

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 1, Issue 1

September/October 2018

Connecting Grangers and Communities

Welcome to Marys River country, friends and neighbors, and the inaugural issue of the local Grange bulletin, the *Marys River Messenger*. This little publication is meant to help Grange members and the whole community share happenings and history, creativity, work and livelihood, information, resources, and life experiences. It's an offering of, by, and for each other; a volunteer service.

Contributions of content will vary with the people and the seasons. It is hoped that the *Messenger* will promote the Grange and further understanding of its purpose, and highlight the wide-ranging interests and efforts of the many individuals involved. It will reach out, make us visible, and engage other groups.

The Grange is and always has been non-partisan and non-sectarian. It primarily supports communities and families, and has roots in agriculture. The organization is long established, yet ever in process. Every member

makes a difference. While open to all ages, full voting membership begins at 14 years old, providing the possibility of true intergenerational exchange. Imagine! It can be a place to learn and sharpen skills, facilitate community action, enjoy entertainment and educational presentations, accomplish projects, and meet new people who are respectful of one another. Participation is the key.

At this point, the *Messenger* is planned to appear bimonthly, mailed to all members of the Marys River Grange, surrounding Granges, and distributed at select locations in and around Philomath. It is produced by the Marys River Grange Communications Committee. Submission of articles and notices of community events is open to all concerned. Let's learn from each other. May the *Marys River Messenger* uplift and encourage all to explore and appreciate the treasures we have inherited, work with, and share in this place called home.

Marys River Grange #685 Named Distinguished Grange

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Marys River Grange #685 has been recognized as a 2018 Distinguished Grange.

The National Grange, which celebrated its 150th birthday last year, will recognize Marys River Grange along with 33 other Community Granges and six State Granges at a reception during the 152nd Annual National Grange Convention in Stowe, Vermont, in November.

“Those recognized as Distinguished Granges make up less than two percent of the total number of Granges across our nation, and are truly the cream of the crop,” National Grange President Betsy Huber said. “Every Grange works to improve its community and educate others about agriculture and food issues, but these

Distinguished Granges are truly beacons of light in their hometowns. Many of them serve some of our nation's most rural communities and their efforts are vital in raising the quality of life for the local residents.”

Marys River Grange submitted for national review a recap of activities from July 2017 through June 2018, including our hosting of a low cost medical clinic for low income farm workers, supporting Ten Rivers Food Web and Philomath Community Services, hosting an educational puppet show for children on climate change, hosting Benton County planning sessions, listening sessions for Friends of Family Farmers and free community events such as game night and movie night.

Marys River Messenger Editor & Publisher:
 Judy Hays- Eberts
 Communications Committee:
 Jessie Blume, Karin Bolender, Chris Hansen,
 Judy Hays-Eberts, Jay Sexton
 Proofreader: Janet Cornelius
 Contributors to this issue: Sonny Hays-Eberts

Email submissions to marysrivergrange@gmail.com or
 mail to Marys River Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath,
 OR 97370.

No fee for advertisements from Marys River Grange
 members.

Suggestions: community notes, recipes, letters, Grange
 photos, local profiles, gardening and household tips...

Historically Grange

Excerpts of Minutes from October 4, 1929

Mary's River Grange #685 met at Grange Hall at 8:25
 P.M. – Master S. I. Pratt presiding...

R. A. Coolidge – Committee on Co-operative Buying and
 selling, reported that not all bids were in for proposed
 pooled buying of feed etc. It was ordered that a meeting
 of all interested be held at the Grange Hall on Oct. 7 at
 8 P.M. to decide the question, at which time all bids
 were to be in.

It was reported for Special Fair Committee, that
 proceeds of various booths netted ten dollars and fifty
 seven cents. Standing note of thanks was unanimously
 ordered to the committee and others who worked to
 make the fair a success...

The Secretary read his quarterly report showing no
 change in membership during the quarter – present
 membership 77.

Lecturer's hour. The Lecturer divided those present into
 two groups and propounded series of questions on
 various subjects after fashion of a spelling match. The
 resulting answers were in some cases correct and in all
 cases entertaining.

Good of the Order.

Penny Drill netted – 36 cents.

...Members present 30

Bills allowed 3.15

Receipts.

Dues 4.50

Fair Com. 10.07

Home Ec. 20.00

Total 34.57

Mark Phinney – Sec.

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Harvest of Happenings

A calendar of upcoming Grange, community, gardening, livestock, land-based or farming events in the local area.

Marys River Grange Free Movie Night, Fri. September 21st, 7 p.m. 24707 Grange Hall Rd., Philomath. All-you-can-eat popcorn, beverages, \$1. Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com for details.

Marys River Grange Community Game Night, Fri. September 28th, starts at 6:30 p.m. 24707 Grange Hall Rd., Philomath. Open to all. Come play a wide assortment of games and bring your own. Free popcorn.

Fill Your Pantry preorders begin in October. Contact fillyourpantrycorvallis@gmail.com for more info.

Marys River Grange monthly meeting, Weds. October 3rd. Potluck at 6:30 p.m., business meeting at 7:00. 24707 Grange Hall Rd., Philomath.

Live on the Land Workshop Series, Scio, Thurs. Oct 4th – Thurs. Oct 25th. \$25 for four class series, scholarships available. Hosted by Oregon State Extension Service, for landowners new to managing small scale livestock farms. Call 541-766-3553 for more information.

Benton County 4-H Information Night, October 4th, 6:30–9:00 p.m. Benton County Fairgrounds Auditorium building. Come learn about Benton County 4-H, meet members and volunteers and check out projects. Contact 541-766-6750 for more information.

Lamars Forest Property Tour, October 6th, 8:30–3:30. Terry and Lee Lamars will share their experience growing redwoods, thinning, logging, pond building and other forestry topics. They have redwood trees up to 26 years old, on different sites and conditions. They will discuss reasons, methods, equipment and market choices for their active thinning program. Come to Monmouth and follow signs west towards Kings Valley/Falls City onto Monmouth Hwy (Hwy 194). Only 3/4 mile from Monmouth turn south on driveway where Tour sign is. Follow driveway to end. Address is 11300 Monmouth Hwy, Monmouth 97361. Use GPS at your own risk. Contact treemaninore@gmail.com for more information.

Willamette Grange monthly meeting, Tues. Oct. 9th Potluck at 6:30 p.m., business meeting at 7. Corner of Greenberry Rd. and Hwy. 99.

Harvest Fest, Sat. October 16th, 10-4, Marys River Grange Hall, 24707 Grange Hall Road, Philomath. Crafts, music, food items for sale, bake sale by members of Philomath Gleaners, and activities. Booth spaces 10x10, \$30. Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-826-2907 for additional information.

Marys River Grange Community Game Night, Fri. Oct. 26th, starts at 6:30 p.m. 24707 Grange Hall Road, Philomath. Open to all. Come play a wide assortment of games and bring your own. Free popcorn.

Marys River Messenger deadline for submissions, Fri. October 26th.

Dairy Goat Field Day, Sat. Nov. 3rd, 9:00–4:30. Come learn about disease management, internal parasites, livestock guardian animals, pasture & grazing management, the 1,2,3's of milking, cheese making, milk testing, pack goats and more. Offered by Benton County Extension Service. Registration link: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events>. Call 541-766-5335 for more information.



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MRG Members News

Charles Merle Fischer passed away August 11, 2018 at age 96. He was a 65 year member of Mountain View and Marys River Grange.

Congratulations to Marys River Grange members Jay Sexton and Toni Hoyman, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 21st, 2018.

Welcome, newest member Maisie Louise Woo born August 31, 2018, weighing 8 lb. 11 oz., to parents Jon and Kim and big brother Makiah!



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A Catalog of Improvements

by Judy Hays-Eberts

Fellow Granger and unofficial handyman Jay Sexton and I walked around the Grange Hall on July 5th and noted changes and upgrades that had been made in recent years. I must say I was overwhelmed, trying to keep track of it all. And, since Jay and I each joined our Grange after the first wave who revived Marys River Grange in 2009, we may have missed some projects. The interior was already painted yellow by the time we came along, thanks to members Demetri and Viesia Balint; however we remembered the moldy, dank, and dark connecting room and the smelly orange shag carpet in the North Room...

Building maintenance has become especially important to Jay because he has the time (retired, ha!), likes doing it (probably should be doing things at home), he got to see what needs to be fixed when he took on handling the building rentals, and there were threats to the building's integrity that have finally been addressed. He takes stewardship personally, fortunately for our Grange Community.

Repairs and improvements have been funded through grants, building rentals, savings, and individual donations. Here are our recollections of the many improvements made in the last ten years:

Wood floor refinished by Trevor Storch
Marquee updated and repainted, noting web site (Hank Keogh)
Shag carpet removed from North Room (Camille Storch and GTF Alegria Musica band members)
Curtains removed from stage, as they were a fire hazard
Two toilets and partitions removed from the bathrooms (Judson's Plumbers and Jay Sexton)
L-shaped screen removed from entryway to the bathrooms
Bathroom floor painted (Hank Keogh)
Consumers Power upgraded electricity from 200 to 400 amps
Circuit breaker panel replaced and upgraded by Valley Electric, secondary kitchen breaker panel installed
Dark wood in basement painted white, gravel brought in for floor and plastic pallets from GTF for firewood
Northeast side of foundation fixed, and under crawlspace
- Donald J Crocker Construction repaired footing of foundation and replaced siding
Exterior siding replaced on the west side of the Hall, funded by matching grant from Oregon State Grange
Also with OSG grant, insulated and put floor in upstairs attic space, installed exterior electrical outlets and bathroom ventilation
Both kitchen stoves and refrigerator replaced; ceased using propane and converted to electric
New microwave

80 year old Ponderosa pine tree leaning over North Room removed (members Lige Weedman and Demetri Balint)

Limbed up large trees on east property line and south of hall (Lige Weedman)

Hugelkulture mound built near fence and planted [rhododendron in honor of Cora] (MarkliAnn Johnston)

New plaque honoring past Masters of the Grange (Sonny Hays-Eberts and Family)

Handicap ramp handrails (made and welded in by Lige Weedman)

Emergency push-opening doors (installed by Jay Sexton)

Fluorescent light in kitchen replaced by LED

Connecting room refurbished:

Leaky refrigerator removed

After removal of inside walls and ceiling, discovered the older roof was contained beneath the present roof

- The North Room was first a stand-alone building, with stairs on both sides, and connected to the Great Hall by a covered walkway without walls

- Positive and negative (hot) wires had been strung between the two buildings, then had been looped and attached to new wires when the walkway was enclosed and became a storage room that joined the two buildings into one

- Insects, rodents, and birds had gotten between the walls from open space above

The (interior) old roof was cut out in sections, rafters installed

New layer of thick tongue and groove sub-flooring added

Outside walls insulated and eaves sealed

Moved doorway of the North Room (The Refuge church installed the door) to allow separation of passage from storage area

Drywall installed

Electrical problems brought up to code

Upgraded lighting from two naked bulbs on side walls to recessed LED fixtures in ceiling

To do:

- Mud, texture, and paint walls

- Install accordion doors to contain storage area

Acoustics improved, funded by grant from Benton Co. Cultural Coalition:

(Chris Hansen, Sonny Hays-Eberts, Jay Sexton)

- Stage walls, floor, and ceiling insulated; stage walls repainted

- Acoustic panels hung on stage and south walls

- Acoustic event curtains for use along north side of Great Hall

- Reconfigured and improved electrical outlets

- Lighting on stage changed from naked bulbs to recessed fixtures

Bookshelves to create lending library

Old woodstove replaced with new

Changed naked bulbs in alcove to recessed dimmable LEDs

Pews replaced (through the help of Janet Cornelius)

Southern and southeast foundation re-supported by Jay B Construction, because it had settled 6"

(Nate Johnson and Tim Dehne helped excavate)

Internet access installed (Alyrica)

Cherry, red Fuji apple, and nectarine trees planted

Soon:

Fluorescent lights in Great Hall all replaced by LEDs

Tear off back porch, steps, and overhang, and rebuild

Chimneys removed and steel stove pipe replaced for both wood stove and furnace by Cascade Chimney Sweep and Masonry

New roof by JR Roofing and Siding LLC!

Thanks to ALL the hard working folks who made it happen!



Member Jim Gray shows the Marys River Grange Hall's kitchen porch being rebuilt. He also leads the effort to restore Willamette Grange.

Rent Marys River Grange for your event!

Reasonable Rate, Cozy Comfortable Hall

Details at marysrivergrange.org

Most Wanted by the Philomath Food Bank:

Personal care items, feminine products, canned meat and fish, condiments, canned entrees, boxed entrees, ready to eat soups, laundry soap, jams, jellies, syrups. Everything is appreciated! However, they cannot distribute home canned foods, previously opened packages, or food without original labels.

Food bank hours:

Tues. 5:00-7:45 p.m., Thurs. 9:00-11:45 a.m.
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Recipe Corner

Baked Quinces—Select six good, ripe quinces, wipe dry and set in oven to bake. When done strip off the skins, sift powdered sugar over them and serve with cream. They are excellent.

The Daily News Cook Book,
Monday, October the Fourth, Breakfast, c1896

It Takes a Community to Raise a Roof.

by Sonny Hays-Eberts

This spring, Marys River Grange completed work on a long term project to address several areas of the Hall's foundation which had begun to sag. Shortly after, two leaks in the roof became three and more severe than ever.

At the time, MRG was able to commit \$8,000, some of which had been saved for this purpose and some from the general fund. Chimney work was also required. The roof replacement was complex, and hazardous enough that members decided to contract out the work because of safety concerns.

Estimates were obtained and the contractor was selected. Cost of the chimney work and roof repair, which included removal of two layers of asphalt tabs and replacement of plywood sheeting, approached \$27,000, far more than was on hand.

The original founders of Marys River Grange and builders of the Hall were industrious and loathe to assume debt. They planted 42 acres of grains and cereals, planning to use the proceeds from the sale of those crops to fund the construction. An early freeze ruined that plan, so they turned to the community for help. The Griswold Saw Mill sold logs to them for "one dollar per thousand," and this is why the Marys River Hall is a rare log cabin Grange. Much of the log cabin styling is now covered by siding, yet can be clearly seen in old photographs. Those early members made small loans to the Grange and, in 1933, the Hall was completed for a cost of \$794.22 and dedicated in January, 1934.

Understanding its history, current MRG members decided to raise funds within the community and among members to pay for the new roof, and forego the temptation of simply taking out a loan. We started with a crowd sourcing campaign on GoFundMe.com and applications for grants from the Myer Memorial Trust, USDA, Oregon State Grange, and the Ford Foundation. Time was spent researching ideas for fund raising and discussing what the members should do.

One idea we came across was the 100 Envelopes Donation: 100 envelopes are priced from \$1 to \$100. This can raise as much as \$5,050 if every envelope sells. We decided to modify it to a tiered raffle and feature prizes from our members' businesses, purchased by the Grange so the business itself would not bear the cost of the fund raising. This would be a nice way to feature the livelihood of our members, in addition to helping with the roof.

But a raffle needs to be publicized. After discussion, it was decided to host Amazing Grange Day on August 11th. The opportunity to buy raffle tickets was combined with a rummage sale and silent pie auction. Long time Grange member Jim Gray donated a cord of firewood,

too, for which chances could be purchased to guess how many pieces made up the cord, and the closest guess would win. Sunbow Farm offered to set up a vegetable stand and donate all proceeds to the Grange. Members and friends baked pies, and pies were provided from local companies - as MRG members like to support local businesses. Members posted flyers, publicized online, and spoke with the local newspaper editor and local community groups in an effort to get the word out.

Amazing Grange Day was well named. Over 200 visitors dropped by, including some from the State Grange and several from other Benton County Granges, who came to support our efforts. While many would think the financial gain was the big payoff, the best part of the day was hearing the many stories from community members about how the Grange as an organization, or the Hall in particular, had impacted their lives, and the heartfelt support they gave us.

A sign at the entry to Amazing Grange Day proved prophetic: "We are placing our FAITH and HOPE in your CHARITY and FIDELITY to our community." The capitalized words are four of the primary precepts of the Grange, and our faith and hope were not misplaced. The level of support we received has inspired us to strive to return that support, with interest, to our community.

Just a few days later, Marys River Grange received notice that it had been awarded a Ford Family Foundation Good Neighbor Grant. Combined with Amazing Grange Day proceeds and two large private donations, almost \$12,000 was raised in a week and over \$16,000 to date. What once seemed impossible was now probable.

The work began on September 4th. Our 90 year old Hall should stay dry for the next 50 years!

Marys River Grange is grateful to the following businesses and organizations for contributions and support for our fund raising cause. These are businesses that truly serve your local community. We urge you to support them, with an acknowledgement to Pioneer Telephone and The Refuge Church for their extreme generosity:

Benton County Cultural Coalition, Benton County Pie Company, Calapooia Brewery, Cyranos, The Dizzy Hen, Eats and Treats, the Ford Family Foundation, the Gariott family, GreenGable Garden, Gathering Together Farm, McMinnville Grange #31, Mosaic Farm, Nectar Creek Meadery, Oregon State Grange, Oregon State Grange Foundation, Old Blue Raw Honey, Out West Farm and Ranch, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, The Philomath Express, The Refuge Church, Shonnard's Nursery, Softstar Shoes, Spindrift Cellars, Summit Grange #432, Triangle Grange #533, Sunbow Farm, Totum Farm, and Wilco Farm Store.

In addition, nearly 70 people donated directly to the Grange. Thank you! We value and cherish every one of you, for it is people like you who make Philomath the wonderful place it is.

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