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

The Master Gardener’s annual picnic was held August 26 and we had a small crowd to start but as the afternoon went on more people showed up and it was a nice event. I would like to thank Melissa Richardson for coordinating the event and bringing everything together and a special thanks to Dennis Snyder and Ross Carter for doing the chef duties, bringing the canopies and extra tables. This year we had plenty to eat with desserts playing a heavy role and there were so many desserts some didn’t even get started on but everyone appeared to have eaten as much or more than they wanted or in my case more than I should.

The Demo Garden is reaching the end of its year and we have been given a number of plants by Linda Perry who is cleaning up her yard and flower beds so if you are interested in free plants for your yard or garden please contact LaVina Patterson or just show up on Monday or Wednesday between 10:00 AM til noon to peruse what is available at the Demo Garden. We will also have some plants that have gotten too big for their beds and need to be reduced so come on down and help us find new homes for these soon to be orphans.

(cont. on the next page)...

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours!
LaVina Patterson and Peggy Crisp have been working the phone lines to find us a slate of candidates for our election so if you get a call please help out and volunteer to run for an office or suggest someone who you think may do a good job.

Our September meeting on Thursday September 27 will not have a speaker, as it will be our "Taster" night. If you have a fruit or vegetable that you have grown this year that you would like to share with the rest of us please bring it on down. In the past, we have done this for tomatoes, apples, pears and anything anyone would like to share. The main reason for this is that we cannot all grow everything so this way you may find an apple or tomato that had not heard of that someone else has raised and you like and now you can taste it.

That is all for now til next time keep it dirty.

~ Chuck Petersen, Columbia County Master Gardener Association President

Demo Garden Update

Everything is growing very well, in the Demo Garden, and of course so are all of the weeds. I have taken in 52 lbs. of produce from the garden to the food bank, and there will be more.

I want to thank Linda Perry for all the plants she has donated to the Demo Garden. We have planted many of those plants but there are more left for any one that wants them. They are in buckets under the tree by the compost bins.

Labor Day is a holiday so I will not be at the Demo Garden but plan on being there on the 5th... and the weeds will probably think we forgot about them. Hope to see all of you there.

Your Demo Garden coordinator,

~ LaVina Patterson

FOOD SAFETY/PRESERVATION HOTLINE
July 16 through October 12, 2018
1-800-354-7319
8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.; MONDAY-FRIDAY, except holidays
Certified Family Food Education volunteers & OSU Extension staff will answer your questions.
You can get food preservation instructions: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/food-preservation
Try the new canning app at https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw689
Our Mason Bee Wash will be at the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council Fall Plant Sale again this year. The sale is a perfect fit for us. You can bring your bees and visit while we clean, or drop them off and do some ‘grocery shopping’ for your pollinators. This year we will also have ideas and and new information from the OSU Garden Ecology Lab and Oregon Bee Atlas that you can use in your yards to attract other native pollinators.

~ Debi Brimacombe
Scappoose Farmers’ Market

Most Saturdays you will find us, Allen McMillan and Debi Brimacombe, at the Scappoose Farmers’ Market visiting with people and sharing gardening and insect tips. We have learned from the questions and made friends with people who come to see what we have been up to from week to week. Questions have ranged from ‘what can we do about all of these wasps,’ to ‘how can I get rid of horsetail fern,’ ‘what is the best way to prune blueberries,’ and ‘what is eating my roses?’ We try to have new displays each week and Allen has attracted many curious visitors with his walking onions. This is a great way to help people find the information they need to keep them productive in their gardens. There is still time to become part of the Farmers’ Market Master Gardener group this year. If you are even a little bit interested and have some time come see for yourself how rewarding the experience can be. We are there Saturdays, 9 am to 2 pm through September 29 and we would love to keep it going next year with your help.

~ Debi Brimacombe
Garden of Weed’in GardenFest and Ice cream Feed

Visitors came from all over south county and as far away as Hillsboro to celebrate the bounty of our garden on August 25. Garden art, quilts, and plants were available from local vendors along with Ice Cream and fresh fruit crisp. We met the neighbors and spent the day visiting with people touring the garden and buying produce to help support us next year. Timing was good, the corn was ripe, beans were still producing, and cut sunflowers, dahlias, and zinnias were a cheery addition to the produce. Thank you for supporting us and please join us whenever you like. We garden Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am to noon.

~ Debi Brimacombe
Columbia County Master Gardeners Association

Board Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2018
President Chuck Petersen

A board meeting was called to order at 1027am on Thursday August 2, 2018 at the St Helens OSU extension office. The President was in the chair and the secretary was present.

Housekeeping:
- Secretary’s Report – Minutes of July Board Meeting - accepted
- Treasurer’s Report – Packet dated 8/1/18 provided and accepted – treasurer noted that picnic budget has been forwarded to Melise R.; the Demo garden water bill has not been received; swing bars were not ready for pickup
- Correspondence – OMGA request for ideas and/or show of interest for the future of G2 – should G2 remain one central event or split throughout the state among the counties – should a professional event coordinator be hired?

Committee Reports:
- OMGA Rep – N/A
- CC Fairgrounds Garden – County Fair recap – highest attendance numbers of 1242 visitors total – “the insectary” won favorite raised bed with a tie between “peppers” and “the hummingbird garden.”

Old Business:
- August Chapter Picnic – Final prep – Melise R. will reach out with requests and details of event

New Business:
- OMGA Officer Volunteer presentation – Kathy Johnson
  - Overall, attendance is showing a downward trend possibly due to, but not limited to,
    - Other counties hold their own 1-day events
    - G2 seen as too scholastic
    - Limited promotion outside the MG communities
    - People prefer not to drive greater distances with a lodging expense
- Nominating committee selection in September – LaVina and Peggy Crisp are leads
- Possible speakers for 2019 graduation – N/A
- Amani center request for donation/sponsorship for upcoming event – no budgeted line item so request for donation is denied
- Kathy presented the $500 extension educator grant
- Certificate received for the CCMGA of the Year Award – waiting for swing bar to present to Linda Perry

Request for July 2018 minutes to be amended to reflect that the 2018 Behind the Scenes award recipient was NOT offered the G2 attendance scholarship.

Meeting adjourned at 1112am

~ Brooke McClain, Secretary