The President’s Corner

Next month is July, which means approximately six more weeks to ready the Demo Garden for the Public crowds that will be enjoying the Columbia County Fair and its many rides and exhibits. Please show up on Monday or Saturday mornings to help. I am still asking for a Chapter get together (work party) just before the fair on July 15th from 5pm to 7pm.

At the last meeting a sign-up sheet was passed around to work during the Fair answering questions or showing visitors the Demo Garden. Please contact LaVina Patterson at (503) 397-4375 to sign up.

The Chapter Awards were announced at the last chapter meeting. Congratulations to Jerry Simpson as the Columbia County Master Gardener of the Year Award; LaVina Patterson as the Columbia County Behind the Scenes Award; and Alexis Vanderford as the Columbia County Bejeweled Award!

~ Larry Byrum, President, CCMGA
Demonstration Garden – Work Parties Continue!

The weekly work parties continue on Mondays AND Saturdays from 10:00 AM til 12:00 noon.

The Demo Garden is looking good and hopefully we can have it ready for the St. Helens Garden Club Garden Tour. If you would like to help out we will be working on Mondays and Saturdays before the tour. If you would like to help out for the tour we would love to have you there. All you would need to do is answer any questions people may have about the Demo Garden and there will be people there who can answer those questions you cannot answer. ~ Chuck Petersen

Upcoming dates:

June 8th   The St. Helens Garden Club Garden Tour 10:00a. – 3:00pm

July 15th   All Chapter Meeting at The Demo Garden 5-7pm

July 17-21st Columbia County Fair

Demo Garden Coordinator:  LaVina Patterson (503) 397-4375 lavanderlady@msn.com

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Volunteer Opportunity in Vernonia

The Vernonia Improvement Project is hosting its first annual Vernonia Garden Tour this summer to benefit the Vernonia City Parks. The garden club is in need of knowledgeable volunteers to assist our host gardeners from 8-5pm on Saturday, June 29th. All volunteers will receive two free passes to the tour and the option to work a half shift so that they can view the gardens too! They are still in the process of selecting a variety of gardens and plan on 6 to 10 to be on display between 9am and 4pm. They would also like to have educators at some of the larger gardens to speak on specific topics, like: beekeeping, composting, hardscaping, etc.

If you can help with this fun event, please contact: Rachael Organ with the Vernonia Improvement Project: 503-830-6919
Join in this year’s **2019 Garden Tour**! Enjoy a day touring some beautiful gardens in Columbia County. Each place has its own unique style which is sure to inspire you! Tour includes Cindy Ede’s Farm in Scappoose, The Caple House orchard in Columbia City, our own Demo garden, and even a Mysterious Secret Garden!

Garden Tour Cost:  
- Garden Tour Passport $10  
- Optional Lunch at the Caples House $5 collected on site  
- Optional Museum Tour at Caples House $3 collected at the museum

Purchase your St. Helens Garden Club Garden Tour Passport in St. Helens at 2Cs Vendor Mall, Bertucci’s Chocolates, or from the St. Helens Garden Club Members. Also available at the Fairgrounds on June 8th. For information, contact Lynn Chiotti: chiotti1@gmail.com or Peggy Schaller: mpschaller10@yahoo.com.
Columbia County: Farmers Market Season is Ramping Up!

The Scappoose Farmers’ Market is celebrating their 17th season! This year they will have a variety of new and past vendors, selling selections of nursery plants, beautiful fresh cut flowers, handmade jewelry, berries, leather products, soap, massage service, bakery goods, local, fresh veggies and more! Join the fun (live music, too!) on East 2nd Street, one block off Hwy 30, just off Columbia Avenue, next to City Hall & Heritage Park with the popular Michael Curry Rotary Children’s Fountain. The Market is open on Saturdays now through September, from 9am-2pm. Market Manager Bill Blank: 503-730-7429

The Vernonia Open Air Market, a project of the Vernonia Community Garden, is underway for 2019! Their motto is “Building community by bringing farmers, crafters, artists and local businesses together.” Located at Grant Avenue & Bridge Street. The 2019 Season runs May 18th – September 28th from 10am-2pm. Contact: Brett Costley at (503) 307-3343.

The Clatskanie Farmers Market kicks off their 6th season on Saturday June 1st. This community organized, nonprofit organization, operates with an emphasis on food literacy education. The Market is open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm through September, in Cope’s Park, across from the Clatskanie Library and just two blocks off HWY 30. The Clatskanie Farmers Market features a unique green-space setting, weekly live music and a family-friendly outdoor venue to shop for local and unique produce, arts & crafts, and much more!

Consider shopping locally for your family’s healthy groceries, ingredients for your next barbecue, unique gifts for those very special people in your life, or just come to have lunch and enjoy this weekly fun, community event!

Special events scheduled this season are: Bee Education Day on July 27th, The 4th Annual Garlic Festival on August 17th, Apple Cider Pressing on September 28th and the Holiday Bazaar Dec. 6th -7th. The Market Manager, Dimidy Kjelland, can be reached at 503-410-2595.

Be a Farmers Market shopper. Support local agriculture & healthy communities! Use the Oregon Farmers Markets Assoc. Market Finder Tool to find a market near you!  ~ Sonia Reagan, OSU Extension Staff
Farmers’ Market in Scappoose

The Scappoose Farmers’ Market opened Saturday, May 18th and continues through September (see details on preceding page.) Master Gardeners provide gardening information at the market and invite anyone interested to volunteer at the booth. Allen and Deb do more than just answer questions. They entice people to visit by having demonstrations each week. It takes some extra thought and preparation, but there are many more interesting conversations started over a strange plant or tool demonstration. If you are interested, feel free to join Allen and Deb and enjoy a little garden talk with interested people.

~ Deb Brimacombe

June 2 - 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Leslie Gover

**Basic Propagation Workshop**

Leslie's goal is to demonstrate how plants reproduce so that the home gardener understands the best methods to use to refresh treasured plants in their own gardens. Join Leslie as she covers the fundamental steps for making and growing-on rooted cuttings, scaling lilies, dividing perennials, and cleaning and sowing seeds. Discover ways to look at the summer garden for other opportunities to increase your plants. Spend the morning learning about tools, techniques, timing and more. You will take your own "propagules" home. There is a $50 fee for this four-hour workshop. Advanced registration required. To register and pay, please call us at 503-543-7474.
Leslie Gover has worked around plants since she was a very young girl planting her first garden. Joy Creek Nursery's propagator has handled thousands of plants during the 15 years that she had headed up our greenhouse. During the course of those years, she has developed a list of reliable plants that she thinks gardeners should not be without. Fun and informational. Her background in ornamental horticulture from Oregon State University has allowed her to spend lots of time in the field in both a professional and personal capacity. As one of her personal goals, she began Daisytotes Nursery to teach her children what vegetables, business and a strong work ethic are all about.

June 9 - 1 p.m.

Richie Steffen

Garden Tables Large and Small

For those of you who have admired our fern tables in our retail area, come to this workshop to learn how to create your own! Joy Creek is happy to welcome Richie Steffen back to talk about the new book from Timber Press, The Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns, which he co-authored with Sue Olsen. As you will see during the first part of the afternoon, Richie is full of inventive ways for using ferns in the garden. He will show some of the best ferns for Northwest gardens and share tips on how to use them in the garden.

During the second part of the afternoon, Richie will demonstrate how to create easy-to-assemble fern tables. These miniature landscapes are inspired by local Northwest Gardener George Schenk, author of Gardening on Pavement, Tables, & Hard Surfaces. Richie uses small plants, moss, rocks and weathered pieces of wood, to craft a distinctive focal point for your patio, deck, or entryway. He will also show how to care for the tables as they mature. They are irresistible! This is a two hour workshop with a 15 minute break. There is a $10 cost for this class. Please pay the day of the class in our retail area (the barn).

Richie Steffen is the Curator for the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden where he manages the rare plant collections and heads acquisitions of new plants for the garden. He currently serves as a selection committee member of the Great Plant Picks™ program and is always ready to share his enthusiasm for this excellent regional resource. He is also the co-author and co-photographer of the recently published Plant Lover's Guide to Ferns from Timber Press.
Folks at the Oregon Bee Atlas marked the passing of the infamous Grumpy Cat by finding the “grumpiest bee” in Oregon in 2018. Great job Debi for catching one of two specimens of this Andrea species, in the camas and sea blush behind the Extension office, no less!

Columbia County Oregon Bee Atlas Group

Our Columbia County Oregon Bee Atlas group plans to collect native bees all over the county throughout the summer. We are particularly interested in collecting bees from natural areas, especially from native blooming flowers. If you can direct us to a good location where you have noticed a lot of flowers (or weeds) blooming, please let us know. We have a list of plants we are looking for, some of which may still be in bloom in higher areas and some that are yet to bloom such as thistles, goldenrod, huckleberry, asters, phacelia, mallows, penstemon, and sunflowers. If you have any suggestions for good collecting areas with plenty of blooming flowers, please let Debi know at 503-543-3294 or email: bmixtus@gmail.com
Seed to Supper, 2019

The six-week Seed to Supper gardening classes began in St. Helens on March 27th and the last class for the year was in Rainier on May 29th. Classes in Vernonia were taught in the classroom with help from community gardening experts, while Clatskanie classes were mostly held in the garden. St. Helens and Scappoose classes were able to enjoy more gardening time this year due to the accommodating weather. Even though we got off to a slow start in St. Helens, over fifty people attended a minimum of four out of the six classes taught throughout the county.

The classes are successful due to the efforts of many people including Facilitators, Mentors, and Master Gardeners who contributed vegetable starts and their time planning and preparing for the classrooms. This year we had volunteers from previous Seed to Supper classes join us in helping make the classes available in their towns. And thank you to the Chronicle, Spotlight, Vernonia Voice, and Columbia River Reader as well as the churches who helped us get the word out. We also thank Lily Joslin from the Extension Service for her cooking demonstrations. Lily inspired people in several classrooms to imagine their own adaptations to the ideas she presented. Also, we thank St. Helens Senior Center, Scappoose Community and Senior Center, Vernonia Christian Church, Clatskanie Elementary School, and Rainier City Hall for providing classroom space. ~ Deb Brimacombe
Columbia County Beekeepers – June Meeting

The Columbia County Beekeepers continue their monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Columbia River PUD on June 6th. At this meeting, Marjie Ehry, a honey judge, will be speaking on proper care and preparation of honey for competition and everyday use. Everyone is welcome to attend! For more information, please contact Linda: (503) 799-7073  lindazahl2@gmail.com ~ Linda Zahl

John’s Local Honey of Quincy Oregon can be purchased seasonally at the Clatskanie Farmers Market!

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Vendors Wanted!

Clatskanie Farmers Market Annual Bee Education Day & Festival will be held July 27th 2019

Details can be found on the Special Events page at www.ClatskanieFarmersMarket.com
There are about 500 species of spiders residing in Oregon, about a dozen species commonly found near or inside homes, and only one that is considered poisonous— the black widow. Even then, the chances of being bitten by a black widow spider are extremely remote. That will be the take home message from the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s own Jim LaBonte, as he addresses the fascination— and sometimes fear— that Oregonians have with spiders in general. The following excerpt is from an interview with the Oregonian (note: the interview was in the autumn season, when you are most likely to see spiders heading indoors.)

“Spiders are probably one of our top, if not the number one, source of inquiries we receive, particularly this time of year when people are noticing them more often,” says ODA entomologist Jim LaBonte. “Spiders that have been small and inconspicuous are getting older and adult size. For some species, the males are beginning to wander around looking for females. Until now, nobody has noticed them because they’ve been hiding in cracks, crannies, and crevices. People think suddenly there are lots of spiders around, but they’ve actually been there the whole time.”

Oregonians should not be overly concerned by the spiders they may find inside the home. “We are very lucky in Oregon to live a spider-friendly state,” says LaBonte. “We have only one poisonous spider— the black widow. None of the others you find in houses here are poisonous.”

That includes the hobo spider. Erroneous information largely propagated by the internet has created a myth that hobo spiders will bite and poison people. That simply isn’t true. In fact, the US Centers for Disease Control and prevention just removed the hobo spider from its list of spiders of medical concern. People are also afraid of the brown recluse spider, which is poisonous. However, the species does not live in Oregon despite being rather common in the Midwest and Southeast states.

The most common spider specimens submitted to ODA for identification are the hobo spider and the giant house spider. Neither are known to have venom poisonous to people.

LaBonte acknowledges that the black widow resides in about three-quarters of the state, primarily in Central and Eastern Oregon, but not commonly in the Willamette Valley. Still, he advises Oregonians to be cautious but not paranoid when it comes to the black widow.

“Black widows are not very aggressive or enthusiastic biters, you really have to annoy them first,” says LaBonte. “In most cases, people are bitten after putting clothing on that may have been hanging in a dark corner where a spider crawled into it for shelter. Sometimes people can put their hands on top of a spider that is in a woodpile or underneath furniture. Black widows like dark and tight, closed areas such as closets, basements, and crawl spaces.”
For people living in areas inhabited by black widow spiders, wearing gloves when cleaning garages or handling wood from a woodpile is good common sense. Before putting on clothing, shake it out, including shoes or boots that have been kept outside or in a garage or basement. Keeping up on the indoor cleaning and vacuuming in the home is also a good preventive measure. Cluttered surroundings provide shelter for spiders.

“In reality, your chances of encountering a black widow spider are very slight and your chances of being bitten by one are almost infinitesimally small,” says LaBonte.

ODA routinely receives emails and pictures of spiders people find inside their home. Some folks are simply curious, but others are concerned about the specimen living under the same roof. Many people also submit pictures of what they think are spider bites. People report reddened areas, raised blisters, pustules, or ulcers on the skin. LaBonte says those are unlikely to be spider bites but now thought to be due to bacterial infections that can be easily treated if properly diagnosed.

“Spiders have no interest in biting anything they can’t eat, and they can’t eat people,” he says. “If they had any concept that what they were getting close to was a human being, they would run for their lives because human beings squish them.”

For the most part, spiders have bad eyesight and can basically only tell light from dark. Sensitive to vibrations, they will feel a person walking close by, get scared, and seek to find a place to hide. They may see this big, dark object nearby and run towards it thinking it is shelter when, in fact, it’s a person. More often, they will run away from the big object, correctly sensing that it is a person.

“I have been collecting insects and spiders and all manners of creepy crawlies for more than 50 years, and I’ve been bitten by a spider exactly once,” says LaBonte. “And the reaction to the bite was very mild.”

Really worried about spiders in the house? The advice is the same as it is for insects you don’t want in your home—seal up all points of entrance such as gaps under doors to the outside or installing weather stripping along window frames. Keeping spiders out makes more sense than dealing with them from the inside.

Oregonians appear to be fascinated by spiders. In addition to the inquiries received directly by ODA entomologists, the agency’s website has recorded more traffic on its Oregon spiders page than any other topic. ODA also has a Flickr page with images of common spiders in Oregon to help with identification. Despite the interest, there is still some misunderstanding of spiders and their threat.

“Most people have an inherent dislike or concern about spiders, some people have a phobia,” says LaBonte. “But it boils down to the fact that Oregonians really don’t have to worry about them.”

Don’t forget, spiders are beneficial, feeding on insects that can invade homes, destroy crops, and carry diseases. Like them or not, spiders are in Oregon, nearly all are harmless, and they do good things.

** Join us on June 27th to learn more! **
A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN  ... part 2 of 3

An original essay by Margie Ann Stanko, 2019 Master Gardener Trainee

Now, I touch in order to taste almost everything that grows. I can’t help myself. Until I touch it, I have no memory of what it once smelled like. I can’t recall its purpose or determine whether its new deliciousness or disgustingness is anywhere near what I remember it being. I pull leaves off plants and crush them, feeling the resistance of the leaf, its waxiness, its velvet sheen, the ribs of the water-bearing veins that run through it, shaping it, the smooth soft furriness, the sharp brittle edges. I hold it under this nose that no longer puts object and aroma together. I seek pleasure – even in the ugliness of skunky smells, the pops of brightness, of seduction that the lavender reveals, the colors, shapes, contrasts that each individual leaf and petal possesses.

There is Mexican oregano, way too peppery and kind of salty, nothing like the dusky, rich spice that I remember brightening so many sauces and stews. I think there is laurel, though everyone I ask tells me something different. When I press my face into the bush, its small, waxy, and pointed leaves; sometimes way too floral to convince me to use it for cooking. An aroma, periodically popping with memories, reaches into the heart of my kitchen-bound memories and brings forth the first direction given when eating spaghetti, “Whoever gets the bay leaf does the dishes.”

And of my trip to Paris to meet my fiancé Karim’s family, going for walks in the National Forest, dancing beside the French Track team as they ran. I responded to the calls of the frogs, the plops of the pond, the murkiness of the moss, the pungent aroma of fish and flora, while the reeds swayed, the insects buzzed.

One morning I was asked to pick up baguettes for breakfast after my walk. The shop owners delighted in teaching me the French of the Saint Leu a Forêt natives, not the Berlitz version. They laughed with me as I tore up their language with my American tongue. The owner of the inn gave me a branch off his laurel tree, which I wrapped in paper, packed into my suitcase, and, when back home in Flushing, hung it to dry in my kitchen window, only using the leaves for very special soups, stews and sauces.

There is rosemary for which I have planted so I could tenderly swipe up the stem to release the oils. “Nature’s room freshener, you should have one pot of it in each room,” I was told by the herbalist I studied with one summer almost 40 years earlier. The giant rosemary bush that tickled my hips and my nose each time I walked back and forth to the front door when thinking of buying a house was the deciding factor in buying this one. I’ve also planted lavender with its thick, strong, velvety spiked leaves reaching towards the sky. And Thai basil, sweet basil, and chocolate mint. I bought, planted, watered them all in hopes of having enough of every scent and seasoning I desire. The lemon balm I did not plant, and it has grown as mints do: everywhere. I brought in English thyme, German thyme, and pineapple sage while cherishing the silver sage that was planted long ago. The apple tree, an early harvest type that over ripens way too quickly, is on its way out, while still bearing fruit.

... to be continued next month
Board Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2019
President Larry Byrum

A board meeting was called to order at 1030am on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the St Helens OSU extension office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present – Chuck P., Sandy N., Kathy J., LaVina P., and guest Kathy P.

Housekeeping:

- Secretary’s Report – Minutes of April Board and Chapter meetings - accepted
- Treasurer’s Report – Packet distributed including 2019 Account Balances – As of 12/31/19, InRoad SCU screenshot, 2019 Income/Expense by Category1 – Current Year, InRoad SCU deposit log for April 2019, 2019 CCMGA Budget – Current Year, CCMGA Membership Report printed 4/30/19 and accepted
- Correspondence – email asking for awards nominations

Committee Reports

- **Spring Fair 2019** – report attached to Treasurers report packet – Super Suncherry sold out first – request to add a 4th paste tomato variety (linguisa); suggestion made to have committee chair review of expectations and a general follow up meeting
  - OMGA Rep – Larry to attend the June meeting and follow up with Pat to complete the write-up
  - **CC Demo Garden** – beds have been assigned - from the new class 3 volunteers helped last week and 4 this week; St Helens garden club garden tour coming up; after County fair, efforts to remove grass will commence – laying of clear plastic followed by spray?

Old Business

- 2019 Awards Nominees – **Board votes for Jerry Simpson MG of the Year, LaVina Patterson for Behind the Scenes and Alexis Vanderford for Bejeweled; send certificate of appreciation requests to Larry for consideration**

New Business

- **How do we get folks interested in attending the Demo Garden Meeting on July 15?** – will be announced at May and June chapter meetings as well as mention Country Living and Grapevine newsletters
- **Speakers for May** – Matthew Shepherd and June – Jim LaBonte Chapter meetings booked
- **No action to be taken by OSU toward CCMGA in regards to damaged conference room table** – per Sonia

Meeting adjourned at 1115am

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary

Dairy cows need about 10-30 gallons of water per day.