June 2021

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

Many times, I have said with great certainty that hop plants do not get eaten by deer or anything else except as an experiment to see what it tastes like. Instead of mowing my hop yard I decided to run my sheep in to save time and energy. The sheep ended up eating all the leaves on about half of the hop plants up to about three feet. Normally I do this as it helps stop Powdery Mildew but this time the sheep did it for me. In the past nothing seemed to eat plants that had hairy leaves (four legged eaters) except by accident. So next year I will let them in again and hope for the same results as it saves me a great deal of time and effort.

The membership voted in the last meeting to replace our storage space at John Gumm School with a Tuff Shed to be located on the Fair Grounds and I have purchased it. We are looking at transferring our stuff as soon as it can be installed. The only problem we have now is the demand for sheds of all flavors have been very high and the installation teams for Tuff Shed and other vendors are behind. At present it looks to be six to eight weeks before we can have it delivered and installed. …continued on page 2

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

Upcoming Events

June 3rd
10:30am - Board of Directors Meeting

June 15th
“Chat with Chip” special online event at 6:30pm. See page 3 for details.

June 24th
Chapter Meeting with Guest Presentation at 6:30pm. See page 3 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/

2021 CCMGA Executive Committee

- Chuck Petersen, President
- Sandy Newman, Past President
- VACANT, Vice President
- Chelsea Saettone, Secretary
- Gail Martyn, Treasurer
- LaVina Patterson, Historian
- Rachel Krager, OMGA Rep.
...continued from page 1... I am working with the County Commissioners to see if they can delay our eviction a couple of months to have move all of it only once. If I cannot we may have to get short term storage and move it twice. As I mentioned last month the price of these items (storage sheds) have gone up dramatically in the past six to eight months. Part of the reason is the cost of materials has gone up and a shortage always encourages price hikes by manufacturers to get while the getting is good. I purchased a 10x12 foot shed for $2864.99 that was seventeen to eighteen hundred a year ago but it was that or nothing.

When we need to move our stuff I hope we will have enough volunteers to get it out of John Gumm and to wherever we can store it longer term. So please think about giving us a hand for an hour or two to get this done.

If you feel like getting your hands a little dirty consider coming out to the Demo Garden to help get it ready for the County Fair in July. We are working every Monday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and would love to see you. You don't have to work both days or the full two hours if your schedule doesn't allow or you just don't have the time but any help would be appreciated.

Til next time keep it dirty... Chuck Petersen, President CCMGA

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Wanted: Extra Vegetable Starts...and helping hands!

If you have extra vegetable starts and would like to donate them to the Demonstration Garden we would love to take them! We have ten beds that need plants in preparation for the County Fair coming next month. This also allows us to donate food grown in the Demo Garden to the Food Bank. Bring anything you would like to donate to the Demo Garden on Monday or Friday at 10:00am so we can get them in the ground and growing! Helping hands are needed, too... especially since we are getting the garden ready for fair in July!

LaVina, demo garden coordinator, has put together this task list to help us envision the scope of work needed:

- Honeysuckle: weed the beds around the honeysuckle; trim the Honeysuckle
- Wishing well: weed around the wishing well
- Rugosa Rose: weed around the Rugosa Rose and prune
- Carolina Allspice: weed around the Carolina Allspice and prune
- Perennial bed: dig out the large clumps of invasive grass, weed
- Rhubarb beds: weed the three beds
- Snowball tree: weed around it and prune
- Succulent bed: weed
- Espalier apple tree: weed in the circle bed next to the tree
- Passion flower: weed the four beds around the passion flower
- Weed in the shade garden
- Trim the Bamboo
- Trim all dead fern leaves around the shed
- Water everything and deadhead what needs to be done

Thanks for sharing and for lending a hand! ~ Chuck
CMMGA June 24th Chapter Meeting
Guest Speaker Eric Butler, OSU Extension Service Master Gardener
“Pacific Northwest Native Plants: An Ecological Approach”

While gardening with native plants today is more popular than ever, gardeners often wonder how best to use them in the landscape. This presentation explores what makes a plant "native," native ecosystems, and describes applications for the home garden. The presenter will also discuss where to obtain native plants and lists relevant sources. Many thanks to Katherine Johnson for arranging for this year’s wonderful guests!

Join us for this Chapter Meeting and Guest Presentation by registering for the Zoom meeting in advance. June 24th, 2021, 6:30 PM (Guest Presentation at 6:30, brief Chapter Business Meeting to follow) Register for this meeting here: https://beav.es/3Pm. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Hope to see you there!

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Monthly “Chat with Chip” Special Online Event – June 15th

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” on the extension website HERE.

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
The Columbia County Master Gardeners Association will be spotlighting board members this year. Here is an introduction to a well-known volunteer... our CCMGA Historian and Demonstration Garden Coordinator, LaVina Patterson, Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer, Class of 2011:

LaVina writes, “I was born and raised in Columbia County and have always lived here. I grew up in an area called Trenholm where there was a one room, 8 grade school. The school is still there and someone does live there. Like a lot of other small farmers we planted, hoed and picked Strawberries. I got to ride the horse that pulled the logs to the landing.

When the Trenholm school closed I went to my 7th and 8th grade at Yankton School. I was also a Majorette, along with three others from Trenholm. We were the basketball half time entertainment. My 8th grade was the last to graduate from an 8 grade school. I graduated from the present St. Helens High School.

When I got married my love of horses never stopped: we raised, trained and showed Registered Quarter Horses, but, the smartest horse was my Anglo Arab.

My son and daughter are both married and I have five talented grandkids and two great granddaughters.

I have always worked in the medical field having a title of NA, CNA, CSA and CMA. I worked at Meadow Park, St. Helens Hospital where I also worked in Central Supply where I sterilized instruments and assisted in surgery. Then I worked for Dr. Edney and last for Dr. Zeller in Portland.

Plants are a big interest to me - especially the unusual ones like the Strawberry Tree. Maybe like my Mother growing peanuts and other different plants.

I took the Master Gardening class in 2011 at the same time Deb did, and she asked me to help with the bug display. Well, we along with others, became the "Bug Nutz".

When my friend and I went on a recent trip to Fossil I was able to capture a Butterfly. It is an Eastern Black Monarch and it will go in the display box for bugs in Oregon.

There is always a lot to learn in growing plants and I still keep learning new things. Being a member of The Master Gardeners has helped a lot.

I also take care of Mason Bees and with the help of my friend Ray we made 22 Mason Bee houses that I will be having for sale after the Mason Bee Cocoons are developed. These will be a whole Mason Bee Kit, house, trays, straws, netting and cocoons. I do have Mason Bees at the Demo Garden. Happy gardening, LaVina”

Thank you for sharing with us!
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 – recording available
Feb. 9:   Multifunctional Hedgerows – recording available
March 9:  Dirt gone bad: When your soil amendment has been contaminated – recording available
April 13: Dazzling Dahlias – recording available
May 11:   Water-wise Gardening – recording available
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

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.
The Ants of Columbia County
What’s the Ant’s Preference—Sting or Bite

All ants have mandibles capable of pinching (if they are large enough) and some species do have stingers capable of delivering venomous concoctions. So be careful as you collect specimen for our collection, especially if you have allergic reactions to other insects such as bees and wasps.

The worker thatching ant first bites, then wraps her abdomen under her thorax to shoot a formic acid spray into the wound. Carpenter ants can do the same, but usually don’t practice the behavior when they are foraging. However, they may be more protective and aggressive if you get into one of their nests. Carpenter ants are one of the physically largest ant species, and therefore, are capable of giving you a good nip.

The spray nozzle used by thatching and carpenter ants is called an acidopore and it is surrounded by a ring of hairs to guide the spray toward its goal. Some say the hairs protect the ant from its own acidic spray. While that may be possible, it doesn’t appear to be the whole story. Research shows that they do swallow the acid from their own acidopores, then regurgitate it when they need to groom harmful fungi and microbes from themselves and nestmates. The low pH of the acid also helps control the harmful microbes they may have collected in their crops as they foraged.

The acidopore ‘replaces’ the stinger in members of two subfamilies we have in the PNW—Formicinae and Dolichoderinae. Three additional subfamilies of ants known to be in the PNW—Ponerinae, Amblyoponinae, and Myrmicinae, all contain species with stingers, though the stinger is vestigial in many species.

Ant venom is a mixture of chemicals, often including proteins, that they use as a weapon against animals to keep from being eaten. (Curiously, tiny frogs in South America eat ants and store the ant venom in their own skin for defense against their enemies.) One of our more familiar stinging ants is the pavement ant. They are an introduced species from Europe in the Myrmicinae subfamily of ants. Pavement ants are surly and will make war against nearby colonies in order to expand their territory. Because they are small, their sting is usually only irritating to many people.

Our native thief ants (also Myrmicinae subfamily) have stingers, but they don’t seem to find them necessarily useful. Though there are other members of the same genus in other parts of the U. S. that are aggressive, thief ants are mostly considered an annoyance due to their habit of coming into our homes and scavenging bits of food.

Though you may encounter ants that can sting or bite, just be aware and observe their behavior. The majority of the foragers you find will likely be more interested in getting away from you. However, if you collect from a nest, be aware that they may be able to cause you some pain and irritation. You might also make note of their behavior and how they react to having their nest disturbed. We can add the information to the notes of our collection.

~ Deb Brimacombe
JOIN US FOR

Vernonia
GARDEN TOUR!

Join us for a fun day of garden exploration. See many different designs and ideas.

Saturday, June 26th • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Online ticketing at TicketLeap.com

Maps, tickets and printed tour guides will be available starting at 8:30am at the Vernonia Open Air Market. Located at 510 Bridge Street, Vernonia Oregon 97064

For more information visit TicketLeap.com General Admission $10 Group, Senior and Veterans Discounts Available

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association
Board Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021
President Chuck Petersen

A virtual board meeting was called to order at 10:30am on Thursday, May 6, 2021 via Zoom conference call. The president was in the chair and the secretary was present. Others present-LaVina, Gail & Rachel. Guests were Sonia, Chip & Katherine

Housekeeping
- Secretary’s Report: April Minutes approved with correction that Mini-College is $49 not $45.
- Treasurer’s Report: No report this month. No action.
- Correspondence:
  - OMGA: Several grants available due by May 15. [https://omga.org/documents-and-forms/]
    Next OMGA meeting is June 4. Sonia will include in newsletter that if any membership have questions to contact Rachel.

Committee Reports
- Spring Fair 2021-Canceled
- CC Fairgrounds Garden: Open again! Exception approved by OSU. Volunteers need to contact Sonia to be cleared to volunteer. Work parties have started.
- Bug Nuts: N/A
- Seed to Supper: Third class is tomorrow Friday, May 7 at 1 pm. Going well.

Old Business
- Membership Survey Results Update: Sonia has printed and plans to mail to active volunteers. Members are encouraged to complete survey even if they did previously.

New Business
- Open treasurer position: Gail Martyn attended today’s board meeting and intends to fill position. All officers to be confirmed at next chapter meeting. Gail has been a MG since 2003 and has been on the board previously. We are happy to have her again! Welcome!
- Storage at the Olde School: County bought the building and gave CCMGA until June 1 to vacate. Chuck is in communication with county to come to a solution. Storage includes roughly 67 tables and some boxes related to Spring Fair and general records. Discussed keeping storage put, moving to the fairgrounds, paying for a storage unit (roughly $119/month), keeping on a member’s property, or selling them and renting when needed (roughly $10/day from Don’s Rental). Any other ideas please contact Chuck!

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am

~ Chelsea Saettone, Secretary

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvs.extension.oregonstate.edu
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association
Chapter Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021
President Chuck Petersen Presiding

Welcome Gentiana Loeffler, Prof. of Horticulture at Clackamas C.C. “Growing Wisdom Through Organic Gardening”

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

Business Meeting
• Secretary Report. April Minutes accepted.
• Treasurers Report: No report.
• Committee Reports
  o OMGA: No report.
  o CC Demo Garden: There is a lot of work that needs to be done! Work parties are Mondays and Fridays from 10-12 pm. No work party on Memorial Day but will be moved to Tuesday 6/1. People who are vaccinated do not need to wear masks. Contact Sonia if you haven’t already so you can complete necessary paperwork to start volunteering again this year.

New Business
• 2021 CCMGA Officers: Above listed board was voted in.
• InRoads Credit Union Account: Changes being made to membership held with InRoads Credit Union will be to have Brooke McClain and Sandra Newman removed from the account. Charles Petersen will be added to the account and made individual with control. Gail Martyn and Chelsea Saettone will also be added as signers on the account.

Old Business
• Membership Survey: Mailed to 99 members about 2 weeks ago. So far 27 surveys received. Will wait several more weeks. Please complete if you haven’t already. We want to know what you think. Thank you!
• Olde School Storage: The county bought the building and CCMGA needs to relocate storage. The Membership voted to move forward with having a shed installed at the demonstration garden to house the storage. In the interim Chuck will speak to the county about having an extension until shed is installed, however, the back-up plan will be to rent a storage unit.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing Events:
• 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

~ Chelsea Saettone, Secretary

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