January 2019

THE GRAPEVINE

Columbia County Master Gardener Program
505 N. Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens OR 97051
T: 503-397-3462
http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/master-gardener-volunteer-program

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

Final message from our Past President:

Well we are looking at a new year and the Holidays are over for another year. Now for the bills and for those who may have over indulged maybe a hangover. I know I eat more sugar laced stuff at this time of year and the aftermath is almost as bad as an alcohol hangover.

I am getting more of the seed and plant catalogues and the one from Green World is always interesting because many of the plants they sell are exotic (at least to me) and I have rarely or never heard of them. I have tried a few; tea, olive and guava and am quite tempted to try others.

I am getting ready to set out my sweet potato starts to get an early a go as possible as they need to be started by mid to late January or early February. Other than that it is just mulching up the beds to get them ready for planting. For that I have a bunch of sheep and chickens hard at work making more "material" for my compost pile.

Please remember to pay your dues and turn in your volunteer hours.

Thanks have a good New Year and see you in the garden
~ Chuck Petersen, Past President, CCMGA

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

Upcoming Events at the OSU Extension Office

January 1
Office Closed for Holiday

January 3
Project Planning Meeting 10:00 am
Board Meeting 10:30 am

January 3
BugNutz 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

January 19
Oregon Bee Atlas Training 9am -2pm

January 23
Spring Fair Planning Meeting 11:30am

January 26
Beginning Beekeepers School 9–3pm
$35 - Please call to register

Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

2019 CCMG Board of Directors

• Larry Byrum, President
• Chuck Petersen, Past President
• Sandy Newman, Vice President
• Brooke McClain, Secretary
• Kathy Johnson, Treasurer
• LaVina Patterson, Historian
• Sally Brandenfels, OMGA Rep.
The New President’s Corner

First message from our Incoming President:

My name is Larry Byrum. I attended the 2004 Master Gardener class and have held several positions within our chapter; Vice President, Treasurer and now President for 2019.

As I get ready to welcome in 2019, I would like to wish all of you reading this a Happy New Year and hope that your Christmas Holidays were Merry. I look forward to coming year of gardening and interacting with you at our meetings.

~ Larry Byrum, New President, CCMGA

Call for a skilled volunteer!

Is there anyone in the MG volunteer circle who is able to lend their hand at mapping/drafting the demo garden through use of AutoCAD or a similar program?

This would be a great “off-season” activity to begin! Please let your Demo Garden Coordinator know! Thank you!
Seed to Supper, Still Making Plans

Facilitator training for Seed to Supper classes is being planned for February 5. We would like to include an evening class this year in south county and need volunteers willing to teach the two hour class, one evening a week, for six weeks this spring. Facilitators don’t have to be Master Gardeners, but you do need to have some gardening experience and a passion for gardening. If you would like to be part of a new team or join one of the teaching teams in any of the classrooms in Scappoose, St. Helens, Rainier, Clatskanie, or Vernonia, please email Deb Brimacombe: bmixtus@gmail.com or call 503-543-3294.

In addition to classroom teams, Deb invites you to help get the word out to future participants. The classes are intended to help people living on a limited income learn how to provide quality produce for their families. If you have ideas about how to get the word out, have access to Social Media, are willing to make presentations to groups, or can assist with our Greeting Events at Food Pantries and other gatherings let Deb know.

Don’t forget to save us your small recyclable containers for planting vegetable starts.

~ Deb Brimacombe

Please consider helping out by growing some vegetable starts for Seed to Supper!
Oregon Bee Atlas, Volunteers Welcome

Now is your chance to become an Oregon Bee Atlas Volunteer. Training for Columbia County citizen scientist volunteers is set for Saturday, January 19th, 2019 at the Extension Service office. You must register online for this free training: https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/rsvp-form-2019-atlas-basic-training

Space is limited so don’t delay. Last year three Master Gardeners collected bees in the county and they are looking forward to having more people join their group so that they can reach all areas of the county and collect a more complete inventory and in all parts of the county.

As a volunteer, you will learn how to collect bees, keep a record of the bees and plants where they are feeding, pin the bees for storage and possible inclusion in the OSU Entomology Museum Collection, and identify bees if you are interested in learning a little taxonomy. Or if you just want to help support the volunteers with record keeping or educational outreach, this is the project for you, too. All of the supplies and training are provided.

Learn more about native bees at the Oregon Bee Project at: https://www.oregonbeeproject.org

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Are you curious about beekeeping? Do you want to become a beekeeper? Saturday, January 26, 2019 Columbia County Beekeepers invite you to take part in a Beginning Beekeeping Workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbia County Extension Service classroom. The workshop is $35.00. Bring a sack lunch. Space is limited and partial scholarships are available. Please call 503-397-3462 to register.

Participants will learn how to get started in backyard beekeeping and where to get the best beginning and advanced information as well as make contact with other beekeepers in the county. The day will begin with a short history of beekeeping followed by honey bee biology. Then you will have a chance to explore the equipment and beekeeping techniques including a few woodworking tips and what to expect as a first year beekeeper. Expert beekeepers will provide an introduction to possible diseases and pests. The day will end with tips on how to improve backyards and gardens with more blooms to keep all pollinators healthy.

The workshop is presented by Columbia County Beekeepers, a local group of active beekeepers including workshop presenters, Linda Zahl, DeeAnn Herschback, Paul Vincent, and Ron McLaughlin. Steve Gomes, a retired Wildlife Biologist who practices creative beekeeping husbandry in order to be as chemical free as possible, will be joining the teaching team. Both Steve and Linda are in the Oregon Master Beekeeping Program and participate in the Oregon Bee Atlas. DeeAnn, Paul, and Ron are first year beekeepers who bring with them the wisdom of knowing what the “beginner” needs to be successful. Deb Brimacombe, a BugNut with the entomology group of Columbia County Master Gardeners and participant in the Oregon Bee Atlas will also be part of the team.
Beginning Beekeeping Workshop

Presented by: The Columbia County Beekeepers

Topics to include Honeybee and Beekeeping History, Bee Biology, Equipment, What to Know in the First Year, and Diseases. Resources provided.

Instructors, Steve Gomes and Linda Zahl are in the Oregon Master Beekeeping Program and Oregon Bee Atlas. DeeAnn Herschbach, Paul Vincent, and Ron McLaughlin all live locally and have completed their first year of beekeeping, bringing with them the wisdom of knowing what the “beginner” needs to know to be successful.

Sat. JANUARY 26, 2019 9am-3pm
Extension Service Conference Room, 505 North Columbia River Hwy, St. Helens, OR 97051
Space is limited, please call 503-397-3462 to register. $35, cash or check, payable at the door

Accommodations for disabilities may be made by contacting Sonia at 503-397-3462 or Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu

extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia
January 24th, 6:30pm, Chapter Meeting Guest Speaker:

Heather Havens from Concentrates, Inc.

The Pacific Northwest’s oldest family-run, organic farm supply business, Milwaukie, Oregon.

In 1938, Concentrates began as a buyer’s co-op for local farmers, farm supply stores and feed mills who wanted to take advantage of their combined buying power. The original Concentrates co-op members were primarily buying “Feed Concentrates”, which are the different feed ingredients needed for livestock to provide additional minerals, energy, and salts to their base diet of forage and grains. Pallets of 50 pound bags would arrive via train car, and Concentrates staff – in those days known as “the Ant Boys” – would unload them by hand. Fast forward a few decades, and Concentrates grew to be the largest wholesale distributor of Organic fertilizers on the West Coast. Many things have changed, but the most important things stayed the same: a staff that provides quality, friendly service, science and experience-based agricultural knowledge, and low prices.

In 1997 our General Manager, Heather Havens, joined Concentrates. She expanded and highlighted our organic soil amendments, feed products, and services in the interest of greater animal and soil health. She has a BS in Agriculture from OSU, is an Organic Agriculture educator and consultant, was involved in the creation of the OSU Organic Master Gardener Program, and currently sits on the board of the Portland Area CSA Coalition. Heather began helping farmers and gardeners interpret their soil test results to identify effective organic methods to use less external inputs, build soil health and prevent erosion. This lead to the launching of our formal soil test interpretation program in 2016.

They are now operating out of a large industrial warehouse in Milwaukie, Oregon, located right down the street from Bob’s Red Mill – another locally owned and community-oriented business.

Info@concentratesnw.com    (503) 234-7501    5505 S.E. International Way, Milwaukie

Current Catalog
2019 OSU Master Gardener™ Class

extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia

Feb. 4th - April 13th 10-week course $100
Mondays 6-9pm & Saturdays 9-noon

The OSU Master Gardener™ class will be offered in St. Helens at the Extension Service Classroom (505 N. Columbia River Hwy) for 10 weeks beginning February 4th. Class will meet every Monday from 6-9pm and Saturday mornings 9am-noon (View schedule for exceptions - schedule subject to change.)

Topics to be covered will include vegetable gardening, insect identification, botany for gardeners, plant problem diagnosis, growing fruits and berries, lawn management, weed identification and management, pesticides safety, and plant propagation. There will also be hands-on projects offered.

Students completing the class will be expected to pay back a minimum of 60 hrs. of volunteer horticultural projects.

Registration is online at: https://tinyurl.com/ColumbiaMG2019

For questions about the program, please call the OSU Extension office in St. Helens at (503) 397-3462 or email either Chip (Chip.Bubli@oregonstate.edu) or Sonia (Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu).

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Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2018
President Chuck Petersen

A board meeting was called to order at 1030am on Thursday December 6, 2018 at the St Helens OSU extension office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present – Holly E., Kathy J., LaVina P., Debbie B., Larry B., Sandy N. and guest Chip B.

Housekeeping:

- Secretary’s Report – Minutes of November Board Meeting - accepted
- Treasurer’s Report – Packet including 2018 Account Balances as of 12/31/18, SHFCU screenshot, 2018 CCMGA Budget – current year and membership report printed 12/4/18 provided and accepted - request by President to show $500 grant money deposit as line item in the demo garden budget – Sandy N. request for tax letter for donated CCMGA raffle prizes – 2019 final budget provided to Sandy N. and Chip – approved shelves for storage room to be purchased this week
- Correspondence – OMGA retreat scheduled for 12/10 – 12/11 at Hopkins Demonstration Forest

Committee Reports

- OMGA Rep – 2019 OMGA Rep binder given to Larry to present to 2019 OMGA rep; 2019 budget approved; 2019 Board positions filled and 2019 Meeting dates provided
- CC Fairgrounds Garden – Signs provided with OMGA grant monies – received and presented at meeting for viewing; no deer/mole activity to report

Old Business

- Graduation prep – speaker and location and arrange for certificates to be made—check in with Chip – request for top 5 speaker topics to be emailed to Chip – topics mentioned Mushrooms, Soil by Nelson, Mykl and Bees
- Audit committee – Larry Byrum and Sandy Newman to assist Treasurer Kathy Johnson – January 2019 date TBD

New Business

- Approve 2019 Calendar – printed and provided to membership
- Members borrowing tables – Kathy read current policy as written in the 2/3/11 CCMGA Policies and Procedures page 2-line item 17. An idea was offered to revise the policy with a general consensus that 2019 President take it to the membership in 2019.
- Additional duties for Vice President – possible point person for field trip arrangements and chapter meeting speakers
- How to attract more CCMG members to meetings – sign up for 2019 CCMG class visit during payback hours session

Meeting adjourned at 1120am

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary

The rings in tree trunks are caused by slower growth in the winter.