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

Happy November to all. We have a new slate of Officers to carry on for the next year and I hope they enjoy working with you all as much as I have. I expect all of the gardens have been put to bed for the Winter and as I write I notice that my tea plants are starting to flower. The long stretch of warm weather we had towards the end of October kept the bees out and about but now the tea flowers are in full bloom and it is too cold for them to get to. I have a Passion Flower which also doesn’t seem to know Winter is coming either as it continues to bloom as well. At least if we do get a warm day the bees will have something to buzz about for awhile.

That is all for now have safe and happy Holidays and keep it dirty.

~ Chuck Petersen, Columbia County Master Gardener Association President
Demo Garden Update

I want to thank Denny Snyder for winterizing the lawn mower from the Demo Garden.

As I took my walk through the garden I was surprised to see so many plants still blooming. The Mandeville has been growing and climbing up the stake and has many flowers on it. The hummingbirds should be happy because the red and blue salvia are still in full bloom. In the Butterfly Garden the Petunias, Nasturtiums, Maximillian Sunflowers, Asters, Fuchsia and the Delphinium with two more stalks on the way to bloom, all are blooming very nice. All of the roses are in full bloom and taller than I have ever seen them and all because the Brunnera plant must be doing its job by keeping the deer away.

We are still working on the Mole, Vole and Armadillo repellant, it will take some time before we know if it really works. Your Demo Garden Coordinator, LaVina

*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? Please let your Demo Garden Coordinator know! Thank you!

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Photo Courtesy of Kiwanis Daybreakers: This is some of the work crew at the St. Helens Community Garden. Master Gardeners Scott Bauska, Jerry Simpson and Mary Woicckak are dedicated volunteers to the garden. Also pictured is Thea Hewling. The corn stalks were dried and used in the family photo area at the children’s fair.
Scott Bauska & Jerry Simpson loaded huge pumpkins into Colleen DeLong’s truck to be used as decorations at the Children’s Fair. These pumpkins ranged in size from 30# to 150#!

~ Photo courtesy of Colleen DeLong

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**HOPE Garden Update**

It has been another thriving season for the HOPE Garden in Rainier. A hardy group of volunteers logged in over 112 hours tending and harvesting fresh produce for our food pantry clients. A special thanks to Brandy and LeAnn for their diligent commitment and attention to garden details that insured the garden always looked its best. This small plot produced over 270 pounds of salad mix, peas, tomatoes, tomatillos, peppers, berries and cucumbers. Our goal is to provide fresh, in demand, produce for our Rainier community. Also, this garden supported hands on opportunities for Seed to Supper participants. Thank you to the CCMGA for the support to maintain and grow this beautiful garden.

~ Lynn Green

*Photo Courtesy of Lynn Green*
Seed to Supper, Making Plans

It is time to make plans for Seed to Supper Classes next spring. If you are curious and want to help, volunteers are needed. Interest has been building over the last three years and we hope to expand our classes to include an evening class in south county in addition to the classes in Clatskanie, Vernonia, Scappoose, St. Helens, and Rainier. Mentors are needed in most locations to help students in the classroom during hands-on activities. Mentoring is a good way to get involved and see if you might want to teach in the future. Coordinators are also needed to help keep records, take photos, and make sure supplies are available so facilitators and mentors can focus on teaching.

In the past we have used a variety of seed starting containers in the classroom and for the starts distributed at our Greeting Events, but because we are focused on low-cost gardening techniques we would like to use small recyclable containers such as individual serving sized yogurt or fruit cups. If you have access to such containers please save them for us.

In addition, if you are able to help grow a few starts for the Greeting Events, we can use your talents. Greeting Events begin in early March so we focus on having pod variety pea starts available that can be planted in containers. And if you enjoy meeting people and talking gardening we can use your help at the Greeting Events which take place all over the county.

Marketing is another way you can help with Seed to Supper. If you belong to other groups or have access to local Facebook or on-line groups who would be willing to help us advertise the classes or have ideas that will help get the attention of people living on limited incomes, we can use your help and suggestions.

The classes are two hours, one day a week for six weeks and schedules are being set now so if you are interested in helping in the classroom, now is the best time to get involved so you can be part of the planning for next year. The Food Bank will provide a one day training in late February.

Contact Deb Brimacombe, 503-543-3294, bmixtus@gmail.com

~ Deb Brimacombe

Please save your small recyclable containers for low-cost gardening techniques for Seed to Supper!
2019 OSU Master Gardener™ Class

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.Rubli@oregonstate.edu) or Sonia (Sonia.Reagan@oregonstate.edu).

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BugNutz’ Mason Bee Wash

The Mason Bee Wash attracts a lot of attention at the SBWC Fall Plant Sale. Thank you to everyone who made it fun and successful. Amber Kester’s son, Gunnar was a big help getting set up and starting the washing process. Sue Hart helped shake the mites off cocoons and Rose DeFreece brought her granddaughter Jocelyn to learn and help. LaVina Patterson gave away many of her excess cocoons to people who dropped by the cleaning table to see how in the heck you wash a bee. Sandy and Mike Newman brought their bees to be cleaned and stayed to help sort and clean. Chuck Petersen supplied small boxes that we used to send bees home with people interested in getting started with Mason Bees. We not only cleaned bees, but also shared information about the Oregon Bee Atlas and native bees in Oregon. ~ Deb Brimacombe

Photo Courtesy of Rose DeFreece: Sandy Newman, LaVina Patterson, and Jocelyn Henderson cleaning mason bees at this year’s Bee Wash
Children’s Fair

You can’t imagine a better party than one where bugs and children attend and that’s why the BugNutz look forward to taking the Master Gardener insect collection to the Kiwanis Day Breakers Children’s Fair in St. Helens every year. This year LaVina Patterson, Rose DeFreece and Deb Brimacombe spent the day talking bugs with a mostly admiring crowd. The one insect that seemed the least popular and needed no introduction was the Brown Marmorated Stinkbug. This year the runner up was the Yellowjacket, whereas almost everyone likes the Praying Mantis.

The Giant Ichneumon was a big curiosity. There are several species, but only one has been caught in Columbia County. They are colorful and slender, about an inch long and females have an equally long ovipositor. They are able to lay their eggs under the bark of trees where the larva find and parasitize hornet wasp larva feeding under the bark. You can find more information and some unbelievable photos at Bugguide.net: https://bugguide.net/node/view/4158

~ Deb Brimacombe
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2018

President Chuck Petersen

A board meeting was called to order at 1028am on Thursday October 4, 2018 at the St Helens OSU extension office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present.

Others present – Holly E., Wes B., LaVina P., Debbie B. and guests Chip B., Sonia R., and Alexis R.

Housekeeping:

- *Secretary’s Report* – Minutes of September Board and Chapter Meetings - accepted

- *Treasurer’s Report* – 2018 CCMGA Budget printed 9/30/18 provided and accepted – 2019 Budget proposal provided and accepted

- *Correspondence* – N/A

Committee Reports:

- **OMGA Rep** – Chip was asked about his presentation re: Roundup as well as the presence of jumping worms in Columbia County (at present they have been reported in Clackamas County) – mention that all future garden club/spring fair plant sales must have nursery verified plants for sale

- **CC Fairgrounds Garden** – last work day was 10/1 and final work should be complete by months end; $500 grant money to go toward demo bed description signs – Chuck to inquire with Rainier Sign Co; request made to find a C.A.D. user who could help with a yearly garden diagram update as well as for the Spring Fair booth layout

- **Nominating Committee** – prepare for vote – Sonia to send email to voting members by 10/10

- **Budget Committee** – finalize budget – final vote by members to be held at months end Chapter meeting

Old Business:

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

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• Graduation prep – *speaker and location* – Chip to calendar for March 28, 2019 at the library – idea to speak about the biology of invasive species

New Business
• Audit committee selected – Larry Byrum and Sandy Newman to assist Treasurer Kathy Johnson

Meeting adjourned at 1101am

Brooke McClain
Secretary

*One bushel of wheat makes over 42 loaves of bread.*
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Chapter Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2018

President Chuck Petersen Presiding

Xera Plants, Inc. of Portland is here to discuss low-water use plants! – Paul was unable to present so Chuck shared his learning from the Big Leaf Maple Syrup and Mycology workshops held at the St Helens OSU extension.

Thank you, Peggy and LaVina, for providing refreshments this evening!

Business Meeting:

- Secretary Report – September Chapter and October Board minutes - accepted
- Treasurers Report – 2018 Account Balances as of 12/31/18 printed 10/24/18 and SHFCU screenshot provided and accepted
- Committee Reports
  - OMGA – next meeting scheduled for 11/3 at the Multnomah County Food Bank to elect new officers
    ▪ President – Eric Bosler Central Gorge
    ▪ President elect – Chris Rusch Douglas County
    ▪ 1st VP – Karen Sarnaker Tillamook County
    ▪ 2nd VP – Julie Huynh Lane County
    ▪ Secretary – Marcille Ansorge Tillamook County
    ▪ Treasurer – Patrice Sipro Douglas County
  - CC Demo Garden – almost ready to close up for the season – still working on mole/vole deterrent and report that Brunnera is effective deer deterrent

New Business:

- 2019 Budget – proposed budget provided to chapter – voted and accepted
- 2019 Dues – treasurer reports there will be no increase in dues for 2019
- Election of 2019 CCMGA officers – ballots counted and new officers elected – Chuck to notify

  ▪ President – Larry Byrum

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours: mgvrs.extension.oregonstate.edu
- VP – Sandy Newman
- Treasurer – Kathy Johnson
- Secretary – Brooke McClain
- Historian – LaVina Patterson
- OMGA rep – Sally Brandenfels
- OMGA alt – Pat LaPointe

- **Donated seeds available from the CCFood Bank**

**Upcoming Events:**

- **October 27th** Hazardous Waste collection at the St Helens Transfer Station
- **October 28th** 12-5pm “2018 OMS Fall Mushroom Show” – World Forestry Center - View beautifully displayed specimens from around the region and talk to mushroom experts. Vendors, books for sale, mushroom cooking samples, speakers and more! Admission $5 Adults, $3 Seniors/Students, Free for OMS members & kids under 12.

**We would like to hear from you Master Gardeners!**

- Newsletter contributions
- Field Trip Ideas for Fall/Winter 2018 or 2019
- Chapter Meeting speaker suggestions

**Please continue to submit volunteer hours**

**See you in January 2019!**

**Meeting adjourned at 705pm**

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary

Cranberries grow on vines.