

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 3, Issue 4

March/April 2021

A Time to Grow



Photos from Caroline Choquette: Grange Hall Road in January



Bluebird box installed at the Community Garden in February

The Grange in the 21st Century...

"The Grange will be a relevant, caring and involved part of the community in which its members are located. It will be well known and understood and considered a viable, involved and distinctive organization."

"We propose meeting together, talking together, working together, and in general, acting together for our mutual protection and advancement."

- nationalgrange.org/about-us

Marys River Grange regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, either at 24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath or online via Zoom.

MRG also meets for a monthly social on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 PM, currently via Zoom.

Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-829-2907. See also: marysrivergrange.org
facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/

Hope to meet in person in April!

2021 MRG Plant Sale & Seed Swap

Grangers – While it is challenging to make plans during a pandemic, the rate of vaccinations and current decrease in COVID cases has led us to cautiously plan for this year's **Plant Sale & Seed Swap on Saturday, April 24th**. Further details will be decided at MRG's March and April meetings.

Grangers are encouraged to start plants on your own as we did in 2019, and not work in large parties as we did at Sunbow in 2020. If you would like to contribute, please email marysrivergrange@gmail.com, so that our efforts can be coordinated. **Vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs – all manner of plants are welcome (barring invasive species), such as raspberry canes, grape cuttings, strawberry runners, flower bulbs, houseplants and other extra plants; also pots/containers to swap.**

In addition, I have obtained a large amount of free Ferry&Morse 2020 surplus seed from Winona Grange. If you would like to use some for starts for the Plant Sale, again, please contact Sonny at the above email address. What is not used for this purpose will be used for the Seed Swap and the remainder given to Grangers and the Philomath Community Garden.

– Sonny Hays-Eberts, MRG President

Junior Grangers, ages 4 to 14, can meet together at the MRG monthly social on Zoom, too, in a breakout room hosted by Judy Hays-Eberts. Show and tell, games, crafts, prompts, fun facts...are great ways to get to know each other. March 18th, we'll share what we've learned about skunks!

Third Wednesday of the month, 7-8pm, see same Zoom link for the MRG social.

Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or Judy at 541 230-8325 for more info.

"Because the East goes daylight, are we obliged to follow? The change of time affects everyone, so everyone should have a say in the matter. It should be placed in a national election that the country as a whole be standard. No! It must be quarreled, made a state by state issue, and mixed into a political stew."

– Marjorie Hays, April 26, 1952,
Timeless Reflections from Yachats by the Sea



Marys River Grange Email Lists

The Marys River Grange members mailing list is restricted so that only the marysrivergrange@gmail.com can send to it. This account is used sparingly, to not overwhelm our members with email. However, there are times when members might wish to contact other members to share information or request assistance. Therefore, we are implementing mailing lists, using Google's mailing list feature.

Currently there are two mailing lists, but if there is demand for other topics, they are easy to create.

The two current lists are
growing-things – for discussion of growing plants, soil concerns, disease and or pest management, swapping seeds, pruning and grafting and all the myriad topics of growing things.

mrgr-juniors – for discussion of junior activities and events.

To sign up for a group, send email to the group name with "+subscribe" at googlegroups.com. (Example, growing-things+subscribe@googlegroups.com, to subscribe to growing-things).

In a short while, you should get an email. **DO NOT CLICK THE BLUE "JOIN GROUP" button, unless you have, and want to use, a Google gmail account.** Instead, **SIMPLY REPLY TO THE EMAIL.** NOTE: You cannot visit the group page or see the group in Google Groups, if you do not use a Google (gmail) account. You will still get the emails however.

– Sonny Hays-Eberts

Health Care for Farm Workers

Farm Clinic is expanding services to uninsured & underinsured agricultural workers in Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Counties.

Any small-scale & family-run farms (vineyards, tree farms, dairy, ranching, etc.)

Contact: Lisa Quick, Community Outreach & Farm Clinic, 541-758-3000

For Farm Direct Purchasing, see
<http://www.tenriversfoodweb.org/farm-direct-purchasing.html> for Community Supported Agriculture Programs, information and websites for local farms. Sunbow Farms, Gathering Together Farm, Totum Farm, and Old Blue Raw Honey are MRG members, too!





Willamette Grange Portico Restoration

After almost a year of process, Willamette Grange is nearing the beginning of work on their first big project, the Restoration of the Entrance Portico. A grant from the Benton County Historic Resources Commission will reimburse for half the cost of the work, once completed. The plans for this work were prepared, as a donation, by the engineer Bill Barlow. Mr. Barlow, who is now a Willamette Grange Member, was contracted to prepare the Engineering Plans for the Willamette Grange Roof Repair Project. Preparation of the Roof Engineering Plans was funded by a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund. The Roof project will occur later this year, though fund raising and grant applications are on-going.

The Portico has significant wood rot and has been braced for safety. It will be carefully deconstructed and restored to its original appearance by Steve Boragine of Abiqua Creek Construction. A low porch railing will be replaced, so that the restored portico will look as it was originally built in 1923. The Willamette Grangers are excited by the prospect of having this refurbished entrance giving an improved "first impression" of this graceful old building, as it approaches the beginning of its second century of use.

If you would like to support these efforts with a tax-deductible donation, contact willamettegrange@gmail.com or see our GoFundMe at this QR code.

- Jay Sexton



Current Fundraising Status for New Roof for Willamette Community and Grange Hall

This is to replace the entire roof damaged due to heavy snow stress and fire.

Amount needed	\$70-90,000
Amount raised as of Feb 28, 2021	\$23,000

- WCGHHBF

Willamette Community and Grange Hall Historic Building Foundation

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

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



"How well do you know Philomath?" challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

- Suzan Foley

[The answer is on another page.]

We continue to get to know each other through shared experience.

Windy Hill Farm

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www.windyhill-familyfarm.com

Philomath, Oregon

Sweet Daphne

Let me introduce you to my friend Daphne odorata or Winter Daphne. She is a medium sized bush with glossy evergreen leaves that are sometimes variegated. The most amazing thing though is that the small cluster of flowers has a powerful, sweet, intoxicating fragrance.

Winter Daphne typically blooms in late February when the weather is wet, gray and cold. Which, for me the early blooms and fragrance are a boon to the winter doldrums.

The flower clusters of Daphne are somewhat fleshy and pink on the outside and white on the inside with four lobes.

Winter Daphne can be propagated by cuttings in the summer, so if your friend has a bush, I am sure she or he would not mind sharing, as plant loving people are cool that way.

Take a cutting with a node, strip off leaves but leave the top.

Put the cutting in water or other media such as perlite and keep wet.

Daphne facts:

Not long-lived plants 8-10 years

They prefer well drained, slightly acid soil and part shade/sun, morning sun and afternoon shade so as not to burn the leaves.

And not too much water.

All parts of the plant are poisonous.

Daphne has additional cousins or cultivars like *Summer Ice* that sound interesting, but Daphne odorata has the most powerful fragrance.

- Denise Guinn



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](https://www.facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney)

> contact: oldbluerawhoney@gmail.com

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

Happy Spring to All Recipe for Springtime Egg Salad Sandwich Mix from Susan Stogsdill

3 boiled eggs
1/2 cup mayo
1 Tbsp mustard
1 1/2 tsp dill weed
1 tsp celery seed
1/2 tsp pepper

Slice eggs both directions in an egg slicer

Place in a bowl

Add wet ingredients and spices

Mix thoroughly.

Spread on your choice of bread or crackers!

Makes 2 sandwiches

Mmm mmm good. To spice it up a bit, add a few pieces of roasted red peppers.

CORVALLIS
INDOOR
WINTER
MARKET

SATURDAYS
JAN 9 – APR 10
9 AM – 1 PM

BENTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

MONDAY, MARCH THE TWENTY-NINTH, BREAKFAST
Egg sur le Plat – Beat two eggs separately, spread upon stoneware platter, then drop five eggs upon this, season with half a teaspoonful of salt and a third as much of pepper. Sprinkle half a teacupful of cracker crumbs over all and place in a hot oven until eggs are set.

- *The Daily News Cookbook*, c1896

Chainsaw 911

On the day after the ice storm we got a call from a Marys River Granger looking for help. They had a fallen two foot diameter Douglas-fir blocking their long driveway, on a steep slope. We hopped in the van with all our tools and drove to help. There were two ways we could get to their location, and the first one we tried had "Road Closed" signs out and we persevered to see if we could get to their driveway. No such luck. Around a curve we saw several trees down in the road, entangled in electrical lines – so we backtracked and attempted the other route to their driveway.

Fifteen minutes later we again came to a "Road Closed" sign and this time we could get to their driveway. We looked over the situation and judged that the work was within our competency. Toni went to the paved road 100 feet below, to stop any passing cars, as I cut the upper part of the tree, on the downhill edge of the driveway, to lay it down and remove the tension of 2/3 of its length and weight suspended over the steep slope to the road. Once that was settled, we cut the log off the driveway in 5 2-foot chunks. Each chunk challenged our ability to control and maneuver it to the edge of the driveway where we tipped it onto its cut face, so it was no longer eager to roll down the slope into the road below.

It was very satisfying to be able to have what was needed in tools, experience, people, and time to help friends in need.

- Jay & Toni



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Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:

This sculpture was created by Philomath Horseshoe Artist Bud Thomas. It was donated to the City of Philomath in 2016 by the Philomath Lions Club. It is located in the City Park next to the gazebo.

Draft Animals

In 1915 there were 76 million people and 26 million horses in America. Today there are 330 million people and 7 million horses. Before cars and trucks were widely used, horses were the power source for most transportation for people and cargo. Many of the larger older homes in Corvallis and Philomath had “carriage houses” in the back yard, for keeping the carriage, tack, supplies, and the horses that pulled the carriage. On farms, work was done with draft animals, which included horses, mules, oxen, and occasionally donkeys. There are about 400,000 draft horses in the United States today. Their use has had a slight resurgence, with biodynamic farming practices, and progressive improvements in equipment. The *Draft Horse Journal* states that the Amish provided a stronghold for draft horse technology and use and “On the small farms of the Amish, it plays its traditional role as the tractor that burns home grown fuel and raises its own replacements.”

Oxen are the draft animals with the longest history. They are cattle which have been trained from an early age to do farm work. When well trained they are calm, docile, powerful, and have great stamina. They are also slow and imprecise, but have simple food requirements and have robust health. Today there are only a few thousand oxen worked in America, but other countries have large numbers of working oxen.

Horses are the most common draft animal used in the United States. In Europe, the padded collar used with draft horses was developed in the 12th century, but draft horses were uncommon in the United States until the 1830's. The use of reins allows for precise control of draft horses, and they are preferred to other draft animals, even though they have more health issues, require complex harnessing, and are more difficult to feed.

Mules are the offspring of a horse mare and a male (jack) donkey, and are generally sterile. Both draft mules and smaller donkeys are considered more “independent” than horses or oxen. People have said that horses and oxen are more like dogs in temperament, while donkeys and mules are more like cats. They are more heat tolerant, calm, healthy and easy to care for, when compared to horses. Both donkeys and mules can be difficult to work with and to train, and require a patient person with a compatible attitude.

Scientific studies in Europe where comparable land was farmed identically for three years, as to crops, treatments, and timing, except for the use of either draft horses or a tractor, showed improvements in the health of the soil, increased profits, and decreased greenhouse gas emissions with draft animals.

I had the pleasure to hold the reins of a pair of draft horses plowing a number of years ago. The teamster was right beside me, speaking to her horses. It was wonderful and a lasting memory. If you get the chance to see a demonstration of the work of draft animals, don't miss the opportunity.

- Jay Sexton

Early in the year you need fresh things, and a bed or row of red radishes is usually just enough. When it is taken out, peppers and tomatoes may follow, just as cucumbers or corn may be planted after spinach and early peas.

- *Organic Gardening*, April 1946, “Vegetable Growing”



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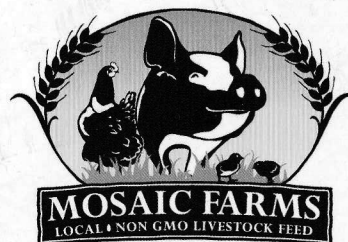
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Build a Better Skatepark

There are a group of us in Philomath who are organizing to get the City Council to build a better skate park for the young people of Philomath. Included in the park could be other sports that require wheels like the scooter and BMX bikes.

Right now we're in the stage of drumming up support from community members to write letters to the City Council and so on. Perhaps calling ourselves friends of the Philomath Parks? What's most important at this time is gaining community support. We need to hear from Philomath citizens.

If a Grange member feels strongly about improving the skate park for the community, then they could voice their opinion to the current councilmembers and the mayor.

Also we are considering ways of fundraising to have a small source of funding to show the Council we are serious.

We of course will take any help from Grange members who have experience in grant writing, fundraising or organizing for events.

- Izzie Elliott, Park Advisory Board member

Mary's River Grange #685

Secretary's Record

Jan. 4 1929 to including Sept. 18 1931

The report of Secretary for quarter ending March 31, 1929 showed:

Membership at beginning of quarter — 74. — No gain — loss. 1

[Fred Robbins by demit Mar. 1]

Members at date 73

Membership dues 22.20

Excerpts of Minutes from March 15, 1930

The special committee on the Library consisting of sisters Huffman, Phinney and Bro. Cone reported the following recommendation, That Mary's River Grange continue to sponsor the State Travelling Library for the use of Philomath and vicinity. That two installments of books be taken at a time. That it be placed in the care of sister Culvitis who has expressed her willingness to care for it. That we secure and refinish a cupboard that is available, drawing a warrant on the Treasurer for the varnish necessary. — Adopted and Committed, instructed to proceed.

Bro. and sister Bolger of Summit were present. Meeting closed in regular form. After a splendid birthday dinner eaten from beautifully decorated tables, a delightful musical program was rendered with Prof. Thomas, violin, Mrs. Thomas, piano, and Mr. Chambers, accordion. Only one visitor responded and brought greetings on our anniversary.

Eva M. Phinney sec.

Receipts Dues. \$6.50, Penny Drill .18, 21 present



College Street snowball tree, May 5, 2020

Small brown finches flock
high in pink apple blossoms
for first rays of sun.

- Judy Hays-Eberts

Blowing Bubbles — Provide several bowls and pipes for bubble blowing. The following recipe makes a good bubble solution: Fill a quart jar two-thirds full of boiling water, add three ounces of castile soap finely shaven, a teaspoonful of sugar, and four tablespoons glycerine. When this is shaken thoroughly, it should be strained through a cloth.

Give a prize to the one who blows the largest bubble; the one who can blow the largest number from one dip in the solution; the one who can make his bubble go highest. Use a cord for a goal at one end of the room and have a race, giving those in the race a fan. See who can fan a bubble across the goal line with the fan.

- *The Cokesbury Party Book*, c1932, "St. Patrick's Party"

MRG Messenger Editor: Judy Hays-Eberts

Assisted by Sonny Hays-Eberts

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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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Philomath, OR 97370
marysrivergrange@gmail.com
541-829-2907



Why Join Our Grange?

- Join to support a local organization in action for local sustainable healthy food.
- Join to help support a historic building and community resource.
- Join to meet and socialize with like-minded individuals, face to face.
- Join an organization that encourages you to follow your dreams.
- Join to be a part of family fraternal organization not affiliated to any church or political party.
- Join to help the Grange, again, lead us into a better agricultural future by supporting rural communities.

Dues - \$50 per person or \$100 per family

Send to

Marys River Grange #685

PO Box 1301

Philomath, OR 97370

To rent Marys River Grange Hall
See Rental at marysrivergrange.org



A Grange is a family friendly community organization that responds to local needs. We have a 150+ year tradition of promoting local food and nonpartisan, nonsectarian face to face connections.

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”