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 Relearn@oregonstate.edu by the 25th of every month.

The Past President’s Corner

It appears we have a little more freedom of movement because of the COVID-19 shutdown. Cases seem to be somewhat under control and as long as we all keep distant, wash hands often and mask up it may stay that way. The Demo Garden has opened up for work on Mondays and Wednesdays and the first Saturday of the month for those who cannot make the weekday work sessions. We hoped to be available from 10:00 AM til 2:00 PM on those days and if you can make it out during those times we would love to see you.

Sonia from the Extension Office has sent out information on what is required and while I admit it looks rather intimidating the whole thing takes about 10 to 15 minutes watching the COVID-19 awareness informational slides and videos. These are required as OSU supports the Master Gardeners with liability insurance when performing tasks in the Demo Garden and they want to keep everyone safe so a single set of rules have been developed for the process.

We do ask that if at all possible to let Sonia know if you plan to volunteer in the Demo Garden as she needs to plan to have the hand washing station available along with hand sanitizer as needed.

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

Upcoming Events

June 6 – via video conference
Board Meeting 10:30 am

June 6 – via video conference
Columbia County Beekeepers Meeting
Begins at 6:00 pm; email Linda at LindaZahl2@gmail.com for login info.

Still Accepting Membership Dues!
$10 annually, payable to CCMGA, mail to your Treasurer, Brooke McClain

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/

Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

2020 CCMGA Executive Committee

- VACANT, President
- Chuck Petersen, Past President
- Sandy Newman, Vice President
- VACANT, Secretary
- Brooke McClain, Treasurer
- LaVina Patterson, Historian
- Rachel Krager, OMGA Rep.
- VACANT, OMGA Alt-Rep.
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It will also be very helpful to LaVina and me to know who and how many people will be there as we do not want to stay for the whole four hours wondering if someone will show up or not. A call or email is sufficient to let her know.

Sandy Newman will be taking on the duties of CCMGA President with President Larry Byrum’s resignation and I will continue as Past President til the end of the year.

Earlier in the year I asked if anyone had ever seen a cabbage plant survive the winter and start growing again. Wes Bevans answered me that he had it happen. Well they are still growing (3 plants) and I have the beginnings of nineteen small heads of cabbage. None of them look to be more than a pound or two but since I picked the cabbage last year I look at it as a bit of a bonus.

I hope all of you are well during what seems to be an endless time of doing considerably less outside and taking endless precautions inside.

Many of our members are in the category of people at risk simply because we have been around so long and stuff is already going south on us and this makes a bit worse. So please be safe and until next time keep it dirty.

~ Chuck Petersen, Past President CCMGA

Call for Self-Nomination for the OMGA Alternate Representative Position!

We are still looking for a willing volunteer to fill the OMGA Alternate position.


For a copy of the Guidelines & Expectations for the OMGA Alternate Representative, please email Sonia Reagan at Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu

Call for Self-Nomination for the CCMGA Secretary Position!

We are urgently looking for a willing volunteer to fill the recently vacant CCMGA Secretary role. Thank you to Bree Riggs for stepping up earlier this year to fill this needed position.

Please email Sonia Reagan with your interest at Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu
We had a good first week resuming volunteer activity in the Columbia County Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the fairgrounds in mid-July. Several of you have completed the necessary steps to resume volunteering – thank you!

Here is how you may participate:

- Remember: ALL volunteer hours and re-certification requirements (for new trainees as well as active MGs) have been rolled over to next year, so you do not need to feel obligated to resume your volunteer work.
- There are several specific steps that you will need to take before your volunteer activity may resume.
- Keep in mind that any/all of this is subject to change very quickly, as has been the case with our program for the last 5 months, and updates will be promptly provided by email.
- The work days have been designated as Mondays & Wednesdays from 10am-2pm, and the first Saturday of each month – however, please feel free to come as you wish, even if just a half hour of your time... no need to work the full 4 hours, but that is when we will make the garden available. Because our resumption plan and workday hours had to be cleared with the fairgrounds board, these are presently the only times to work in the garden.
- Remember to sign up ahead of time for a volunteer shift by emailing or calling Sonia – thank you!

Below are the steps that a MG Volunteer needs to take before they are ready to resume work in the demonstration garden. Please keep in mind that because we are a program within Oregon State University, we are obligated to follow OSU’s resumption plan, and the following requirements are not coming directly from Chip nor I, though we are tasked with ensuring they are followed. We are also working collaboratively with the fairgrounds board and must respect their policies. In this plan, we’re looking to resume activities in ways that limit risk of illness to volunteers, faculty, staff, and our community.

These are the steps to take to resume volunteer activity:

- There is a Guidance Document to review and sign.
- Every year, MG volunteers must complete the Conditions of Volunteer Service for the coordinator to have on file (as many of you already have done for 2020).
- This year, and going forward, all active MG volunteers must annually complete the Code of Conduct agreement.
- All active MG volunteers must complete OSU’s Covid Awareness training online before returning to work in the garden. Sonia will need verification of this important step before access to the garden may be granted - OSU sends out a list of volunteers who have completed training periodically, or you may print/scan your completion certificate to Sonia. Volunteers can sign up for and complete the training online, at this link: https:// envisionextension.thinkific.com/enrollments.
- Because of these requirements, the demonstration garden will only be accessible to active volunteers who have completed all of the above steps. Please do not invite non-MG volunteers, friends or family to join you in your work efforts.
- There are multiple ways to complete the required paperwork:
  - (preferred method) email/call Sonia and she can send you digital copies to sign online,
  - print, sign and mail to the office, or hand deliver to the dropbox outside the extension office,
  - OR print, sign and scan by email to Sonia.
Once you have completed the above steps:
  - email Sonia and/or call to **sign up** for a work day;
  - arrive at the demonstration garden and wear a face-covering;
  - wash your hands each time upon entering the garden (we will provide a handwashing station);
  - sign-in for contact tracing purposes;
  - check with the demo garden coordinator, LaVina, for a task to complete;
  - be prepared to use your own labeled tools (preferred method), or to sanitize shared tools after use (sanitizer provided);
  - follow social distancing guidelines;
  - adhere to the posted signage for policies and safety precautions at the garden.

From the attached guidance document, “Taking steps to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections (or any other spread of disease) at OSU is a shared responsibility. Every member of our community – including you – must do their part. This means adhering to national, state, local health, and university guidelines and requirements.”

Please ask if you have any questions!

~ Sonia  Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu  503-397-3462 or 503-880-6263

** Stay in Touch! **  Be sure to follow the CCMGA Facebook page and the online Blog!