It has been decided to have a newsletter dedicated to just our membership and local 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@centurytel.net by the 25th of every month.

The President’s Corner

Well we have another County Fair under our belt and I want to thank everyone who helped out to get the Garden ready and those that volunteered to staff the Garden during the Fair. On Wednesday we had 275 visitors, Thursday 223, Friday 211, Saturday 447, Sunday 86 for a total of 1242 visitors. This is more than I have ever seen and more than 200 more than the previous high number. Well done to all of those that helped out.

The Demo Garden still is in need of help so if you can work into your schedule please come on out and give us a hand every Monday or Wednesday 10:00 AM to noon. I am going to be meeting with the Fair Board to explore the possibility of working in the Garden on Saturdays. I have had some interest expressed for doing that and since they often have the Fair Grounds open for horse events on Saturdays I am going to see if we can piggy back on that.

Our Master Gardener Picnic will be held at the Scappoose Marina on August 26 from noon to threeish. Melisa Richardson has volunteered to coordinate the affair this year so you will probably being hearing from her soon for any help she can use and what details she will be providing for the Picnic.  

(cont. on the next page)...

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours!
...(The President’s Corner, cont.)

It will be as usual Potluck with the Columbia Master Gardeners Association providing condiments, hamburgers, buns and maybe hot dogs as well. So please come on out and enjoy an afternoon with the rest of us. I will be handing out parking permits to all attendees so no parking fees will need to be paid.

There is no business meeting in August because of the Picnic but in September our meeting will feature items from your gardens. It will be a tasting for the best apple, pear, peach, tomato or whatever you would like to share with the rest of us. So please bring an item or items you would like to share and we will do our best to eat them all.

In October we will be electing new officers for the Association. If you are interested in running for office please let LaVina Patterson or Peggy Crisp know and they will get you on the ballot. If you are not interested but can think of someone who you think would do a good job let them know so they may volunteer.

That is all for now til next time keep it dirty.

~ Chuck Petersen, Columbia County Master Gardener Association President

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“Weed” Identification?

Have you been frustrated lately when using the internet to identify a weed only to get marijuana pictures? I have been searching for a term to replace ‘weed’ that will get me to a quick identification based on a plant’s description. I stumbled on the use of ‘wild herb’. It may not be the best option, but it took me right to dead-nettle when I entered ‘purple wild herb’.  ~ Debi Brimacombe

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Demo Garden Update

I want to thank everyone that helped during the Columbia County Fair. Thanks to Leo for being there early to set things up so everything was ready when we all got there... There was a vote for your favorite raised bed and "The Insectary" won, planted by Zelda Anderson, and a tie between "Peppers", planted by Denny Snyder, and "The Hummingbird garden", planted by LaVina. Because of all of your hard work there were many people complimenting the garden.

Your Demo Garden coordinator,

~ LaVina Patterson

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours!
Allen and Debi were invited to the Clatskanie Farmers Market for their annual Bee Education Day on Saturday, July 28. There were many visitors to the booth and all were interested in learning more about planting flowers and creating habitat for native bees. Many people are surprised to learn that the majority of our native bees are solitary nesters that make their homes in soil. Some had seen them coming and going, but didn’t realize they were bees. Most comments began, “WOW, I had no idea there are so many different bees.” And that’s a good place to start a conversation. The Oregon Bee Project supplied small cards with examples of several of the native bees of Oregon. At the end of market nearly 50 cards were handed out.

A few vacationers dropped by the market on their way through town and were impressed with the market and all of the activity and bee enthusiasm. In addition to the Master Gardener’s booth there was an observational honey bee hive and vendors had good local honey available.

~ Debi Brimacombe
Did You Know...
...We have a Master Gardener Library in the Volunteer Room?

Every once in a while someone asks about a good reference book for insects or gardening and when I tell them there is a copy at the library in the Volunteer Room they seem twice surprised.

The Volunteer Room contains Master Gardener supplies, all of the collections of albums put together by the chapter historians over the years, a paper copy of the PNW Handbooks, and the insect collection. There are several good references in the library on insect and plant identification, gardening techniques, and even some books for children and gardening for children. It is a collection that is worth checking into. There is a check-out sheet so you can leave word that you have borrowed a book. The books are not shelved according to any formal system, but we do try to keep them in groups of topics. A few are so helpful that they have a note under the cover that suggests the reference should be used at the Extension only.

Sometimes it is just nice to verify if a book is one you would like to add to your own collection and don’t want to order it on-line until you have a chance to review it.

The insect collections are also housed in the Volunteer Room when they are not being used for a fair or school event. The collection boxes are organized by insect order and make a handy reference when you are trying to identify an insect that has moved into your yard or garden. There are also over 100 vials that contain specimens. They are a bit more difficult to search, but some of the tiny species are in vials so you can inspect them with the aid of a loupe or magnifying glass and there is an accompanying document that identifies the vial by number with notes regarding the insect.

All good reasons to get to know and use these resources.

~ Deb Brimacomb

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours!
A board meeting of the CCMGA was called to order at 1025am on Thursday July 5, 2018 at the St Helens OSU extension office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present.

Housekeeping:

- **Secretary's Report** – Minutes of June Board and Chapter Meetings - accepted
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Packet dated 7/3/18 provided and accepted – treasurer noted that annual review of insurance has started
- **Correspondence** – OSU extension office mailer has been received and once reviewed, will be shared with group

Committee Reports

- **OMGA Rep** – N/A

- **CC Fairgrounds Garden/County Fair Plan** – displays, signs and work party sign up – volunteers are still needed – see LaVina for sign up
  - Subcommittee formation update as presented at 6/7/18 Board meeting – **nothing new to report**

Old Business

- August Chapter Picnic – **organizers in place and site has been reserved**
- G2 – see website or Grapevine for details – MG of the Year recipient Linda Perry has respectfully declined scholarship to attend so Behind the Scenes recipient has been asked

New Business

- **OMGA Leadership Forum recap** – please refer to PDF provided – discussion held in Demo Garden planning meeting in previous hour – secretary not present to provide further detail
- **Sauerkraut Festival coordinator** – Festival is no longer in existence

Meeting adjourned at 1040am

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary

The biggest watermelon grown weighed over 350 pounds.