

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 2, Issue 5

May/June 2020

Coming Together in the Time of Physical Distancing



I had no idea my term as President of Marys River Grange would coincide with the emergence of the most serious global pandemic in a century. It has thrown our society and our economy into a period of disarray and flux, and likewise has had an impact on Grange activities.

Governor Brown's Stay at Home order called for the closing of all fraternal buildings. Our pending reservations have been cancelled, and our Executive Committee made the decision to return all rental fees in full, in addition to deposits. The Plant Sale and Garden Swap, benefitting Philomath Community Services and Lupe's Garden, was cancelled, as was Yoga at the Grange and our in-person April meeting.

But a pandemic cannot keep a good Grange down. Twenty members met via Zoom in April, and a week later Judy held a Junior meeting on Zoom where they did crafts, led by Junior Makiah, and discussed books and what they had been doing during these times. The plant sale starts were first offered to Lupe's Community Garden, then the remainder delivered to Grange members, who donated to Marys River Grange Relief Fund (more below). Early in the pandemic, when the situation was very uncertain, we offered the use of our Hall to the City

of Philomath if an emergency need arose. We formed a small emergency team of people who are willing to shop for food or medications, do laundry, or assist as needed, and partnered with Habitat for Humanity - which also has such a team of volunteers. Sonny and Jay, masked (Thanks, Toni!) and physically distant, spent a morning replacing a rotted support pier for a member who needed a hospital bed to be delivered and placed in that corner of the house. Jay, Toni, Matt, Phoebe, Wyatt, and Sonny worked distantly to install a fence between the Hall and GreenGable Farm, to prevent renters from potentially damaging the fields. Members have donated books and puzzles, stored in the Hall, for use by members, after being quarantined, to provide some alternative to the currently closed city library. Laura has begun offering Yoga at the Grange online. GreenGable Farm donated almost 400 pounds of seed potatoes, which Jay collected and provided to Lupe's Community Garden. We also scheduled a social Zoom night, just so members could interact and connect. Many of our members took the time and energy to assist neighbors and friends. All in all, pretty active for a non-active month!

Older Granges had a Relief Committee, who looked in on sick members. Marys River has revived that practice somewhat during this pandemic. We've implemented a voluntary phone tree where members check in with a small group and ensure everyone is okay, and if they feel there is need for help, contact the Marys River Grange emergency team. We've also taken in very generous donations, including the voluntarily forfeited OSU Contemplative Studies rental and some from anonymous donors, and created a Relief Fund. This fund is meant to help members suffering from the financial impacts of the pandemic. If you need assistance - financial, physical effort, or just words of support, please contact us and we will try to help.

This is already longer than normal, but I would like to add one more thing. As President and public face of the Grange, I am the recipient of the thanks and gratitude from the public and our members. Yet, I am not the one deserving it; it belongs to our members who do the work and make the decisions. So, to all of you: know that the City of Philomath deeply appreciates our Grange and its offer of the Hall, that Philomath Community Services is grateful for our broad and steadfast support, that people have emailed simply to thank us

for our offer of help posted on the Hall sign, that our support of LBCC Horticulture has truly made Karen's day, and that our Lecturer was so very thrilled to have our support and interest in the Dance With Plants project which, unfortunately, was another pandemic casualty. Your work and membership with our Grange not only supports our community, our agriculture, our friends and our children; it lifts people up. And there is little in this day more precious than that.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts



Junior Granger Wyatt Coen spread mulch along fenceline.



Junior Granger Phoebe Coen set fence posts.

Mask Makers

Sister Charlotte Gray and Sister Toni Hoyman, and other Grangers, have been making cloth masks for those who need them. Their sewing machines are humming along as fabrics with pretty and humorous prints are transformed into facemasks which help prevent the spread of Covid-19 virus. Cloth masks work best at reducing the likelihood that the wearer will transmit the virus, which is especially important as it is now clear that a high percentage of people infected with the virus show no symptoms. Wearing masks can help slow the spread of the disease when combined with "Stay Home," hand washing, disinfecting surfaces, and other precautions.

- Jay Sexton



Yoga from the Grange Spring 2020



*Marys River Grange is offering
live, virtual yoga classes online via Zoom
Tuesdays at 9am & Saturdays at 10am
for the duration of Oregon's social distancing*

Classes are free for all

For more information email, text, or call Laura Coen:
lauraploeg@yahoo.com 331-201-5458

**Marys River Grange regularly meets on the first
Wednesday of each month, 7 PM, currently via Zoom.**

Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com.

See also: marysrivergrange.org

facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/

Donations for Philomath Food Bank may be mailed to
PO Box 1334, Philomath, OR 97370.

Bees Find A Home

Toni and Jay were happy to get a call from Sister Caroline that she had a swarm of honeybees at her house if we could come get them. Toni and Jay have kept a few hives of bees at their home for the last 15 years and had been without a hive for two years since their last hive died. Over the last 10 years their hives have suddenly died in the fall, half a dozen times, possibly due to an unknown neighbor's use of a pesticide on a bee attractive plant.

This swarm was a beauty – only about 7 feet off the ground, over the driveway on a small oak branch, and the size of a basketball. They had come from a wild hive that has existed in a huge oak tree for at least 35 years. The swarm was only 30 feet from the hive they had left. When a hive feels cramped the old queen leads a majority of the hive workers away to start a new hive. The worker bees that remain in the original hive raise new queens which fight to the death with the strongest becoming the new hive queen.

Bee swarms are docile and typically do not sting when gently manipulated. We cut the branches near the swarm and then cut the branch on which it hung, dropping the whole bunch into a cardboard box, which we taped closed and drove in our car to our home. As long as the queen is kept in the swarm the group stays compact. We were excited to put the swarm into a new style hive box we had gotten the year before, but never used. This top bar hive allows bees to vary the size of the new hexagonal wax cells they make for different purposes, and this is thought to allow them to better sanitize their hive against mites and diseases.

At home we shook the hive out of the box, into the open hive and then closed it up.

We primarily keep bees to pollinate our fruit and garden crops. The new style top bar hive may allow us to harvest some honey in the early fall and we are interested in seeing how this style hive works out.

- Jay Sexton



My mini-greenhouse is home to tomatoes purchased from the Grange. Since our plant sale was canceled, the seedlings were sold to fund our Grange Relief Fund! – Suzan Foley



Holly Rios' container garden with plants from MRG.



Kasey Rios, 4 years old, is a natural gardener.

OLD BLUE Raw Honey

Old Blue Raw Honey is a small beekeeping enterprise owned and operated by Henry and Camille Storch in Philomath, OR. Henry's ecologically diverse apiaries provide his bees the ideal environment for producing varietal honey. By raising his own survivor queens, Henry is working to preserve and propagate the hardy honeybee populations adapted to the flora and climate of Western Oregon. His practice of incorporating local feral genetics into managed colonies for migratory pollination is critical to the long-term resilience of regional food systems.

Old Blue Raw Honey is never heated over natural hive temperatures and is only filtered minimally, so it may include pollen, small wax particles, and the occasional bee bit. All natural honey will solidify eventually. To liquify, place the jar in a bowl of warm (not boiling) water.

> website: oldbluenaturalresources.com

> facebook: facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney

> contact: oldbluerawhoney@gmail.com

> instagram: [@oldbluerawhoney](https://www.instagram.com/oldbluerawhoney)

Willamette Grange meets on the second Wednesday of the month, 7 PM, when meetings resume.

Contact Jay Sexton/Toni Hoyman at 541-929-5452 or willamettegrange@gmail.com. Support the restoration of this historic building at the corner of Hwy 99W and Greenberry Road, seven miles south of Corvallis:
facebook.com/willamettegrange52
gofundm.com/f/wccgh52

I'd like to share that even with isolation, I was able to share that the Grange supports LBCC Horticulture with the Albany Democrat Herald.

– Karen Canan

Marys River Junior Grange Continues

Young people of all ages are our treasures. They uplift us with their energy, and in the course of learning they also teach us. To serve their needs, they make us stretch; in helping them to mature, we participate in that process for ourselves. Thus Junior Grange is an integral part of the whole. It is deeply rewarding for leaders and members alike.

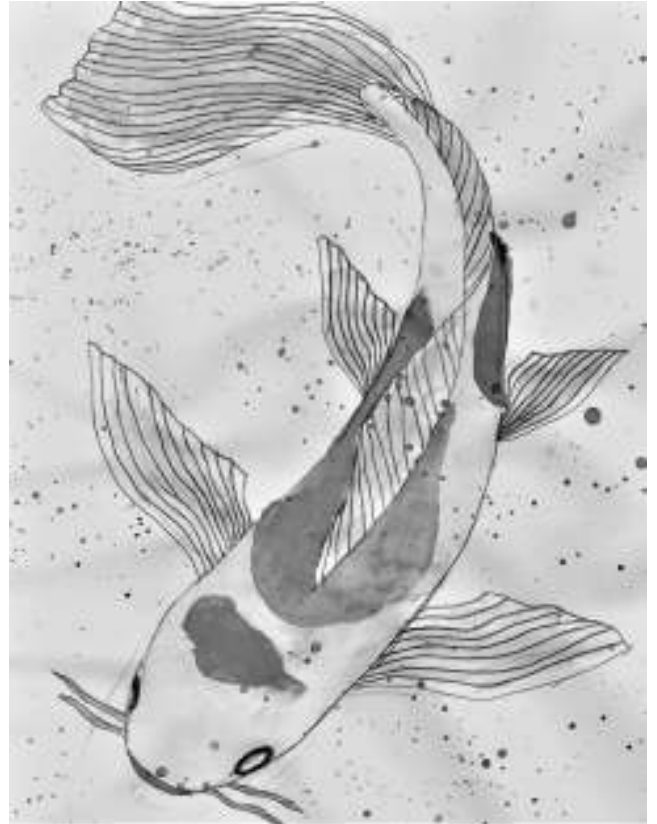
I continue to learn from our young people throughout this period of quarantine. They expressed a desire to meet online and to double our meetings. I had to learn about Zoom, and I still receive tips from them. I am a facilitator, yet they lead much of the meetings. We explore crafts and information together. And we have fun doing it. We keep in touch and they share about their lives through showing their work and telling about their interests. They enlighten and inspire me. As they use and increase their skills, I am called to do the same.

Young people are our future, and they deserve considerable investment. Marys River Grange offers an opportunity to cultivate community and enduring relationships among all ages and backgrounds. Let's continue to dream it and grow it together.

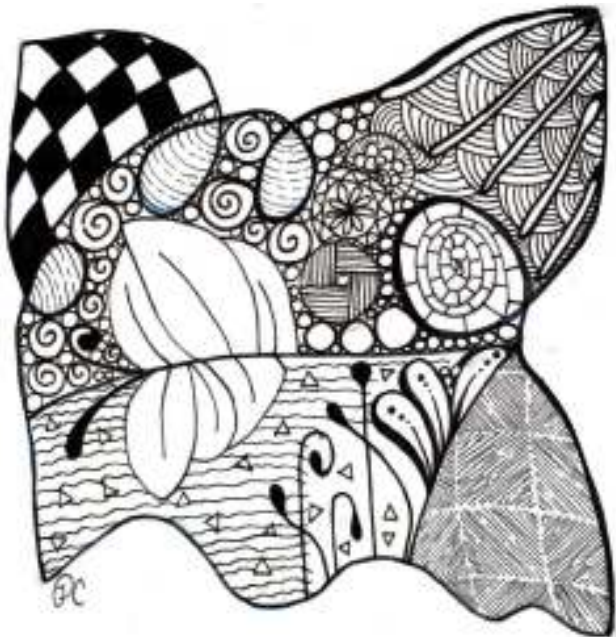
- Judy Hays-Eberts



Makiah Woo demonstrated how to make ninja stars with origami paper at the MRJG meeting via Zoom on April 10th.



Wyatt Coen created a watercolor koi during homeschool.



Phoebe Coen demonstrated the art of Zentangle on April 24th.



Rayna Rios was inspired by Zentangle.

The Hunger Games Book Report by Wyatt Coen

The book that I chose for my book report is The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. Katniss Everdeen is a girl from District 12 who gets sent into the Hunger Games; Gale is Katniss' best friend in District 12. Peeta Mellark is the boy from district 12 who gets sent into the games with Katniss. Prim Everdeen is Katniss' younger sister. Katniss volunteered to go into the games instead of Prim when her name was drawn. Haymitch is the only person still alive to win the Hunger Games from District 12, which makes him Katniss and Peeta's mentor. Rue is a girl from District 11 who gets sent into the Hunger Games and becomes Katniss' ally and friend. Cinna is Katniss' stylist and friend. He designed the dress that gave Katniss so much attention because it made her look like she was on fire! Cato is the male tribute from District 2 and the leader of the career pack. The careers are the ruthless killers who train all their lives for the Hunger Games. The setting is in the capital of all the Districts 1-12 in an imaginary world, Katniss and Peeta live in District 12, the district that produces coal. It is also the poorest District. Katniss lives on the Seam, the poorest part of the poorest district. Her mother is the doctor for the district and Katniss doesn't like to see all of the injured people, so she goes to the woods to hunt even though she has to cross the dangerous electric fence to get to the woods and hunting is illegal in her District. Katniss and Peeta go to the capital and enter the Hunger Games.

The Hunger Games are when two teenagers from each district get sent into an arena in the capital. The arena is like a big forest and in the middle there is a giant cornucopia filled with food and weapons. The arena isn't just a normal forest though, there are people called the gamemakers who have all kinds of fancy technology that they can use to make terrible things happen in the arena. The tributes in the arena have to kill one another and the winner is the last man or woman alive. If an entire day goes by without someone dying, the gamemakers might worry the people watching on TV will get bored so they make some awful thing happen in the arena that will probably lead to someone's death. The Hunger Games only purpose is entertainment, nobody realizes how cruel it is except for the people who were in it and their families. If you win the Hunger Games you get a home in the Victors' Village, which is the nicest part of your District. If you win you also become the new mentor of your village. Being the mentor for your village means you train the people who are also sent into the Games, this is normally a very sad job because most of the time the people who get sent into the arena don't come back out alive; mentors feel at fault because they didn't train the tributes well enough.

WARNING: IF YOU HAVE NOT READ THIS BOOK DO NOT READ THIS SUMMARY

In the beginning of the book Katniss' sister Prim gets picked to go into the Games and Katniss volunteers immediately to go instead of Prim. After that Katniss meets Peeta and Haymitch, then she goes to the capital and meets Cinna and Rue. Cinna designs an awesome dress for Katniss to

make it look like she is on fire because they are from the coal district and it makes everyone like her and Peeta. During Peeta's interview he makes it clear that he has a crush on Katniss. Then they enter the arena and Katniss joins forces with Rue after Rue saves her life. Right after Rue dies a rule gets changed because of Peeta's love for Katniss. Before Katniss and Peeta were in the Hunger Games only one person could win, but after Peeta declared his love for Katniss it was decided that both the people from one district could win. Peeta is injured and Katniss decides to go find him. Once she finds Peeta she helps him with his injury and then goes with him to the cornucopia once it is just her, Peeta, and Cato left. There they got attacked by mutts that had the eyes of the dead tributes and their collars looked like what the tributes wore into the arena. Cato tries to attack Katniss and Peeta but instead gets attacked by the mutts. When he doesn't die Katniss has to kill him, but instead of winning it is announced that the rule has changed back and only one person can win. Katniss and Peeta try to kill themselves at the same time and then the Gamemakers declare that they win together!

I think that The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins was a great but sad book. My favorite part of the book was when Katniss volunteered for Prim when her name was picked. The reason I thought it was a sad book was because so many people died. I liked it that all the weapons take real skill to use like throwing knives, swords and bow and arrows and not guns or bombs or things like that even though they had the technology. Even though I had never read the book before I thought it was kind of obvious that Katniss and Peeta both would be the winners of the Hunger Games. I read all three books in the trilogy and I thought that the first book was the best one and the second and third books were kind of confusing. I think I wouldn't last a day in the Hunger Games because I hate it if my cats even kill a mouse, so how would I ever kill a person?

In summary, the book The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins was a great book. I would recommend this book to mature tweens and teens who like adventurous novels. That is my book report for quarantine homeschool. Thanks for reading! This was the longest report I have ever written and I loved doing it!

CYRANO'S BOOKBINDING

FINE ART & PAPER SUPPLIES / BOOKBINDING / REPAIRS / RESTORATIONS

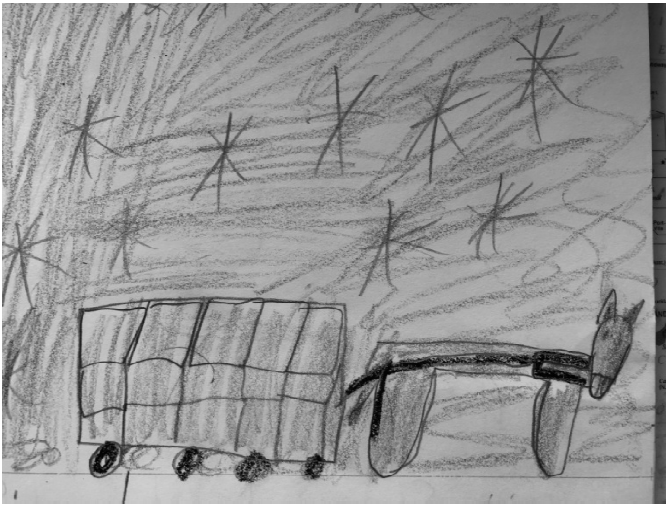
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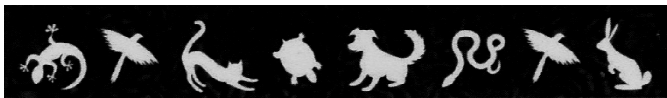
MRG has puzzles and books, especially for kids, safely stored at the Hall from members for loan. Contact Sonny at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-929-3309 to see what's available.



Rolly Hart did a book report on an old picture book by Maine author Dahlov Ipcar, called One Horse Farm. This illustration shows the one horse on the one-horse farm, Big Betty, hauling blocks of ice from the lake to the ice house in winter. It's a lovely book about how much of the work on farms was done in the days before tractors.

For any adults interested in this horse-powered era in agricultural history, I recommend the short story "Mule Killers" by Lydia Peelle, and also her novel The Midnight Cool, which follows the story of mule traders in WWI-era Tennessee when thousands of Southern mule were sent to the battlefields in France. (I have an extra copy that I can put in the Grange library if anyone wants to read it).

- Karin Bolender Hart



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Book Review:

"The Sakura Obsession: The incredible story of the plant hunter who saved Japan's cherry blossoms" by Naoko Abe

Naoko Abe is a Japanese journalist, nonfiction writer, and freelance writer who has published five books in Japanese. After moving to London, Abe was intrigued by the many varieties of ornamental cherry trees growing throughout the British Isles. This book is the result of her investigation. First written in Japanese, Abe rewrote it for an English-speaking audience.

The "plant hunter" in the subtitle refers to Collingwood Ingram, a British horticulturist who lived from 1880 to 1980. In the early 1900's, Ingram visited Japan and fell in love with the variety and beauty of the cherry blossom trees. Treasured for centuries in Japan, ornamental cherries were not well known at that time outside of those islands. Ingram set about collecting scions from a wide variety of cultivated and wild trees, which thrived in his extensive garden at his home (named "The Grange"), located near the village of Benenden, England.

On a return visit to Japan in 1926, Ingram was dismayed to find that the love affair between the Japanese people and the cherry blossom had waned. Many trees were neglected and had died, and sadly, one variety had gained popularity over all others, resulting in an increasing monoculture of the variety "Somei-yoshino", whose pale pink blooms last for only 8 days. Determined to save the diversity of the species, Ingram traveled the islands, meeting with a handful of other horticulturists who were nurturing the old varieties, who gladly promised to mail Ingram scions. Ingram even traveled by horseback into the less inhabited areas of Hokkaido, documenting locations of wild trees and gathering cuttings.

Ingram's desire to make cherries a shared world heritage led to connections throughout the British Isles, where he introduced approximately fifty different kinds of cherry. The passion and work of this one man brought ornamental cherry varieties to home gardens, national monuments, arboretums, museum grounds, and parks in a dozen countries.

Several chapters of the book chronicle the historical role of the cherry blossom in Japanese art and culture, and Abe's excellent research is well presented and fascinating, especially to this reader who was in Tokyo in 1984, when the cherry trees were in bloom.

- Janet Cornelius



MAREK & LANKER LLP
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Ronald L. Marek

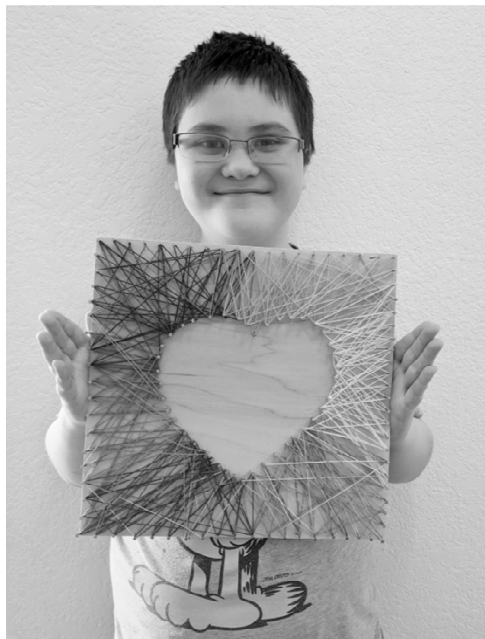
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Corvallis, OR 97333-4513

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Makiah got the supplies from Maxtivity for this colorful string creation, and they have plenty if anyone else wants to buy a kit too and make their own!

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Did you know there is a VA
primary care provider in Corvallis?

Located at Community Outreach Inc.
865 NW Reiman Ave.

For appointments, call Lisa Quick:
541-758-3000 ext 110

Daily Quarantine Questions

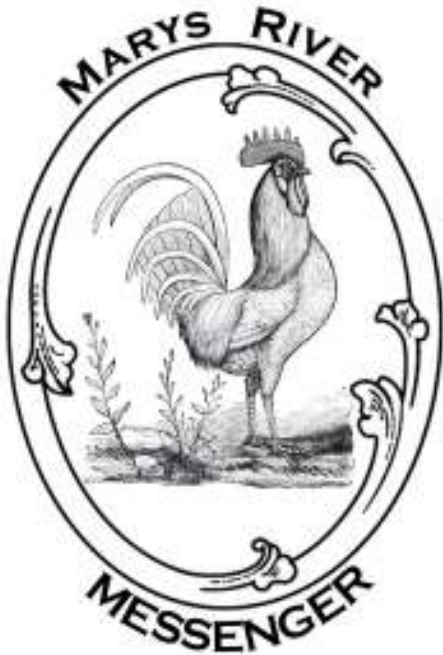
1. What am I grateful for today?
2. Who am I checking in on or connecting with today?
3. What expectations of normal am I letting go of today?
4. How am I getting outside today?
5. How am I moving my body today?
6. What beauty am I creating, cultivating, or letting in today?

- Shanna Trumbly via Laura Coen

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

No fee for business card-sized advertisements from members of Marys River Grange.

Marys River Grange #685
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541-829-2907



MRG Self-guided Botanical Interest Tour

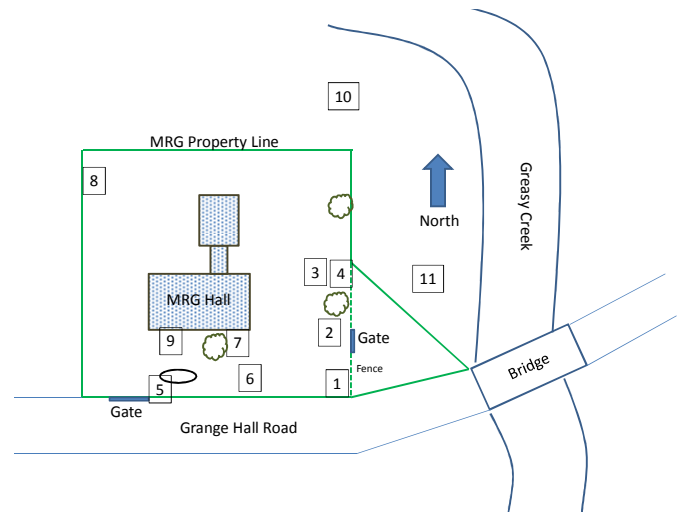
The wildflowers at the Grange are in bloom. Bring this map and come see the pretty botany!

Park on the roadside, come through the gate.

1. Our little Camas patch, Great Camas *Camassia leichtlinii*
2. White Trillium (sessile) wildflower *Trillium albidum*
3. Bleeding Heart wildflower *Dicentra formosa*
4. Columbian Larkspur *Delphinium trolliifolium*
5. On the Hugel: Showy Milkweed *Asclepias speciosa*
6. Three fruit trees, East to West; cherry, apple, nectarine
7. Japanese Pieris: non-native pollinator nectar plant *Pieris japonica*
8. Ponderosa pine planted when the Hall was built in 1935 *Pinus ponderosa*
9. Mock Orange shrub on the West *Philadelphus lewisii*, Common Lilac on the East *Syringa vulgaris*
10. Black Locust grove, non-native decay resistant wood *Robinia pseudoacacia*
11. Red Alder grove *Alnus rubra*

Photos of these plants can be seen at
<https://bentonswcd.org/resources/native-plants-database/>

- Jay Sexton



Introduction to Disc Golf

We would like to offer a "workshop" to introduce Grangers to Disc Golf, when the Governor's gathering restrictions are relaxed. Sister Toni and Brother Jay have been playing this simple outdoor game for about 20 years. Philomath has two 9-hole disc golf courses at Marys River Park and at the Philomath Middle School.

The basics are easily learned by people of any age or ability and improvement in the skills is the challenge. This activity provides light outdoor physical activity, very low equipment costs (we have loaners), and the courses are typically free to play in public parks. There are almost 200 public courses in Oregon.

Please phone the Grange at 541-829-2907 or email hexagon@exchangenet.net to get on an interested persons list.