February 2020

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/

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

February is arriving as I write this, and so is the new Master Gardener Class. I welcome you all to the Columbia Master Gardener Association. You are welcome to attend all the regular Master Gardener functions. The regular Chapter meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month and begin at 6:30 p.m.

The positions of the OMGA Representative (and alternate) are still open for our Chapter – self-nominations welcome! The March OMGA Meeting (location TBD) is on March 6-7th; July 23rd Meeting is during the OMGA Mini-College; September is on the 11th-12th in Yamhill and the November 6th-7th meeting will be hosted by Multnomah. There are funds in our budget for the reimbursement of some travel expenses. Additionally, there is a $100 scholarship from the OMGA per meeting available! Your out of pocket cost will be minimal.

With all the wet weather we are having this winter, I feel as if I have memorized the new garden catalogs and have planned all stages of my garden. It is now time to brave the elements and finish my pruning. I recently purchased a LED plant light. It is programmable for 4, 8, or 12 hours and with its red and blue LEDs, provides quite an interesting look. ~ Larry Byrum, President, CCMGA

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

Upcoming Events

February 6
Project Planning Meeting 10:00 am
Board Meeting 10:30 am

February 6
BugNutz meets @ 1:00 pm

February 8
Beginning Beekeeping Workshop
* Registration required, see page 15

February 11
Seed to Supper Seed Sorting 2:30 pm
Seed to Supper Planning Mtg 6:30 pm

February 27
Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm, “Houseplants” by Judy Alleruzzo of Al’s Garden Centers

Membership Dues
$10 annually, payable to CCMGA, drop a check or cash by the office!

2020 CCMG Board of Directors

- Larry Byrum, President
- Chuck Petersen, Past President
- Sandy Newman, Vice President
- Bree Riggs, Secretary
- Brooke McClain, Treasurer
- LaVina Patterson, Historian
- VACANT, OMGA Rep.
- VACANT, OMGA Alt-Rep.
This free beginning gardening course teaches participants the tools they need to start a garden and grow their own food on a budget. This is a joint program between Oregon Food Bank and OSU Extension Service. The Seed to Supper classes have been offered in Columbia County for several years now.

The topics taught in this course include:

- Garden site and soil development
- Garden planning
- Planting a garden
- Caring for a growing garden
- Harvesting and using garden bounty

We are holding a planning meeting for those interested in continuing as (or training to become) an instructor in these county-wide classes on Tuesday, Feb. 11th at 6:30 p.m. In addition, an unexpected (but bountiful) supply of seeds was delivered to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank and has been hauled over to the Extension Service for sorting, organizing and re-packing. A whole pallet full of boxes and bags of seeds! Since the conference room is open all day, let’s plan a seed sorting party before our planning meeting, beginning at 2:30pm on Tuesday the 11th. If we need more time, we can always schedule another work day. Dinner will be provided!

There are new opportunities for instructors to think about regarding how they want to teach their classes this coming spring. Please let Sonia know if you will attend the seed sorting & planning meeting and if you are still able to continue to be a valuable, volunteer Seed to Supper instructor.

Thank you!

Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu, or 503-397-3462.
Call for Spring Fair Raffle Prizes

It’s that time of year again! Tomatoes 🍅 and peppers 🌶 sale, also known as Spring Fair! This year, our 25th annual Spring Fair & Plant Sale will be held at St. Helens High School on May 2nd. There will be plenty of help needed the day before/the day of the event.

Any Master Gardeners interested in donating their crafts or talents to the Master Gardeners Spring Fair raffle prize pool, please contact: Peggy Crisp, Raffle Chair, 503-366-4002. Thanks so much!

Gardening Talks at the Skyline Grange

14416 NW Skyline Blvd in Portland

February 12th: 7-9 p.m. “Natural Care of Orchard & Garden,” by April Jamison, Garden Ecology

February 19th: 7-9 p.m. “Fruit-Bearing Shrubs,” with Dennis Brown, OSU Master Gardener

~ Thanks to Sandy Newman for providing this information!

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
Friends of Baltimore Woods Annual Winter Talk

**BUTTERFLIES of the OAKWOODS & HOW to MAKE THEM WELCOME**

Robert Michael Pyle is a butterfly scientist, teacher, and professional writer. His 24 books include *Chasing Monarchs*, *Where Bigfoot Walks*, and *Wintergreen*, which won the John Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Nature Writing.

His most recent novel is *Magdalena Mountain*. A Yale-trained ecologist and a Guggenheim fellow, he resides and studies nature in southwestern Washington’s Willapa Hills.

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Feb 23, 2020, Sun • 11:30am-1:30pm

St Johns Twin Cinema
8704 N Lombard St
Sliding fee scale $5 - $10

Thank you to sponsor St Johns Twin Cinema
see www.friendsofbaltimorewoods.org or email friends@friendsofbaltimorewoods

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
RUN & WALK TO END HUNGER

Columbia Pacific Food Bank’s First Annual 5K/10K Event


Calling all walkers and runners! Sign up to walk or run and help Columbia Pacific Food Bank fund improvements to our future building. This is a FUN way to personally taking part in delivering and educational space that will encourage healthy eating in Columbia County.

Easy to follow St. Helens race routes

- The 5K run/walk starts at 9:15am
- The 10k run/walk starts at 9:00am
- Professionally timed
- Costume contest
- After party
- Prizes

The Columbia Pacific Food Bank distributes 12 tons of food weekly to Columbia County pantries to help feed our low income neighbors. Our future home is six times bigger than our current location! It will include a teaching kitchen, a produce pod, and an expanded and organized space to better service Columbia County.
Chapter Meeting February 27th 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Judy Alleruzzo: Guest Presentation on Houseplants

Judy is the co-host of the Garden Time TV show, airing locally for the past 15 years! She works for Al's Garden Centers as the perennial plant and houseplant buyer. Judy is originally from Chicago and holds a degree in Horticulture. She will be giving a presentation on houseplants, and will have some for sale, too!
Columbia County Beekeepers – February 6th Meeting

The Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers will have their next club meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 6th at the Columbia River PUD conference room: 64001 Columbia River Hwy in Deer Island.

Mandy Shaw will be the speaker. She has many things to share and has just returned from speaking at a Natural Beekeeping Conference in California. Mandy is a great resource, so bring all your questions.

These beekeeping meetings are free and open to the public!

~ Linda Zahl

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Demonstration Garden Work Party

The gravel has been delivered to the Demo Garden so now we can start working on the entryway!

Monday, Feb. 3, at 1:00 p.m. will be the first day to start digging up the pavers so the gravel can be put in that area. We may need to work on Tuesday also.

See you there!

Your Demo Garden Coordinator, LaVina  503-397-4375

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
Upcoming Continuing Education Webinars

**An important part of being a Master Gardener is staying current on the latest horticultural science. With that in mind, OSU Extension has developed a webinar series to supplement other classes you may take this year. Remember, you need at least 10 hours of approved continuing education (CE) by October 31st to be recertified. The webinars in this series are each approved for 1 hour of continuing education. What is a webinar? It is a seminar that is presented over the internet. The presenter(s) will show slides and photos while they are speaking on their topic. There is a Q&A box to enter your questions. Each webinar will be ~40 minutes long and followed by a moderated Q&A session.**

If you attended the Chapter Meeting in January, you were the first group to experience our brand new big screen TV! That evening, we had a wonderful guest presentation on Orchids! While we won’t be using the big screen for the Super Bowl game this weekend, we COULD use it to present a live webinar, with popcorn, even!

Remember, you need a minimum of 10 continuing education hours (CE) to remain “certified” annually, and these webinars are a great way to achieve that! *Don’t forget to record the hour for the guest presentations that you attend at monthly Chapter meetings, too!* If you are interested in a “Webinar Popcorn Party” let Sonia know!

- Updates from the Garden Ecology Lab (2020 edition!) Presented by: Dr. Gail Langellotto
  **March 17th** at 10 a.m. Pre-register: [https://learn.extension.org/events/3737](https://learn.extension.org/events/3737)

- Gardening with Native Plants and the OregonFlora Project; Presented by: Dr. Linda Hardison
  **April 21st** at 10 a.m. Pre-register: [https://learn.extension.org/events/3738](https://learn.extension.org/events/3738)

- Winter Squash Research at OSU; Presented by: Dr. Alex Stone and Lane Selman
  **May 19th** at 10 a.m. Pre-register: [https://learn.extension.org/events/3761](https://learn.extension.org/events/3761)

- Solve Pest Problems: A New Resource for Master Gardeners and the Public; Presented by: Weston Miller
  **July 16th** at 10 a.m. Pre-register: [https://learn.extension.org/events/3762](https://learn.extension.org/events/3762)

- Previous webinars can always be found and viewed here: [blogs.oregonstate.edu/ediblegardens/2020/01/23/2020-osu-extension-master-gardener-webinar-series/](blogs.oregonstate.edu/ediblegardens/2020/01/23/2020-osu-extension-master-gardener-webinar-series/)
Call for Self-Nomination for the OMGA (Oregon Master Gardener Association) Representative and Alternate Representative Positions!


Guidelines & Expectations for the State Representative and Alternate Representative

Key OMGA Representative Activities:

- Approving the annual OMGA budget: The annual OMGA budget is set at the beginning of the year. A status report is provided by the OMGA Treasurer at each board meeting.

- Electing OMGA Executive Committee Officers: Representing your local Master Gardener Chapter by shaping decisions made at the State of Oregon level. Act as liaison between Chapter & State Program.

- Participating in the implementation of the OMGA Strategic Plan: Authorizing key operation changes with your vote.

- Commitment: Agreeing to be responsible to foster change on the behalf of the local Chapters and for the State of Oregon as a whole. Representatives demonstrate commitment by attending meetings, following through on tasks, getting involved and encouraging others to get involved.

- Involvement: Willingly take part in discussions and projects that benefit the OMGA. You act on suggestions made at the quarterly meetings and your chapter meetings, and recognize member’s contributions. You choose members for OMGA activities who are committed to achieving goals.

- Recordkeeping: At all quarterly meetings, bring your OMGA Representative Handbook to use as a tool to keep up-to-date. This handbook describes your role through examples and procedures as an OMGA Representative.

- Written Chapter reports are given to the OMGA Secretary and Statewide Program Coordinator each quarter and if you wish to provide a two-minute oral report about the needs of your chapter, simply request time for the meeting through the OMGA President.

Travel reimbursements for these statewide (varying locations) may be available for the OMGA representative. Please contact the CCMGA Board President, Larry Byrum, for more information: larry.d.byrum@gmail.com.
Thank you for submitting your volunteer hours! Below is a glimpse of the statewide stats. See the last page in this newsletter for a look at the contributions by our Columbia County Master Gardeners!
Cohabitation with Paper Wasps
Unexpected Guests

Contributed by Kim Kent (Columbia County Master Gardener, Class of 2019)

Squatters!

When we constructed our beautiful new high-tunnel greenhouse, we never imagined that it would be home to more than the tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and other vegetation we intended to grow. However, before we had even arranged the benches and planters, we discovered uninvited guests. They moved right in, setting up housekeeping in the corrugated doors and end walls.

As a Master Gardener Trainee, I’d learned about beneficial aspects of wasps in Integrated Pest Management training. The class was encouraged to consider living with wasps rather than removing the nests, or worse poisoning them.

At the time, I scoffed at the idea of living with wasps. They were clearly the enemy and deserved whatever they got. Over the years, I’d received my share of unwarranted attacks by the winged monsters. My hatred was strong. So, upon finding these squatters in the doors of my beloved greenhouse, I insisted my brave husband eradicate them tout suite. I was not to be attacked in my new sanctuary.

Spring being a very busy time for avid gardeners such as us, the nests continued to grow unchecked for a while before we purchased the means for their destruction. I am happy to report however, that the poison remains unused in my utility closet.

By the time we were ready to attack, we’d discovered that the wasps were not the blood thirsty horrors that we’d believed them to be. Who knew?? Even though their little homesteads were built into the rolling doors that we opened and closed each day for ventilation, they merely peered at us curiously each time we moved them. I was shocked! No attack? Not even a threat of an attack? How could this be? Maybe it was time to consider an alliance.

Getting to Know You

As it turns out, I had much to learn about these little beings. It turns out that Paper Wasps and Yellow Jackets, although related, are not the same creatures. You know those mean little thugs that crash your outdoor parties and terrorize those with meat or anything sweet (which is pretty much everything at your barbeque, isn’t it?) Those are Yellow Jackets. Jerks!
Yellow Jackets build round paper covered nests up in trees, outbuildings, or underground. They are aggressive when disturbed, or when you are in possession of anything they would like to acquire, aka sweets and meats. I am still not a fan of the tiny savages, and that is very unlikely to change... but you never know.

Paper Wasps, on the other hand, build those single-comb open paper nests under the eaves of your house, in your woodshed or barn... or, in our case, greenhouse. They can be cranky when bothered, but it turns out they are not as easy to bother as their extra cranky cousins.

They differ in appearance, as well. Paper Wasps have a leaner thorax, narrower waist and trail their legs after them when they fly, which I think gives them a bit of a drunken swagger.

Now, I’m not implying that Paper Wasps will never consider you as a threat, or that they won’t come at you pointy-end first. I’m just relating my experience with trying cohabitation. Ours only attacked when my husband unknowingly, and repeatedly, hit the wall from which the nest was hanging, with a hammer. His hammer hand was stung by an annoyed resident trying to get him to stop, which he absolutely did. We agreed that the attack was understandable.

To our surprise, the wasps became accustomed to our comings and goings and the regular movements of the world they inhabited. They merely kept a wary eye on us whenever we approached. Many was the evening that I found myself peering curiously back at one or two of the residents, as I closed the doors against the cooling air. Was it just me, or were they kind of cute?

**A Beautiful Friendship**

As I said, I’d previously been educated on the positive role that wasps play in the circle of garden life. They need meat (as it happens, bug meat) to feed their growing pupae. Happily, this includes garden damaging pests like earwigs, aphids, horn worms, flea beetles and many other destroyers of countless gardeners’ hopes and dreams. The items on their menu would resemble the hit list of any avid gardener.

Not only are they excellent hunters, but the adult wasps are great pollinators. As they buzz from plant to plant, they carry pollen from blossom to blossom. This is great to have in a greenhouse environment, where pollination is challenging and may require human intervention. Bonus!

No longer alarmed by their presence, I began to see them as a blessing, buzzing busily about our greenhouse. The aphids that hitchhiked here, via starts from a local nursery, didn’t have a prayer. The rest of our garden should have been so lucky. Even better, our tomatoes, eggplants and peppers were loaded with fruit. These squatters were certainly earning their keep.

As the summer heated up, I was concerned that they might get more aggressive with the rising temperatures. Didn’t happen. Our conversations switched from discussing their possible aggression to ensuring that they could find water near their nest when it was too hot.

They were good neighbors until the end, when the weather cooled and the first frost appeared. I was strangely sad to see the last of my little friends. I hope to see them again in the spring, busily building their little kingdoms in the doors.
A board meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. on Thursday January 2, 2020 at the St. Helens OSU Extension Office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present – Sandy N., Chuck P., Brooke M., LaVina P., and guests Katherine J., Sonia R. and Chip B.

Housekeeping:

- **Secretary’s Report** – Minutes of December 2019 Board Meeting – accepted.


- **Correspondence** – N/A

Committee Reports:

- **Spring Fair 2020** – Meetings / location set - St. Helens Library on Wednesdays @ 1:00pm. Working on vendors and cleaning up contract introductory letter.

- **OMGA Rep** – Sent out requests, waiting to hear back.

- **CC Fairgrounds Garden** – Ordered pea gravel to fix pathway, will be delivered soon. LaVina will be requesting help for work party soon.

- **Audit Committee** - Audit report approved and copies given to President and Secretary.

Old Business:

- **Graduation prep** – speaker and location and arrange for certificates to be made – check in with Chip

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

- *Spring Fair Committee meetings set for Wednesday at 1pm – St. Helens Library*
- *OMGA Chapter Representative Scholarship Fund – No reply to Larry yet.*
- *Approve this year’s calendar- Add for 2020 - July 13th at 10am: work party for whole chapter at Demo Garden for fair.  May 2nd - Spring Fair.  November 19th at 6:00pm - New 2020 graduation date.  February grafting class TBA.  Annual all chapter BBQ Aug. 31st at PGE/Trojan Park.*
- *Order Swing Bars- Larry has them.*
- *OMGA Representative candidate- Emails have been sent, no candidates yet.*
- *2020 Chapter Meeting speakers- Kathy has January and February scheduled, rest of year on track.*
- *Field Trip coordination “how to” sheet- Continue discussing*
- *Annual Statement: Conflict of Interest- 2020 copies were signed by board members and returned to secretary.*
- *Brooke- send copy of 2020 budget to members for records*
- *Sonia proposed new graduation ceremony in November- After hours have been completed (hours due October 10/31 each year).  Graduation date for 2020 class proposed and accepted: November 19th at 6pm.*
- *New class schedule and registration- 2020 class is held Wednesday evenings and every other Saturday Feb. 5th – April 11th.  Class is not full currently, 10 spots left.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

~ Bree Riggs, Secretary

One acre of Christmas trees provides enough oxygen daily for 18 people.
Bee School for Beginners

Presented by Columbia County Beekeepers and OSU Extension Service: 2020 Bee School 101

Date: Saturday February 8th, 2020
Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm
Place: OSU Columbia County Extension
505 N Columbia River Hwy
St. Helens, OR, 97051

Cost: $40 if registered by February 1st
$45 after February 1st
$20 Scholarship available for students and those in need *

Register: Fill out the attached form and mail a check by February 1st payable to “Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers” C/O Linda Zahl, PO Box 96, St. Helens, OR 97051. *Please note if you are seeking a scholarship.* For registrations after February 1st or other questions, please call Linda Zahl at 503-799-7073. Refreshments provided; bring a sack lunch.

In this 7 hour course, new and prospective beekeepers will learn the basics of the “Art of Beekeeping.” Topics essential to success in the first year of keeping the humble, industrious, and vital Honeybee, *Apis mellifera* will be presented. Topics include:

- Honeybee Biology
- Tools & Woodworking
- Acquiring Bees
- Disease & Pathogens
- Hive Manipulations for Honey Production
- Gardening for Pollinators
- Additional field day in the spring for hands-on experience in an active hive (TBD)

* Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact the Columbia County Extension office at 503.397.3462 to request reasonable accommodation.
Registration Form - Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers 2020 Bee School 101

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

Requesting a $20 scholarship? ______________________________________

Please share with us:

What do you hope to learn at this workshop?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What is your beekeeping experience?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What are your goals in relation to beekeeping this year?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Mail completed form with a check by February 1st payable to “Columbia County Oregon Beekeepers” C/O Linda Zahl, PO Box 96, St. Helens, OR 97051
Demonstration Garden: 31 Years Strong!
Since 1988, our 10,500 square foot garden has served to educate the community with over 25 defined areas and raised beds - plots for sun and shade perennials, roses, vegetables, pollinator attractants, fruit trees, grapes, berries, fire resistant plants, sedums, compost bins, water features, bug hotels and mason bee nest areas, memorial benches, a secret honeysuckle room, and much more! Over 1,300 visitors are offered tours and gardening advice during County Fair week. A 2018 OMGA grant provided signage to explain gardening concepts and practices. Each spring, volunteers offer pruning demonstrations.

Farmers Market Outreach: Volunteers at several area farmers markets host informational booths to offer plant, weed and insect identification, feature unusual vegetable varieties, provide bee education, and so much more.

Seed to Supper Class Series: Six springtime classes are held around the county, led by teams of dedicated Master Gardener volunteers.

Community Food Donations: 9,434 pounds of produce was donated to our local food banks.

BugNutz: Our Insect Curation Group has fun traveling with bug and spider displays to provide EduFormances in schools, garden clubs and fairs!

Program Activities

Seed to Supper Classes
Demonstration & Education Garden
Community Event Guest Speakers
Mobile Insect Displays & Education
Spring Fair
Farmer’s Markets
Social Media
Community Events

Entrance to the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden at the County Fairgrounds in St. Helens, Oregon