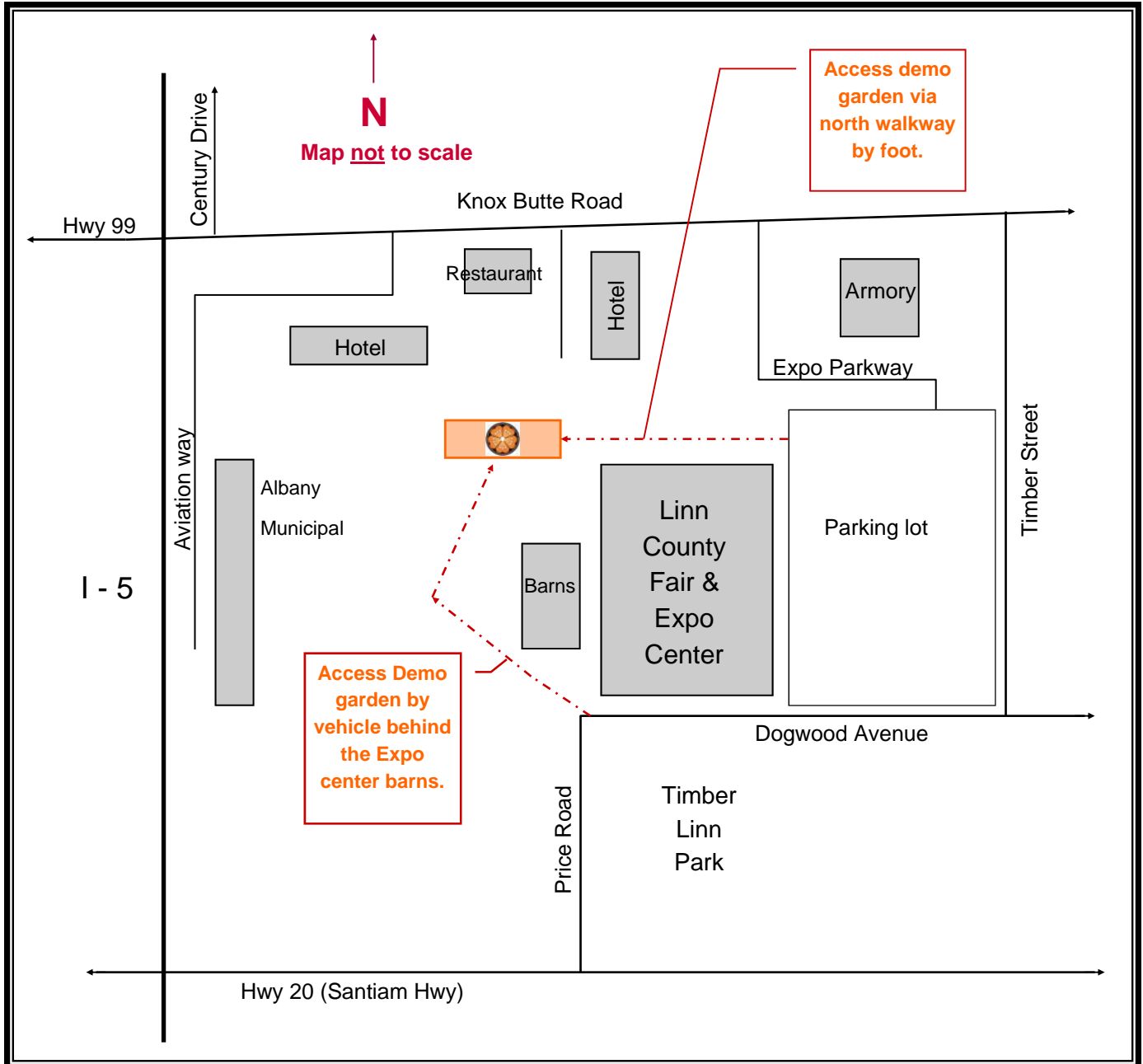
Come see how beautiful and roomy the new place is.
Finding a parking space is no longer a problem!

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Demonstration Garden

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