February 8th
“Seed to Supper” planning meeting at 4pm
Please email/call Sonia if interested in participating in this educational program:
Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu

February 16th
“Chat with Chip” special online event at 6:30pm. See page 3 for details.

February 25th
Chapter Meeting with Guest Presentation at 6:30pm. Stay tuned for details!

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
• VACANT, Vice President
• Chelsea Saettone, Secretary
• Brooke McClain, [Interim] Treasurer
• LaVina Patterson, Historian
• Rachel Krager, OMGA Rep.
• VACANT, OMGA Alt-Rep.

The President’s Corner

Welcome to February and another month closer to an end of the Pandemic (I hope and pray)! I do not know if we really are getting closer to an end to this or not but am getting hopeful anyway. One sign of a possible break is that the Columbia County Fair Board is looking into some preparations for some level of Fair activity. I received a call wanting to know if I could volunteer as a judge with no commitments but trying to be ready if conditions are amenable to having something to go on.

One thing that happens every year starting late in the Fall is seed catalogs arriving. I have had a few but less than usual but still it starts me thinking about what I can grow this year. With a little restraint I am trying to not buy too many seeds of too many plants I cannot handle. Maybe this year I will be successful.

...continued on page 2

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
In case you have not heard OMGA has decided to not collect dues from the local Chapters this year and we have decided to pass that along to our members and no dues will be requested this year.

We are not sure what activities our Chapter normally sponsors will be held this year because of Covid restrictions. When we have more information or guidance we will pass it along to you. So unless you hear something positive from us I would expect all activities will be curtailed that involve in person contact. At this time the only exception I am aware of will be the Demonstration Garden and more information will be forthcoming as it is formulated.

So far our monthly membership meetings have been well attended over Zoom and the January meeting had 25 participants. Watch for the announcement of our next meeting and the featured speaker and please join us.

That's all for now so til the next time keep it dirty,

~ Chuck Petersen, President CCMGA
Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series

This monthly series runs now through November 2021, is led by OSU horticulture experts from across the state, and offers education for the experienced gardener. Take your gardening knowledge to the next level with timely topics from gardening in a changing climate to techniques to extend your season. The webinars will be broadcast via Zoom, the second Tuesday of the month, at 3pm. Recordings of each webinar will be posted online. This series is open to the public and is free. You can take one, or take them all! Register, and view the entire class schedule, and find recordings of past classes online HERE.

Jan. 12: Understanding Seed Characteristics
Feb. 9: Multifunctional Hedgerows
March 9: Dirt gone bad: When your soil amendment has been contaminated
April 13: Dazzling Dahlias
May 11: Water-wise Gardening
June 8: Unique Winter Vegetables to Grow
July 13: Fire-wise Landscaping
Aug. 10: Season Extension Techniques
Sept. 14: Gardening with Native Plants for Pollinators
Oct. 12: Adapting Your Garden and Landscape for Climate Change
Nov. 9: Using Life Cycle Analysis to Understand the Sustainability of Garden Products & Practices

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW: Elevated Skills Training for Current Master Gardener Volunteers: Ready to gather new skills to elevate your Master Gardener volunteerism? Through the Elevated Skills Trainings, current Master Gardeners (including 2020 trainees) will learn how to use new tools for plant ID, advance your zoom or social media skills, and learn about community science within the Master Gardener program, are just a few examples. We’ll be using an online training tool named Thinkific, which is the same platform we’ve used to deliver the COVID Safety Training and the Celebrate Master Gardener Week. Each week, a new lesson will open for you to work through, on your own time, and at your own pace. Each lesson is optional: you can take whichever ones interest you. Once a lesson is open it will remain open for the rest of 2021, meaning you can take it at any time during the year. FREE! Take one or take all.

Look here for more information, including the list of classes scheduled.
Monthly “Chat with Chip” Special Online Event

Monthly, the 3rd Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm

You are invited to attend these monthly Zoom Presentations each 3rd Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM. Register in advance online. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Chip will address some previously requested topics, with plenty of time for Q & A. He also invites ideas for future presentations! Please email your topic suggestions to Chip.Bubl@oregonstate.edu. Be sure to read Chip’s local newspaper columns, and listen weekly to the Old Garden Spot radio program on KOHI AM 1600 Saturday mornings at 8:00!

View previous “Chats with Chip” online HERE.

Looking for Native Plants to Support Pollinators?

OregonFlora has a new tool available on-line to help you select the native plants that will support the pollinators in your yard. It’s easy to use, full of ideas you may not have considered, and you can focus on your location and specific community of native species that are known to thrive there.

It is called Native Plant Comprehensive Guide and even if you weren’t planning on adding a native plant to your landscape, you may want to explore their guide. However, if you are planning to add a few new plants, this tool allows you to select for several purposes in addition to pollinators such as woodland gardens, meadow scapes, or rain and water garden. These options are found in the “Grow Natives” Resource. It is flexible and allows you to select several different search criteria including bloom time, color, sunlight, and water requirements.

There is also a Mapping Resource that will help you find the vascular plants that have been identified within an area you define on the map. In this tool, you simply define an area by drawing a perimeter around the area you want to explore, and the tool will populate a list of plants that have been identified there. From the list created, you may want to do further research, which is easy to do from the main menu. Just enter the plant’s name at the search window. Each plant is documented with many photos, OSU Herbarium specimen, and further information. This tool works best when you use it on a computer instead of a mobile device.

Have fun and use this these tools to prepare for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Spring Plant Sale, coming up in April. Check it out at: https://oregonflora.org

Submitted by Deb Brimacombe

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvs.extension.oregonstate.edu
The Columbia County Master Gardeners Association welcomes Chelsea Satteone (MG 2019) as our new Treasurer!

Chelsea was in the 2019 Master Gardener Class which she took with her Grandma June. She has participated in the Spring Plant Sale, Demonstration Garden and Seed to Supper. She is also a 4-H leader and has a youth horticulture club. Chelsea has always enjoyed plants as she was the type of college student that (attempted) to grow vegetables in containers on her window sill. In 2009, at Pacific University, she earned her certificate in Permaculture Design.

Professionally, she has a bachelors degree in social work from Pacific University and a Masters degree in Social Work with an emphasis in Management of Human Services and Older Adults from the University of Michigan. She has worked in a few medical social work roles since 2013 and recently stopped working to care for her new son, Isaac, born in late November 2020. Now she plans to enjoy being a stay at home mom in their Scappoose home while redesigning their backyard.

Let’s all welcome, Chelsea... and congratulations on her handsome boy!
Look forward to more board member biographies published right here in the Grapevine!

The OSU Extension Service asks for your participation in a QUICK and anonymous survey about your volunteer service. Please take a few minutes to provide your responses here: https://beav.es/JNc or use the QR Code at the right and scan with your smartphone to access it. Your feedback is very important to us. Thank you!!
Not What You Expect?

I recently confided in a friend that I began to sense a little anxiety in the garden. It was an email exchange, but I heard him chuckle in his response as he gave me the straight line that turned the conversation completely on its head. He responded that he didn’t know bees could live in the ground, yellow jackets, sure, but bees? He was reacting to a detail in my story which gave me permission to ‘talk bugs.’

I told him I had just weeded an area around my blueberries last summer and spread a thick layer of bark dust. As I sat next to the blueberry patch, imagining how the bushes would react, and as I scratched the head of my cat, I started to notice little black insects swarming above the bark dust. I crawled to the site and anxiously (as I hinted earlier) pulled the bark dust off the soil, piling it up around the edge of the bed. I was heart-broken for the little bees that had returned, legs yellow with pollen, only to find their nest sites, gone. I couldn’t stay and watch their reactions. I left, hoping they could recover.

I’ve spent the last half-a-dozen years trying to improve my bee habitat. I have made a lot of assumptions that I’m sure the bees thought were curious behavior. I’ve even promoted the idea that we don’t put down a lot of mulch in our yards. It makes sense not to exclude insects, but I wasn’t sure which insects would be excluded, and it seemed possible that some might benefit. Sometimes, though, the landscaper, or gardener in us, or community rules demand an application. Also, I have to admit, I’m much more comfortable with experiments and expectations failing. It is success, like this experience, that can be troubling, after all I spread the bark dust for the health of family and the blueberry plants. I just didn’t notice the bees before I started covering the ground, not to mention what I might have done cultivating and pulling weeds.
But back to my friend. Unknowingly, he gave me an ‘open mic,’ something no family member does willingly. I got to tell him that not all bees look like little honey bees or bumbles, that these were small dark bees I might have assumed were flies, if it were not for the yellow pollen on their legs. I had to look closely. He was fascinated to learn that most species of bees live a solitary life, do their own foraging, and after mating, build their own nests and lay eggs. In fact, the majority of bee species (~70%) nest in the ground and look like anything but bees. The females do have stingers. I’ve accidentally rested my hand on a bee nesting in the walkway beside a lettuce bed. She made her point, which itched for a day, but I learned to avoid her community.

**Halictidea species are also known as sweat bees, but few in this family have common names. Females nest in communities and often one will guard the nest, forming a semi-social nesting behavior.**

Just a word about my gardening anxiety. When I first make a discovery or observation like this, it can feel like failure, but more often than not, after a little consideration, I begin to realize that I am sharing the garden space with the bugs. I’m new in the neighborhood and they are teaching me about the crazy world we all live in—a world easily overlooked because we expect something other than what we discover. This whole experience seems to me like a good excuse to spend more time with my cat, watching the bugs, and not just ‘get the job done.’

~ Article and Photos by Deb Brimacombe

**Right: This early spring Andrenidea species nests in patches of lawn where the turf is not perfect by human standards, but ideal by bee standards. They usually emerge as the native trees bloom and spread pollen.**
Save the Date

OMGA PRESENTS

Mini-College 2021

CONNECT - COLLABORATE - CULTIVATE

July 16 and 17, 2021

Experience and participate in a dynamic program of interactive educational classes and workshops

Keynote presentations by:

Robert Michael Pyle and Gail Langellotto

Watch for the exciting details when our website “goes live” at:

mastergardenerminicollege.org

Registration will open in March 2021

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
Join our 2021 Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge

The second year of the Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge, is much bigger than last year’s Challenge! This year we are looking to sign up 8,000 gardeners to grow vegetable and flowers and need your help! Learn more about the challenge here: [https://www.foodhero.org/growthis](https://www.foodhero.org/growthis).

A Grow This! Champion:

1. Must be a current Oregon Master Gardener volunteer or Master Gardeners representing a county demonstration/educational garden.

2. Will need to apply for the Grow This! Champion program by midnight February 19 (we are looking to include Master Gardeners from across the state and may need to limit participation if demand exceeds our seed supply). [Master Gardener Champions](#)

3. Will receive one crop seed packet and one flower seed packet. (Type and variety will be selected at random.) Pick up will be at your county in March (specifics will be sent by email)

4. Must agree to give feedback on your growing process and results at least once—but as often as you want—during the Challenge. Feedback could include suggestions, comments, challenges and solutions, stories, photos, drawings or videos that we can share with others (with or without your name). These can be emailed to food.hero@oregonstate.edu or shared on social media adding the following text to any post: @BeAFoodHero and #mastergardener. All feedback is WELCOME.

5. Can count your active time spent on this project as Master Gardener volunteer hours (report as ‘community science’)

We need your help to grow along and share your expert advice with these gardeners. Please consider signing up to participate as a Grow This! Champion.

Your growing tips, comments, challenges and stories will be shared on our social media platforms and in monthly update emails to beginning gardeners as a way to build a growing community across the state. We are so excited to invite you to be a Grow This! Champion partner!

Follow us on Social Media!

Point your smartphone or tablet camera at the QR code; click to follow the link that pops up on your screen.

Questions?

Email Brooke.Edmunds@oregonstate.edu or food.hero@oregonstate.edu or leave a voice message at 541-737-1017.

The Grow This! Oregon Garden Challenge has been adapted from the Grow This! West Virginia Garden Challenge through a partnership with West Virginia University.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. This material was funded in part by USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2021
President Chuck Petersen Presiding

A virtual board meeting was called to order at 10:37 am on Thursday, January 7, 2020 via Zoom conference call. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present: LaVina P. & Rachel K. and guests Sonia R., Chip B., Kathy J., Rayne F., Pat L., Dennis S., Karen H., Debra, George S., Daryl B., Brooke M. & Cat R.

Housekeeping
- Secretary’s Report: Minutes of December’s Board Meeting - Accepted
- Treasurer’s Report: Packet including December’s Inroads statement, Profit & Loss, Profit & Loss with budget year-end reports and current Membership Report. Brooke went over each page. Report was approved and accepted.
- Correspondence:
  - OMGA: Chuck is sending OMGA a copy of current list of board members.
  - OMGA Retreat: Chuck attended. Informative of different plant sales and how they are handled across the state.
  - 2020 Audit: Completed.

Committee Reports
All Master Gardener face to face Activities are canceled and on hold until word is received from OSU Extension
- OMGA Rep: N/A
- CC Fairgrounds Demo Garden: N/A

New Business
- Future of CCMGA: Decision made to continue board and chapter monthly meetings with presentations and add a Q&A at the end. Adding social zoom meetings were discussed, however, on hold for now. Discussed how to reach general public. Plan to hold Seed to Supper via Zoom this year.
- Online Educational Outreach: Managed by Sonia, send educational content if interested.
  - Facebook Page: Currently 371 followers: https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-County-Master-Gardeners-586212215080283
    - Discussed having more of a Facebook presence, however, due to logistical purposes on hold for time being.
  - CCGMA Blog: https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/columbiamga/
- OMGA: Not requiring dues for 2021 so CCMGA will not collect dues this year from members.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am

~ Chelsea Saettone, Secretary
Welcome Alice Formiga, Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University presenting, “A Short History of Seed and Nursery Catalogues”

2021 CCMGA Board of Directors
President, Chuck Petersen
Treasurer, Brooke McClain
Vice President, Vacant
Historian, LaVina Patterson
Past President, Sandy Newman
OMGA Representative, Rachel Krager
Secretary, Chelsea Saettone
OMGA Alt. Representative, Vacant

Business Meeting
• Secretary Report- January 2021 Board meeting minutes. Chelsea is now the Secretary, please reach out if you have any suggestions of how to improve the minutes!
• Treasurers Report- No money spent and no money coming in.
• Committee Reports
  o OMGA - N/A
  o CC Demo Garden - N/A
  o Spring Fair 2021 - N/A

New Business
• Seed to Supper – 1st planning meeting Monday 2/1/21 @ 4pm – email Sonia for info.
  Sonia.reagan@oregonstate.edu
• February Chapter’s Meeting Guest will be speaking on Houseplants and Gardening Indoors.
• Tonight’s speaker- Alice Formiga giving a chat tomorrow 1/29 at 10 am called “Squash and Pumpkins in Art Through the Ages”. https://www.culinarybreedingnetwork.com/events

Upcoming Events
• Monthly “Chat with Chip” on Zoom. Third Tuesday evening from 6:30-8pm Register here, https://bit.ly/3pnkjlk
• Elevated Skills Training, learn how to use new tools for plant ID, advance your zoom or social media skills, and learn about community science within the Master Gardener program. Register here, https://bit.ly/3qXCmFq

We would like to hear from you Master Gardeners!
• Newsletter contributions- Let’s help Sonia fill our newsletter!

~ Chelsea Saettone, Secretary