May 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 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

Congratulations to the graduates of the Master Gardener Class of 2019 and to the trainees that received their certificates at the April Chapter Meeting. Those of you who were not there also missed a great presentation by Glen Andresen. His property must be a sight to behold! And a thank you Peggy Crisp for the cake for the graduation.

The 2019 Spring Garden Fair is over. We sold 4,896 Tomatoes and 630 peppers. Peppers were gone within 35 minutes of opening the doors and the last tomato sold at 1:10 pm. All in all, from reports I have heard, most of the vendors had a great day also. Great job, Kathy and all of the Master Gardeners and volunteers who help at the Fair.

Attention is now shifted to the Demonstration Garden at the Fairgrounds and other garden plots around Columbia County. The County Fair will be here before we realize it, so every workday counts at the Demo Garden. I have proposed a July 15 chapter meeting to be held at the Demo Garden: a last push to ensure our Garden is ready for the public at the Fair. I hope you all will support me in this.

~ Larry Byrum, President, CCMGA

Upcoming Events at the OSU Extension Office

May 2
Project Planning Meeting 10:00 am
Board Meeting 10:30 am

May 2
BugNutz 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

May 6
Office Closed half day; opens at 1pm

May 23
Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm, Guest Speaker Mathew Shepherd of The Xerces Society, “Planting for Bees”

May 27
Office Closed for Memorial Day
Enjoy your holiday!

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
- Pat LaPointe, OMGA Rep.

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
I would like to take this opportunity to **Thank Everyone** who worked at the Spring Fair this year. You did a tremendous job and because of all your efforts we were successful. I appreciate all your hard work and perseverance! Again, Thank YOU!

*Sandy Newman, Vendor Chair*

*Larry Byrum, Tomato Plant Chair*

*Andrew Robinson, Publicity Chair*

*Dennis Snyder & Ross Carter, Plant & Education Chair*

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*Peggy Crisp, Raffle Chair*

*Bob & Donna Jenson, Setup/Takedown Chairs*

*Diane Schnur, Cashiering*

Every year I am totally amazed at how wonderfully smooth the Spring Garden Fair runs. It’s not due to anything I have done, but the efforts of my Committee Chairs!

Once again you have gone above and beyond your duties and have done a wonderful job....

**Thank You!! ~ Katherine Johnson, Spring Fair Coordinator**
Demonstration Garden – Time for Work Parties!

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

**Upcoming dates:**

June 8th  The St. Helens Garden Tour  
July 15th  Possible - All Chapter Meeting at  
           The Demo Garden – TBD  
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
Columbia County Beekeepers – Meeting Dates Set

Following the organizational/formation meeting last month, the Columbia County Beekeepers have announced that their monthly members’ meeting will be the first Thursday of each month, beginning May 2nd at 6:00pm.

Location: Columbia County PUD, 64001 Columbia River Hwy, Deer Island, OR 97054
* Thursday May 2nd: Joe Maresh, who is the Vice-President of Oregon State Beekeepers Association, will be our speaker. He wants to welcome us into the beekeeping fold and to explain what is happening in the hive in May and what needs to be done.

For more information, please contact Linda Zahl: (503) 799-7073 lindazahl12@gmail.com
Come to the

2019 FAIR &
Plant Sale

SATURDAY
May 11th
9am-3pm
Vernonia Schools
COMMONS
1000 Missouri Ave.
Vernonia, OR 97064

- Certified Organic
  Tomato Plants
- Tomato Cages
- Hanging Baskets
- Seeds
- Garden Art
- Annual & Perennial Flowers
- Vegetable Starts
- Ground Cover
- Native Plants

Presented by-
The VERNONIA COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
May 12th - 1 p.m. Jane Hartline presents: **Garden-Worthy Native Plants for Your Garden**

An aesthetically-enchanting garden goes beyond just the beauty of flowers. A truly beautiful garden is filled with the songs of birds, the buzzing of bees and the colorful winging of butterflies. Jane Hartline from Sauvie Island Natives will talk about how to achieve this higher aesthetic by working native plants into the landscape. She will extol the virtues of various plant species in providing food and shelter for songbirds, bees, butterflies and other critters. She will also discuss how the structure of your garden can offer shelter for songbirds and provide other tips for attracting birds and wildlife. She'll convince you that many of our lovely Northwest native ground covers, perennials and shrubs are worthy of a place in even the most traditional garden settings. **Please call (503) 543-7474 for more information & to register.**

*Jane Hartline is the founder of the Sauvie Island Habitat Partnership and co-author of the Sauvie Island Conservation Resources Guide. Her long-term efforts to promote the planting natives has resulted in a 3-acre restoration display garden on her Sauvie Island property and the creation of her native plant nursery -- Sauvie Island Natives.*

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May 19th - 1 p.m. **Maurice Horn: Clematis Tour of the Gardens at Joy Creek Nursery**

Join nursery co-owner Maurice Horn for a tour of the many species of clematis in the gardens at Joy Creek Nursery to learn which is best for your garden. Over the last twenty-nine years, Joy Creek Nursery has been fortunate to be associated with many wonderful clematis hybridizers and collectors. As a result, the nursery garden contains a wide variety of both climbing and herbaceous forms of clematis from many parts of the world. This is an opportunity to learn about many clematis that are rarely if ever seen in the trade. Free and open to the public.

*Maurice Horn, co-owner of Joy Creek Nursery has served on the board of the International Clematis Society and was a founding member and vice-president of the Pacific Northwest Clematis Society which became the Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection. Clematis have been a life-long passion. He has been fortunate to work with several hybridizers and to introduce their plants to the gardening public. Recently, Joy Creek Nursery has introduced several of their own clematis.*
Chip Bubl Presents “Resilient Gardening”

Tuesday, May 14th, 6:30 pm at the Vernonia Library. Tips for planning & maintaining a garden through drought, pests, disease, and other unpredictable weather events. How to adapt gardening techniques through a changing climate and produce more nutrition for the year.

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Presentation: Rural Fire Safety

May 23rd, 7:00 pm, Fern Hill Grange in Rainier. Speakers: Eric Smythe, Columbia River Fire & Rescue and Kelly Niles, Oregon Forestry Department.

Check out this publication for ideas on plant selection to help reduce your risk from wildfire:

Fire-Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes

As homeowners continue to build in the wild and urban interface, they must take special precautions to protect their homes. One way to do this is to create a defensible space around the home, and one important factor can be using fire-resistant plants in landscaping. While taking actions to create a defensible space do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances. This publication provides a diverse list of plants that are both fire resistant and attractive. Plants are listed by categories: ground cover, perennials, shrubs, and trees. PNW 590 Published August 2006
Chapter Meeting: May 23rd at 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Matthew Shepherd, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Special Presentation: “Bring Back the Pollinators!”

Bees are struggling due to habitat loss, pesticides, and disease, but the good news is that there are things we can all do to make our landscape better for bees. Matthew Shepherd of the Xerces Society will introduce you to the diversity and natural history of America’s native bees, and present straightforward ways in which you can make your garden—or neighborhood or city—a pollinator haven. Find out how to select flowers, provide nest sites, and why you should avoid pesticides. There are also community science projects to join in and other ways to engage your community.

Matthew Shepherd has spent more than thirty years working with people from all walks of life to create better places for wildlife. Matthew’s career began in England and took him to Kenya before his arrival in the United States two decades ago. He has worked for the Xerces Society since 1999, initially at the vanguard of a national effort to protect pollinators, but now focused on communications and outreach. Matthew is author of numerous articles and other publications, including Attracting Native Pollinators (Storey Publishing, 2011) and Gardening for Butterflies (Timber Press, 2016). He learned gardening at his mother’s side and has created and maintained wildlife gardens everywhere he has lived.
BugNutz and the Oregon Bee Atlas Groups

Thank you to the BugNutz and Oregon Bee Atlas Groups who have been busy this past April taking displays to the SBWC Spring Plant Sale, Scappoose Earth Day Celebration, and Master Gardener Spring Sale.

The BugNutz were a big hit with the children at Spring Fair with Roses’ bee water bowls and our new wheel of fortune designed and created by Alexis and her husband. And Alexis had children (and BugNutz) lined up to have an insect painted on their face or arm. It made bugs festive, springing into life.

~ Deb Brimacombe

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. 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

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Seed to Supper

Nine students completed the St. Helens class with a dozen attending one or more sessions. I am told over and over what great classes they are. Some students have never gardened and suspect there is more to it than putting a seed in the ground. Others are more experienced and even they say that they learned something they never knew before. Most of the classes close with a cooking demonstration by Lily Joslin who really adds a great finishing touch, giving them ideas about what to do with the harvest after they have learned when and how to harvest. We have been stretching tight to make all of the classes available, moving equipment between classrooms in order to have them all teaching in the months of April and May. We really need a couple more laptop computers. If you have an old laptop you would be willing to give us, we would love to put it to work. Or maybe you don’t want to let go of your old computer completely, but would be willing to lend it to us next spring. Please let one of us know. It doesn’t have to be able to go on the internet. We just need to be able to run a PowerPoint Viewer on it and possibly, show a few photos.

~ Deb Brimacombe

Photo by Colleen DeLong: Seed to Supper Participants in St. Helens
A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN  ... part 1 of 3

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

Recently, I walked through my tiny landscaped garden wondering how accurate my sniffing was. I lost my sense of smell and taste in 1994, as the result of a traumatic brain injury. When they reemerged several years later, I learned that I would very rarely smell or taste the world as I had once known it. My savory memories always await rekindling, and I, who once could identify the ingredients in a dish from its aroma, long for those few and far between moments when things taste and smell the way they once did. Now, I taste essences, hints, teases of things. When I eat, I experience the saltiness, spiciness, sweetness, sourness of what I have in my mouth and the texture and shape: solid, liquid, crumbly, chewy, slimy, melting, etc. And what I’m smelling and what I’m tasting rarely meet with the memories of food as I knew it. My sensory adventures through gardens, jungles, forests, mountains and oceans are memories frustrated by my new reality, creating the challenge of new memories without grief.

In this landscape that I inherited there are an awful lot of fussy plants. Overgrown for the size of the plot, indignant of one another as they battle for sun and space. On one side, the rhododendron almost blocks my living room window and is married to a Japanese Red Maple, a thatch of ferns, random columbines, and one daffodil which blossoms sadly and alone scratching its way up, scraping against the cement walkway.

There is one peony which snakes underneath the rhododendron and fern, eventually slinking towards where sun shines upon it. It is one of the heroes of my garden. The 6ft high arborvitae, which made me claustrophobic and lonely was removed so I could see sun, street, and people. Someone planted a 10-15 foot long row arborvitae between my house and my neighbors that pokes the electrical wires. My neighbor has promised to call PUD to have them trimmed. I, of course, want them gone. Or to serve as a backyard fence to build a sound barrier between me and the highway and railroad.

There are several rose bushes, all scraggly, with an array of blossoms that cover the rainbow of roses: pink, red, yellow white. I have a favorite one, another plant choked by poor design and post planting care. It is backed up against the arborvitae, growing flat and blocked by a weeping fir of some kind, always seeking a way towards sun. A second peony grows beneath it. They are always dueling with one another with the other for the shard of sun available. The rose’s large frilled blossoms of deep pink or red speckled with gentle brushes of white delight my eye. Its scent, a romantic French air, is quite delightful, triggering a memory of childhood daring. Climbing up to touch the just about empty tiny bottles on top of my Grandma’s heavy mahogany dresser, their faded labels with some word on the label, maybe Parfum? The oils staining the glass bottle, making it sticky. When I pull the stopper out and sneak a forbidden sniff of the faded scent. That is my rose. … to be continued next month
Please join us in expressing our CONGRATULATIONS to the newest Columbia County Master Gardeners who have completed their training and volunteer hours!

Many Thanks to Peggy Crisp for the Lovely (and Tasty!) Celebratory Cake!

Jean Kirkland: Clatskanie Seed to Supper & Garden Club
Nancy Mitman: Sauvie Island Education Center
Leonard Peterson: SBWC Native Plant Nursery
Vicki Putnam: SBWC Native Plant Calendar Artwork
Alexis Vanderford: BugNutz Crew
Tammy Robinson: Longview School Gardens
Linda Zahl: Pollinator education
Jerry Simpson: St. Helens Food Bank Garden

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
A board meeting was called to order at 10:34 am on Thursday, April 4, 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. and guest Sonia R.

Housekeeping:
- **Secretary’s Report** – Minutes of the March Board meeting - accepted
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Packet including 2019 Account Balances – As of 12/31/2019, InRoad SCU screenshot, 2019 Income/Expense by Category1 – Current Year, CCMGA Membership Report and 2019 CCMGA Budget – Current Year printed 4/2/19 and accepted
- **Correspondence** – N/A

Committee Reports:
- **Spring Fair 2019** – Raffle tickets available for purchase; request to continue to collect boxes; 30 vendors paid and flyers available for distribution
  - **OMGA Rep** – Position remains vacant; Pat will complete the report and Larry has volunteered to attend the June and September meetings
  - **CC Fairgrounds Garden** – Work started on Monday 4/1 with 4 volunteers – things were moved and apples and grapes pruned; access permitted to fairgrounds every Saturday through November though there has been no firm volunteer commitment; after the fair, the lawn areas will be removed and bark chips filled in

Old Business:
- **Graduation prep** – speaker and location and arrange for certificates to be made – check in with Chip
  - April 25, 2019
  - Sonia to call around to secure venue since library is not available
  - Larry to order cake from Peggy Crisp and arrange for delivery
  - Larry to get cake service items and contact Ross for coffee
- **2019 Membership Directory** – Sonia to work on next week – once complete it will be placed online with password protection at http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/columbiamga/
- **2019 Awards** – Larry clarified process to membership at March 2019 chapter meeting – nominations to be sent to Larry for board consideration – awards decisions to be provided to OMGA by 5/15/19

New Business
- At April Chapter meeting, Larry to suggest Chapter meeting be held at Demo Garden as a pre fair work party Monday, 7/15/19 5pm – 7pm
- New Name Badges have been received – Sonia suggests a draft of the roster be sent out with a call for replacement badge requests – members will be responsible to pay $5 badge fee; 2019 recertification stickers also available – no suggestion as to how to distribute

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 am

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary
Congratulations Master Gardener Graduates!
Jean Kirkland, Nancy Mitman, Lenny Peterson, Vicki Putnam, Alexis Vanderford, Tammy Robinson, Linda Zahl and Jerry Simpson

Recertified MGs recognized – Denny Snyder, Alan McMillan, Ross Carter and Hank Anderson

Welcome Glen Andresen, Urban Gardening Expert and Educator who will be presenting “How I Grow 40 fruit trees, raspberries, marionberries, strawberries, blueberries, grapes and currants on my 60 by 100-foot city lot” – Glen’s 10 principles

Business Meeting
• Secretary Report – April Board Meeting Minutes - accepted
• Treasurers Report – Report showing Checking and Savings accounts provided with report of 103 paid members - accepted
• Committee Reports
  o CC Demo Garden – 9 volunteers on 4/22 work day
  o Spring Fair 2019 – 1pm Friday to unload and start setup; Raffle tickets available for purchase; St Helens middle school students slated to help setup; 35 vendors booked to start arriving at 7am

Old Business
• Award Nominees for MG of the Year, Behind the Scenes and Bejeweled – continue to send nominations to Larry – vote held at next board meeting 5/2

New Business
• Chapter Meeting at Demo Garden – Monday, July 15 5pm – 7pm – further discussion in May/June

Upcoming Events
• April 27 – 24th Annual CCMGA Spring Fair and Plant Sale 9am – 3pm

We would like to hear from you Master Gardeners!
• Newsletter contributions
• Field Trip Ideas

Please submit volunteer hours

Meeting adjourned 826pm

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary

There are over 10,000 different varieties of wine grapes in the world.