THE GRAPEVINE
OSU - Columbia County Master Gardener Program
505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051
Phone: 503-397-3462
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program
OMGA Newsletter: https://omga.org/newsletter/

December 2021

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 and the Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Please send any news items, events, articles, pictures, etc. to Sonia @ Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu by the 25th of every month.

The President’s Corner

We are entering December and the Holiday Spirit is alive and well as the Hallmark holiday movies have been making their appearance. Hope everyone is ready for them as the year comes to a close.

Our last meeting had us finding out how to handle roses, carefully, and voted in the next years Board members as well as approving the budget for the coming year. Many thanks to Rich Baer for the Rose Presentation in November.

Our December Membership meeting will be December 16th and we have two speakers who will tell us about preserving biodiversity by storing, growing and preserving a wide variety of plants. The Board also has suggested a change to the way we elect officers by making the term of office two years instead of one and having only half of the officers elected each year and this will be brought up at the meeting as well.

It was decided to try and hold the Spring Fair next April and we have secured the Pavilion at the Fair Grounds to hold it in. Katherine Johnson met with the Fair Board and arranged for us using it at no cost. Since our tables are also at the Fairgrounds I hope that makes it easier for set up as everything is close together.

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting
1st Thursday each month at 10:30am:
Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom, email Sonia for login information.

Chat with Chip
“Chat with Chip” special online event at 6:30pm, 3rd Tuesday each month.

Chapter Meeting
Special time: Dec. 16th at 6:30pm.

Past Issues of the Grapevine HERE
Past Issues of the Country Living HERE

Link to the OSU Online Resources and Publications - Searchable Directory:
https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/

Facebook   Blog

2021 CCMGA Executive Committee

• Chuck Petersen, President
• Sandy Newman, Past President
• Katherine Johnson, Vice President
• Chelsea Saettone, Secretary
• Gail Martyn, Treasurer
• LaVina Patterson, Historian
• Karen Harte, OMGA Rep.
• Vacant, OMGA Alt-Rep.
Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvs.extension.oregonstate.edu
December 16th Chapter Meeting, 6:30pm

Dr. Kim Hummer & Dr. Lauri Reinhold Present: “How Gene Bank Repositories Preserve Genetic Diversity of Thousands of Traditional Crop Varieties and their Wild Species”

Join us for this Chapter Meeting on December 16th, 2021 at 6:30 PM to hear this special presentation. CCMGA Chapter Business meeting to follow. Register in advance for this meeting: https://beav.es/Ubo. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Hope to see you there!

Photo from the genebank collection: Diploid blueberry from Florida Vaccinium fuscatum fruit - May 2006.

Dr. Hummer says, “Our unit is one of about 20 federal genebanks in the US National Plant Germplasm System. We house about 12,000 accessions of temperate fruit, nut, and specialty crop plants and seeds. We have diverse germplasm from around the world. We conserve cultivated heritage types as well as crop wild relatives. We work with scientists around the world to obtain plant material through permissible means through plant exploration and exchange. We follow rules of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We also follow USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) guidelines for quarantine regulations for plant importation into the country, as well as regional and local plant quarantine restrictions. The objectives of our genebank are to collect, maintain, distribute, and evaluate our plant genetic resources. We upload our data and information to the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) so that it is publicly available and accessible. We will be telling you about the specifics of conserving strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, pears, hazelnuts, mint, hop, and their crop wild relatives. We look forward to “seeing” your membership and hope that they can come to Corvallis to visit us in the not too distant future. We would be very happy to welcome visitors to our unit – after COVID numbers drop and the pandemic is over. We are a federal facility. At the moment we cannot take in groups of visitors – but we hope to get back to that when permitted. Maybe by next growing season we can welcome people once again.”

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
**Update on our Columbia County Ant Project**

Deb shares with us this table of the ants that have been collected and identified as of September 2021. She does have more specific information, if you’re interested in seeing more details, but says that so far “we haven’t collected anything out of the ordinary.”

Most of the ant specimen submissions have been provided by Master Gardeners so far.

Deb says, “I hope people pick an ant and root for their team! I’m getting pretty good at identifying the Velvety Tree Ants in my yard. That may be a good skill to have in case the Argentine Ant works its way into the county. Hopefully, I will be able to recognize the difference between our species and the intruder.”

Would you like to participate, too? Visit the CCMGA Blog to read more about the Columbia County Ant Project.

Here are helpful resources:

- [Ants of Columbia County Collection Form](#)
- [WSU Ant Resources](#) (including ID guide)
- [PNW Pest Press: Sugar Ants](#)
- [Texas A&M publication](#) (homemade ant bait recipe pg. 7)
- [Boric acid ant bait recipe](#)

The Extension Office and the CCMG BugNutz (Insect Curation Club) want your ants!! Please bring us specimens in alcohol, labeled with location, date, time, weather conditions, etc. Collection vials and information slips are available at the office. Please see the August 2021 Country Living Newsletter for more details about collecting ants. We are compiling a database of Columbia County Ants and appreciate your help. Thanks!

Check out Deb’s article in the July 2021 Grapevine about “Velvety Tree Ants”.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANTS of Columbia County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through September 2021</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter Camponotus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thatching Formica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavement Tetramorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odorus House Tapinoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lasius</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Velvety Tree Limetopum</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 2 3 2 4 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Feeling Crafty?

Check out these garden markers, made by Master Gardener Katrina Clift after she saw the idea on Pinterest.

These would be perfect to mark where you plant all those fall bulbs!

Make a few sets and gift a gardener on your holiday list!
Many thanks to our OMGA Representative, Karen Harte.

Message from the OMGA Board President:

Thanks to all who participated in our OMGA December 3 retreat via Zoom. We had 31 participants!

First, we spent some time discussing our Goals for 2022. I have attached our draft. They included our highest priority, having a successful mini-college in 2022. This was followed by our commitment to education by elevating our Master Gardener skills training in 2022; next, recruitment and retention; then, our commitment to being an organization that supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility; and lastly, our desire to improve our communication, focusing on better engagement with our chapters and improving our website updates.

We discussed the dilemma of OMGA recruitment. As most of you know we are still facing some vacancies on our Executive Board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable are our President Elect position, Vice-President, and Treasurer. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization. Please contact me if you are available to serve.

We announced our desire to have a Mini-College event at OSU on July 29-30, 2022!! Make sure to MARK YOUR CALENDARS! If you are interested in helping, a planning committee will be meeting July 17 via zoom. Look for the link in your emails. Stay tuned as details are developed.

We covered many other important topics. Please look for our minutes on our website soon. As promised here is a link to our OMGA Handbook for our representatives. The meeting schedule needs revision. First meeting for 2022 will be March 4.

Thank you everyone for your patience and support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Take care of each other.

~ Chris Rusch

Oregon Master Gardener Association
Goal #1
OMGA renews our commitment to being an organization that is culturally sensitive and supports diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility towards all our membership and the community at large.

Goal #2
OMGA commits to providing the leadership and support for a successful 2022 Mini-College event.

Goal #3
OMGA commits to partnering with OSU Extension in providing on-line continuing education for our Master Gardener membership with advanced horticulture skills training in 2022, including the Growing Gardeners: Level-up series and the Elevated Skills training for current Master Gardener volunteers.

Goal #4
OMGA commits to supporting Chapters during these changing times in areas of recruitment and retention; as well as, OMGA supports the idea that all Master Gardener volunteers need to understand the state-wide “big-picture” for our program. OMGA can provide the opportunity for Chapters to share ideas, projects, and successful programs through quarterly “Sharing Forums” where all are invited to participate and contribute.

Goal #5
OMGA commits to improving OMGA recruitment by filling vacancies on our Executive Board and other important “heads of committees” positions. Most notable, our President Elect, Vice President and Treasurer positions remain vacant. If we want to remain relevant and viable as an organization, we need to be able to have a strong executive board to keep up with the needs of our organization.

Goal #6
OMGA commits to reviewing, updating and revising our OMGA Executive Board job descriptions, the OMGA Policies and Procedures, and keep updating our website in 2022.
A virtual board meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on Thursday, November 4, 2021 via Zoom conference call. The president was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present- Gail, Katherine, LaVina, & Karen. Guests were Sonia & Chip.

Housekeeping

- Secretary’s Report: One amendment made to last month’s minutes regarding that dues would not increase next year. Katherine made a motion to accept, Karen seconded. Report accepted as amended.
- Treasurer’s Report: Katherine made a motion to accept the report, Karen seconded. Report accepted.
- Correspondence: N/A

Committee Reports

- OMGA Rep: Nothing to report.
- CC Fairgrounds Garden: Put to bed for the winter. LaVina will work on rerouting the mole population from the garden.
- Bug Nuts: Nothing to report.
- Seed to Supper: Nothing to report.

Old Business

- Spring Fair Update: No update. Spring Fair is pending membership interest which will be gaged at the November chapter meeting.

New Business

- CCMGA Officer Term Requirements. Discussed a 2-year term requirement for officers to help with the stability of the board. Half of the officers would be elected one year and the other half the next. Chelsea voiced concern for possible lower participation, however, could be reverted if this happened. Chuck will draft language for proposed change to bylaws. The proposed change will be read at the next two chapter meetings. Change wouldn’t take place until officer elections in October 2022. Katherine made a motion, Karen seconded. Motion passed to present to membership.

Meeting adjourned 10:47 am

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Chelsea Saettone, Secretary