

# Linn County Master Gardener™ Assn.

## Let's Talk Dirt...

Linn County Fair & Expo Center  
3700 Knox Butte Road  
Albany, Oregon  
May/June 2015

### Spring of 2015—The Demo Garden Metamorphosis

By Raneë Webb (Master Gardener Class of 2013)

Metamorphosis is a good description of the Linn County Master Gardener's Demo Garden this spring. Like a butterfly emerging, the Demo Garden is transforming into a beautiful, colorful and engaging place. The Demo Garden was established in 1997 and needed some updating. A major change is an updated watering system that is almost finished. The new system for the drip irrigation will be more efficient and effective.

Recently a shed addition was completed which allows us better access to



"Before" photo of the peeling paint on the shed.

everything in the main shed. The addition pushed us toward painting all the areas that are faded and showing wear. The picket fence will be white again. One major goal is to draw more attention to the kiosk and to the educational information that is posted. The painting should be completed in May and will show a marked change for the better.

As with all transformations, we are also happy to report that several of the 2015 Master Gardener trainees have become active participants. They come with new ideas and energy that is always welcome.

We are excited about plans for a summer children's gardening class. There are also plans to add more educational signage, so the Demo Garden will be a better learning environment when Master Gardeners are not present. Planning and preparing for the annual "Through the Garden Gate" Garden Tour also gets us thinking about how we want the Demo Garden to look and feel. Being on the tour brings out our pride in what has and is being accomplished. New involvement of the trainees, the painting, more educational classes and improved signage are providing a real metamorphosis for 2015. Come and enjoy this wonderful learning environment.



2015 MG trainee, Barry Cooper, and Curry County MG transplant, Roy Lavender, working on sifting finished compost at the Kompost Kitchen

Raneë Webb's husband, Marc, built a new portable, lightweight compost sifter for those of us who cannot handle the heavier one made with 2x4's. This sifter was designed so that one person can sift the compost without help from another person.



The East gate of the Demo Garden is unlocked 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](mailto:stephanielow7@gmail.com)

#### Save these Date

**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>



Linn County Fair & Expo  
3700 Knox Butte Road  
Albany, Oregon  
**May/June 2015**

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.

## Fruit Trees at the Demo Garden

Who says that we can't grow apricot trees in the Willamette Valley? Well, the Demo Garden Team decided in 2013 to debunk the common belief. We planted one Puget Gold Apricot sapling that is bred to grow in our region. This is how the tree looked on April 17, 2015.



No fruit has formed on the tree to date, but the tree is still relatively young. Come visit the Demo Garden to keep up with its status.

Another unusual fruit tree that we planted the same year is the Highbush Cranberry. It too, is doing well.



## Grafting Fruit Trees at the Demo Garden

by Randy Peckham

I was fortunate and grateful when visiting Sheryl Casteen's orchard to receive scion wood off many of her heirloom apple trees.

The term "graft" stems from the French word *greffe* or graphium, which refers to the pencil shape of a scion. Grafting is the act of joining two plant parts so that they unite or grow together to achieve a desired result.

Master Gardener trainee Ken Drummond and I grafted the following heirloom apple varieties onto the espaliered apple trees at the Demo Garden:

**Golden Russet** (1845 New York) lightly flavored and great for juicing

**Belle de Boskoop** (Holland 1856) crisp, tangy, and aromatic tart apple

**20 Ounce** (New York) greenish skin which turns yellow-tinged red and excellent for cooking



These starts will take several years to mature.  
Visit the Demo Garden to see how well the grafts progress.



Redwood sorrel in our Native Plants area was blooming on April 17, 2015.



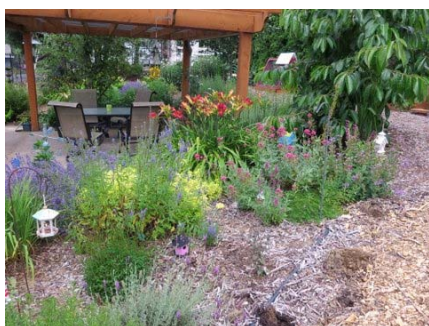
## Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour 2015

**Saturday, June 20, 2015 is this year's date for "Through the Garden Gate" – Linn County Master Gardeners 16th Annual June Garden Tour.**

This tour will feature six unique gardens that showcase how 'gardening is a gift' that can be learned. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tickets are \$15. Ticket locations include: Tom's Garden Center, Garland Nursery, Nichols Garden Nursery, Albany Visitors Center, and Green Thumb in Lebanon. This year's array of gardens feature outdoor wedding worthy expanses to small scale gardens packed with surprises, plus low maintenance ideas, as well as edible and permaculture techniques sure to please every palate. The tour also includes two points of interest gardens - Linn County Master Gardener Demo Garden and Willamette Community Garden.

All the gardens will have Master Gardeners' present, as well as garden owners, to answer your gardening questions. Bring a camera and notepad to document ideas you will want to take home for your own garden.

**Point of Interest—Linn County Master Gardener Demo Garden:** On your way to the first two gardens, take time to stop by the Linn County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, which showcase research-based ideas. You will find vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruit trees, berries, grapes, sun and shade gardens, a composting exhibit, a living wall, and more. Come with questions, get ideas, and enjoy the beauty of this learning environment.



There will be a wide variety of gardens to see at this year's Through The Garden Gate Master Gardener tour on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

### **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.

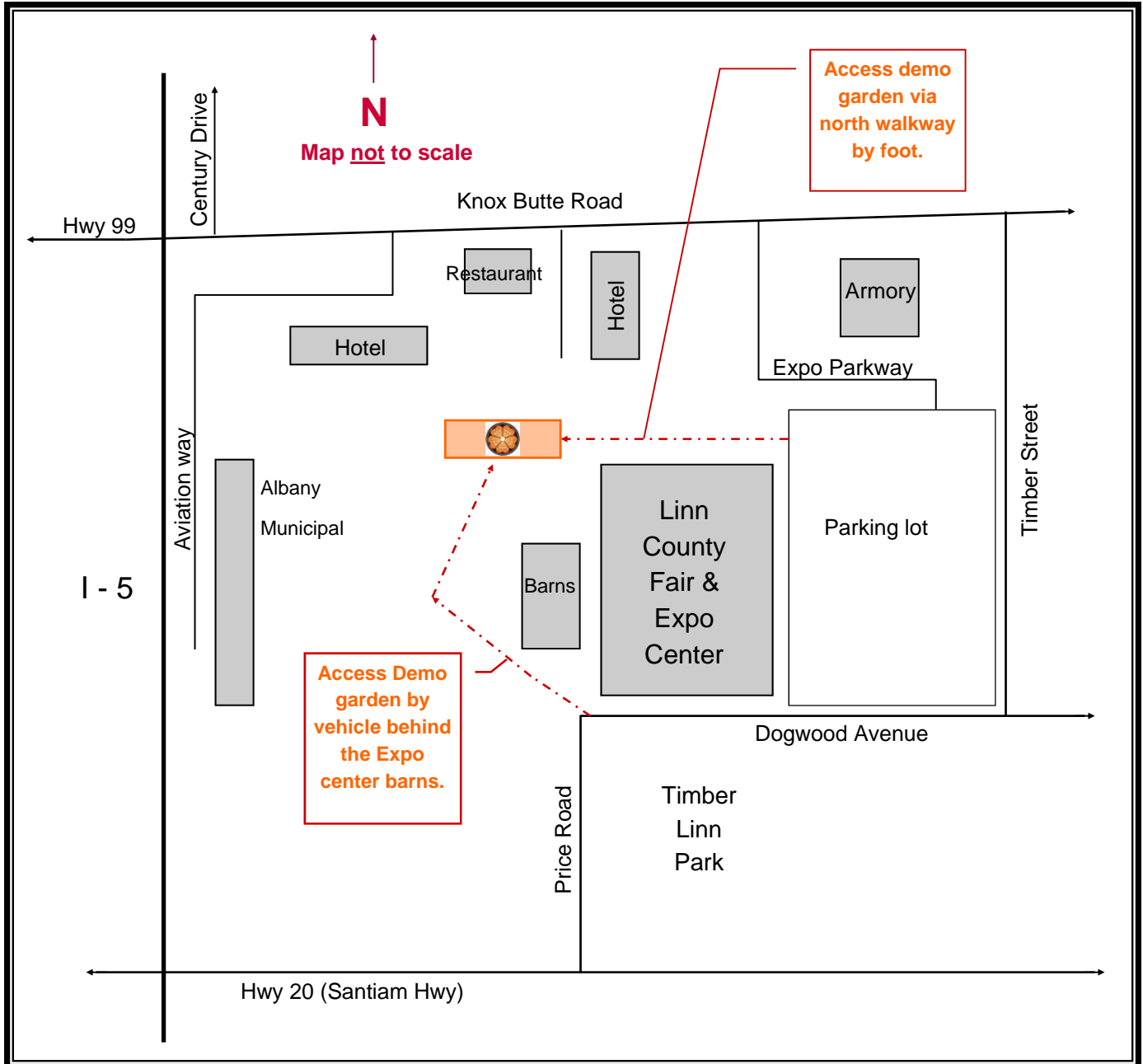
Come see how beautiful and roomy the new place is.  
Finding a parking space is no longer a problem!

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## Demonstration Garden

Linn County Fair & Expo Center

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