

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 2

November/December 2021

Joy of Learning

Doing a lot of work on Marys River Grange Hall was not in my plans when I assumed the position of President. I wanted to see more involved Grangers by encouraging other members to plan and organize events like Yoga by Laura (and now Erin!) or Susan's Harvest Fest. However the pandemic and subsequent surges have made such plans go haywire. The discovery of a plumbing leak, and returning to the Hall after an eighteen-month absence, made it clear that the Hall needs attention as much as our membership.

When I am working alone at the Hall, it often seems I can feel the presence of past generations of Grangers who built and maintained the Hall before us. While much of the Grange ritual has become archaic with the passage of time, one unwritten ritual that endures today is Grangers working on their Hall. I've come across photos in our own Grange showing such work in every decade from the 1950s onward. It creates connections to our past, and when working in groups, to each other. It creates a true sense of ownership in our Hall and it becomes more than just a rental opportunity or place to meet, it becomes a community center. Our Hall, as much as our community service, is the face of our Grange, and for many who attend for rentals and events, their first introduction to the Grange.

It is wonderful that we now have bathrooms with no leak, hot water, and accessible doors. The repainted entry way is a massive improvement, and the Hall already looks so nice with a thorough cleaning in preparation for painting. Susan has offered to paint a mural of Marys River, and Nancy has volunteered to do some mosaic work. With the discovery of old photos, we hope to illustrate and pay homage to our past, yet to also celebrate who we are today and what we hope to accomplish in the future. Tanya and I have been working on unearthing as much history of Marys River as we can. Part of the Hall restoration will involve modernizing our display cases, and having a display for Junior Grangers. I have been impressed by the Grangers who have stepped up to assist with the renovation. In addition to those I named above, Jim and Kurt put in many hours with the bathrooms, while Suzy has been leading the painting project. Effort from David, Mike, Kiko, Jay, Toni, and Judy has not gone unnoticed and deserves recognition.

The greatest joy for me of all this work has been learning so much. From construction technique tricks and ideas to recipes to learning more about our members' interests, ideas, and pasts, the connections we form through shared work not only advance our Hall and our Grange through events, they also help develop and advance ourselves through shared experience, stronger bonds, and the opportunity to both teach and learn.

We will continue to refurbish our Hall in preparation for the 95th birthday of Marys River Grange in March of 2022. However, as signs of the surge subsiding manifest, and with members getting booster shots and the opportunity for younger children to become vaccinated, we will also return to holding events and social opportunities in the near future. We will have a holiday potluck (and perhaps a wreath making party if people are willing to contribute supplies) on December 4th. We will also help with Holiday Cheer again. If anyone wishes to contribute financially, shop for children, or assist with distributing baskets at Philomath Community Services, contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com and let me know.

I hope that, in addition to having an Open House and Birthday Party in March, we will also get back to our annual Highway 34 cleanup and host another Plant Sale and Seed Swap. May 2022 be our best year yet!

- Sonny Hays-Eberts, Marys River Grange President



Check out the results!

What is Holiday Cheer?

Holiday Cheer is a program of Philomath Community Services. Each December, Holiday Cheer provides, for qualified families, a holiday meal, a hygiene basket, and gifts for children 0-18 years old. In 2020, Holiday Cheer supported 60 families from Philomath and western Benton County, including 163 children.

How can you help?

Holiday Cheer is currently seeking sponsors to provide gifts for children in December 2021. We will match you with a family that meets your budget and provide a list of potential gifts for each child. Sponsors should expect to spend approximately \$100 per child. Specific information will be provided the week before Thanksgiving, and gifts are due to Philomath Community Services by the second week of December.

If you are interested in sponsoring one or more children this season, please contact Laura Coen, Program Manager for Holiday Cheer:

holidaycheer@philomathcommunityservices.org

Thank you for helping to share the holiday spirit with families in need!

Applications

If someone you know is unable to provide the holiday experience for their family, we may be able to help. Qualified families receive gifts for children, a food voucher for a holiday dinner, a hygiene basket, decorations and wrapping paper as needed. In order to qualify the family must:

- Meet the income eligibility requirements of 300% of poverty level as defined by USDA
- Reside in Philomath or the area to the west of Philomath within Benton County
- Have children between 0 and 18 years old living at home.

Distribution of Gifts: December 19, 2020

Applications are available online at

www.philomathcommunityservices.org

and at the Philomath Food Bank 360 S 9th Street, Philomath, OR 97370

Food Bank Hours: Tuesdays 4:30 - 7:30 PM Thursdays 9:00AM - Noon

or contact holidaycheer@philomathcommunityservices.org



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Philomath, Oregon

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

Marys River Grange #685 regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath and online via Zoom.

Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or
541-829-2907. See also: marysrivergrange.org
facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/
To rent the Grange Hall, see Rental at marysrivergrange.org

A Joyful Heart

By Suzy Gilruth

Sharing with you the many wonderful members of
Marys River Grange

Granges are rich with history of community! Two of our Marys River Grange members, Charlotte and Jim Gray, have such a long history of involvement with local area Granges that it will take at least two articles in order to honor their stories.

Charlotte was raised in Cedar Flats and had family in the Walton and Noti areas. Her maternal grandmother was full Native American and Charlotte is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Charlotte has enjoyed a life of crafting. She constructed miniature tepees, which she sold at craft fairs and the Lincoln County Chinook Reservation. Early on during the current pandemic, Charlotte worked with member Toni Hoyman creating many face safety masks that were sent to the Navajo Nation. Jim, her husband believes that these masks are far superior to the ones that are store bought.

Charlotte became involved with the Grange when she met Jim, whose extended family was also active in Grange life. They were married in February of 1975. Charlotte served several terms as Secretary of our Grange and eleven two-year terms in that position for the Benton Pomona Grange. Jim and Charlotte expanded their Grange experience when Charlotte became a member of the Hope Grange in Alsea while Jim joined the Benton Pomona Grange. Their strategy was for each other to enjoy affiliate guest membership. Charlotte served with Jim on the Oregon State Grange Youth Committee. She also helped with the State Grange Women's (now 'Worker', as it was apparent that men also enjoy home skills) Association with quilting and cooking. She is the oldest living member of the Willamette Grange!

Now that Charlotte resides in a care facility, Jim visits her daily. He says she deserves the attention. They enjoy their time together and watch Jeopardy in the evening. Charlotte may get to move up to the Grand Ronde Reservation and Jim looks forward to him and their dog Roxie visiting.



"How well do you know Philomath?" challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

[The answer is on another page.]

Biography...sort of. 2021

She's ninety-four and writes about apples.

Purple petunias and artichokes.

She dances The Electric Slide

While stirring Jello pudding for a pie.

She dabbles with fairies who hide in her garden

And often have parties and she's not invited.

The ebony horse was lost and then found.

Surprises inspire her as she walks around town.

Keyhole limpets, driftwood and agates.

Ocean memories on collages surround her.

Swimming in Coon Lake, roller skates, dolls,

Little girl memories hold fast in her journals.

A Minnesotan and introvert at heart,

Her dear parents made her a Swede.

In 1964 she became an Oregonian,

With husband Jack, three sons and some faith.

Autumn brings a nip in the air, days are shorter,

the maple tree turns scarlet, the dance is slower,

She sips her old fashioned and the little girl within

smiles for all the abundance, most of all Love.

- Marion Whitney

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://instagram.com/oldbluerawhoney)

Cleda Jones, 1922-2021, passed away in September, though she attended that month's meeting at Willamette Grange. She was a member of the Grange for over 80 years. She married Calvert Jones in 1941 and they raised nine sons and cattle in Harlan until moving in 1959 to their current farm south of Corvallis.

Willamette Grange #52 meets on the second Wednesday of the month, 7 PM.

Contact Jay Sexton/Toni Hoyman at 541-929-5452 or
willamettegrange@gmail.com. Historic building at the corner
of Hwy 99W and Greenberry - 27555 Greenberry Road
facebook.com/willamettegrange52

Unlimited nature mandalas!

Inspired by artists Andy Goldsworthy and James Brunt, nature mandalas are made with sticks, leaves, rocks, flowers, dirt, ice, snow, or anything found outside, arranged in a pattern until it looks complete. There are no rules; this form of art is temporary.

See color photos of mandalas on the Marys River Grange Facebook page, and a color version of this newsletter posted on the Marys River Grange webpage.

Anyone can create a nature mandala and share a photo of it with us! Email to marysrivergrange@gmail.com.



- Barbara Carter



- Forrest Lasswell



- Jade Lasswell



- Judy Hays-Eberts



- Kayla Miller-O'Higgins



- Morgan Miller-O'Higgins

Expecting Rain

Gravid clouds midday:
Evening's insect chorus swells.
The wind blows pregnant.

- Barbara Carter



- Maisie and her mandala made with Kim Woo



- Sonny Hays-Eberts

From *The Daily News Cookbook*, c1896:
Pumpkin Pie—Pie should be at least an inch thick. Two cups stewed pumpkin, one teaspoonful ginger, half teaspoonful salt, two-thirds cup of sugar, half teaspoonful cinnamon, two eggs, one scant pint milk. Mix sugar, spice and salt together, stir into the pumpkin; add eggs and milk... Line a tin plate with good pastry, fill with mixture and bake forty-five minutes.



Autumn. 2021

*Air is nippy, days are shorter,
the dance is slower,
I walk under the dogwood tree,
dry Merlot-colored leaves curl
In the low afternoon sun,
In Spring pink blossoms
tangled in my hair.
It is Autumn now, another season
for both of us.*

- Marion Whitney



- Marissa Long



Family Adventures: Learning About Leeches

While I'm a botanist first and foremost, I am delighting in the wonderful diversity here. One of my **very** weak spots of knowledge, however, is in the realm of leeches. After encountering land leeches dropping from trees in southern Thailand (and then a colleague was rather abruptly divorced by a leech systematist), I really didn't have much interest in seeking them out again. (*shudder*)

But, my family is always happy to bring me unusual bits of diversity. Yesterday, they brought me this video they'd made of a leech at Sunset Park and Natural Area, between Corvallis and Philomath:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/75495499@N03/51573963555>
While I did my best with the leech keys available online, I admit that my ID is really mostly a guess ("transparent" and "green" was far more useful than using a key, at least for me).

If the lovely little jade-colored bloodsucker is indeed in the genus *Theromyzon*, it may be a duck leech, or at least a waterfowl leech. While it is thankfully uninterested in humans, it does have the rather uncomfortable-sounding habit of frequenting the nares (nostrils) of said birds, which makes it only slightly more agreeable. But, I found the Wikipedia article on one European species, *T. tessulatum*, rather intriguing, and it encouraged me at least to consider a little more empathy and respect for these hematophagous parasites, and perhaps investigate further:

"When parasitizing ducks and other waterfowl, *T. tessulatum* invades their mouths and respiratory passages. At other times, it is free-living in freshwater habitats. The adult broods its egg capsules on its under surface, where there may be as many as two hundred eggs. When the young are ready to emerge, the adult uses its sensilla organs to detect vibrations in the water and will move towards any disturbance that might be caused by a potential host. Suitable hosts are those with body temperatures of between 37 and 40 °C (99 and 104 °F). Although generally nocturnal and negatively phototactic (avoiding light), when the brooding adult is ready to release its young, it may swim in open water in the middle of the day. If it finds a suitable host, it attaches itself with its sucker to the nasal passages, the respiratory tract or inside the mouth. This leech is unique in that the adult attaches to the host but does not itself feed on it; instead, the young that it was brooding transfer to the host to take their first blood meal."

If you happen to own "Ecology and Classification of North American Freshwater Invertebrates", then you will have access to much more information than the Google Book result will give you about *Theromyzon* and other leech genera. I may have to borrow this book from the library, if for no other reason than to offer a cozy dinnertime or fireside reading of the leech section for my loving family.

- Tanya Lasswell

First Rain

Sleeping dogs spring up.
Wet soil-scent wafts, droplets hush.
First shower of Fall.

- Barbara Carter



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Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:
**Pioneer Park! This new pocket park is located at 1202
Pioneer St. in Philomath.**

- Suzan Foley

Mulching:--Strawberry beds, perennial beds, and all other plants... should be mulched just as soon as the ground is frozen. This will prevent the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground which is so harmful to plants.

— Organic Gardening, December 1948



Grangers make it happen: painting the Hall.

MRG's Wish List of Tools and Materials

The past few months we have been focused on sprucing up the Hall. Eighteen months of disuse, mold smell in the Junior Grange Hall, and a bathroom leak have all underlined the need for preventative maintenance. Thanks to prudent fiscal spending, and more importantly, a lot of volunteer labor, we have been able to update the bathrooms and improve the appearance of the Hall. Yet more work remains.

In addition to the need for volunteers, we are also looking for materials to aid in specific projects and for tools to help with these projects and grounds maintenance. Nate has begun to acquire some tools, and those we have purchased to work on projects will be added. It is hoped that these tools will be available in the future to members as part of a tool library.

Each issue of the newsletter, this column will focus on a small set of tools, or materials currently desired, as it is possible that members may have some of these to donate, or may come across them inexpensively or free, and let us know. If not, the Grange may eventually purchase, as needed.

Without any requests, members have already donated or pledged: a PA system, new mirrors for the bathrooms, a pellet stove for the Junior Grange Hall, a three-basin sink for when the kitchen improvements are made, door trim and molding, a locking cabinet to store PA equipment in, and a small assortment of tools.

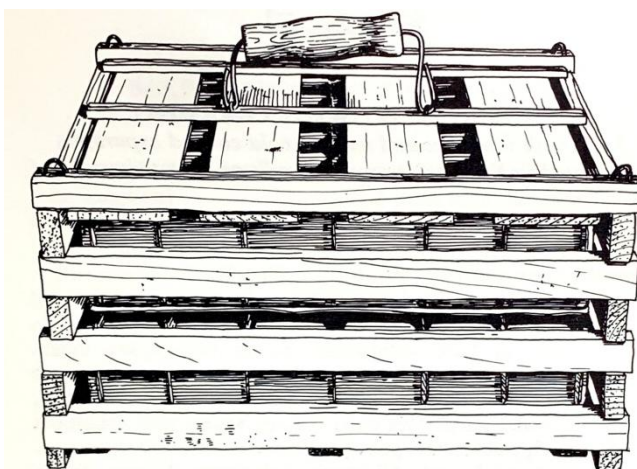
This month we are soliciting tools useful for the grounds: leaf rake, soil rake, digging shovel, trench shovel, pruners, post hole digger, bypass pruners, or whatever could be helpful with the hugelkultur bed, the kiwis, fruit trees, flowers near the maple, or others areas of the grounds. And if anyone has a lead on a decent, reliable, wider swath riding mower, please let us know! Jay and Lige have kept the old one running, but its days are numbered.

For anyone who wishes to see the full wish list of items (it's always a work in progress), please contact me and I will be happy to send a copy of the list in its current form.

— Sonny Hays-Eberts, marysrivergrange@gmail.com



Junior Grangers explored GreenGable's corn maze in Oct.



Save all your egg shells. They can be used for clearing coffee. They are also good for cleaning bottles. Break up fine and put in a bottle, especially vinegar cruets and the like, with plenty of hot suds and shake the bottle well. They clean charmingly. — The Farmer, 1897.

Wood egg crate with cardboard liners, c. 1910

— Suzan Foley

The Arc Thrift Stores

thrift@arcbenton.org



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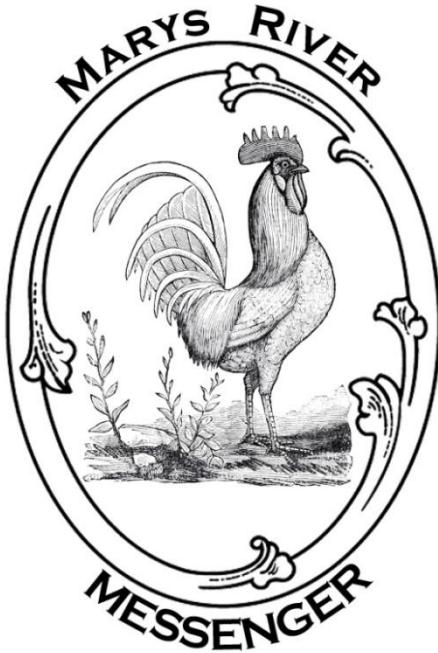
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Buy quality. Stay local. Achieve with us.

Send items for the *Messenger* to Judy Hays-Eberts 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 MRG.

Deadline for Jan/Feb *Messenger*: December 27th

Marys River Grange #685
PO Box 1301
Philomath, OR 97370
marysrivergrange@gmail.com
541-829-2907



Yoga at the Grange

Fall 2021



**Mary's River Grange is now offering
yoga classes**

**Tuesdays AND Thursdays 7pm-8pm,
through November 18th**

Classes are \$5 for Grange members,
\$10 for non-Grange members.

Questions? Please contact Laura Coen, 331-201-5458

Marys Peak, Mary Oak, and Marys River

If Mary Oak heard Marys Peak
Pray, what would Mary say?
"I'm wearing a lovely, new white dress
It came just the other day."
If Mary Oak asked Marys Peak
What would she do or say
If she got caught in a shower up there
And her dress turned a dirty grey.
Then Mary would say with a shake of her head,
"A shower never gets in the way.
I'd change to my faded old green dress
That I'm wearing for every day."
Then Marys Peak asked Mary Oak
What dresses she has for today.
And Mary said, with a look of dread,
"My dress is a dirty grey."
Then Mary would say to Marys Peak
"Our spring styles are on the way,
Then we will all dress in shades of green
To usher in the day."
Then Marys Peak asked Marys River
What dresses she'd wear for the day,
"My dress is a murky dirty, grey
I'm ashamed of it every day."
"but late this spring or early summer,
I will change to a silvery clear,
And as the days continue to warm
it will be worn extremely sheer."

- J.L. Robinson. From 1956 Poets corner of
Marys River Grange yearbook, hand typed.