

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 3

January/February 2022

Retrospect and Renewal 2021 MRG President's Address

2021 was an improvement over 2020. While we still had to endure the Delta surge, we were able to hold our Plant Sale and Amazing Grange Day events, have a concert in June, expand our Yoga offerings, and meet in person with a Zoom option. We even had one potluck.

Our membership remained stable, although we're not yet sure if we had a net gain or loss with dues collections still underway. In order to avoid this next year, pay your 2022 dues now! While membership has diminished as a primary focus of MRG, I am still happy that we have found members such as Barbara, Tanya (and family), Michael, and Kiko, who have not only joined but also immediately joined in events and activities and contributed greatly. I'm also very excited to see more long term members such as Kurt and Nancy, Jim and Camille, Susan and Suzy take a more active role. It has been my desire to see our members more involved as a group in all aspects of our Grange. I think it's healthy for our organization, creates bonds with other members and our Hall itself. When we invest our time and effort, we find more value in what we do.

Our Hall, which initially suffered during the pandemic, has been the focus of attention lately, as the Delta surge made holding events such as Harvest Fest problematic. Remodeled bathrooms, fresh paint, and work in progress to complete the connecting room, all contribute to a much more pleasant space.

Rentals and income were much easier in 2021. While few events were held and rentals were reduced, it was still an improvement over 2020, and community support at events was remarkable. With rising costs of utilities, supplies needed to keep the Hall in shape, and perhaps raising our cleaning fee to keep pace with wage growth, we should discuss our rental rates this coming year. It is important we keep our rates affordable for

the community, yet also ensure we can maintain the Hall in order to do so.

Marys River Grange donated \$1,300 to Philomath Community Services as a result of the spring plant sale. We also sponsored seven children for Holiday Cheer and donated \$200 to the Holiday Cheer food budget. The low cost medical clinic resumed in the summer. And we won the State Grange Community Service 2020 Yearbook competition at the 2021 convention (\$100). Amazing Grange Day was not as well attended as 2019 and earlier, however MRG still made almost \$2,000.

Hall improvements are planned to continue, especially since MRG received a \$5,000 Oregon State Grange matching grant to do so. Members have decided to install a large water capture tank, and use it for conservation and educational purposes, and to remediate mold issues in the Junior Hall.

We'll have to see how the Omicron variant unfolds, yet hopefully we can return to more focus on members and events and less so on Hall maintenance. We held a Dec. 4th wreath making/holiday decorating potluck, and in March I hope to have an Open House celebrating Marys River Grange's 95th birthday, as well as resume our highway cleanup in spring - if we can do so safely.

While this pandemic has lasted longer than anyone desired, our Grange is making steps toward the day when we may all gather safely. The enforced isolation and distancing has been challenging for all, emotionally, physically, socially and mentally, eroding much of the stability we once took for granted. It is my hope the ties we have built in our Grange have been of value during these times, and I hope that as we find our way out of this pandemic, we will once again fill the Hall with good food, good friends, and the laughter of children.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts, MRG President

It's easy to lose track of time and activities during a pandemic. **So, what did Marys River Grange #685 accomplish in 2021?** The pandemic still hampered us, yet we managed to accomplish more than we did in 2020:

We resumed in-person meetings and even had one potluck, before the Delta surge began.

We held our Annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap in April, and donated \$1,300 to Philomath Community Services. We held Amazing Grange Day in August and made just over \$2,000, which was used for Hall improvements and repair.

We held a wreath making event and potluck in the Hall in December.

In-person Yoga at the Grange resumed.

We sponsored seven children and donated \$200 for food to Philomath Community Services Holiday Cheer program.

In June, Gabrielle Louise returned and we held a concert, with Wyatt Coen running the soundboard.

The Hall was used for the 2021 Philomath HS homecoming dance, as well as some PHS award ceremonies.

A detailed study of Marys River Grange was undertaken.

Speaking of Hall improvements... With the Delta and Omicron surges putting a damper on large gatherings, we spent much time in smaller groups shaking the pandemic rust off our beloved Hall.

In May we gathered to tend to the grounds, clean and scrub and organize.

Members gathered at GreenGable Farm to harvest free firewood donated by Demetri and Viesa.

In June, a leak was found in the concrete floor of the bathroom. In addition to fixing the leak and re-plumbing the bathrooms, we finally made the bathroom entrances more accessible to all. We also discovered a non-functional water heater and replaced it, so the bathrooms now have hot water.

Repairs were made on the main entrance and doorway, and the entryway was repainted.

The main Hall was repainted 'Lively White', locks and stays were added to cupboards, and plans made to place a Marys River mural above the meeting alcove.

A birch floor was installed in the connecting room.

We received the following material donations to aid in projects: new bathroom cabinets, molding used in the bathroom, Hall and connecting room projects, and a new oven donated by the Jones family to honor Cleda Jones, an 80-year Willamette Grange member who was also involved with Marys River in the past.

Members attended the Oregon State Grange Convention in Enterprise, and continue to serve OSG as Vice President and member of the Agriculture Committee (Jay) and Treasurer and member of the Communications Team (Sonny).

Marys River won first place for the Community Service Yearbook competition, as well as Lecturer's poster competition at the State Convention.

Jay Sexton also attended the Western Regional (Boise) and National Grange (Wichita) Conventions.

Marys River was recognized by the National Grange as an Honor Grange for 2020 (3rd consecutive year) and by the Oregon State Grange as a Silver Level Distinguished Grange for the same period.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts

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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

Soil Amendment Sale

tenriversmarketplace.com

Pre-order online Jan. 1-31

Pickup Mar. 5 @ BC Fairgrounds



Are you a gardener or small farmer? Do you know one? Pre-order organic soil amendments from January 1 through 31 at tenriversmarketplace.com. We combine all the orders together to access volume discounts. You pick-up your order on March 5 at the Benton County Fairgrounds, in a drive through format, and we load up your vehicle. It's as easy as that.

Last year we distributed 100,000 lbs of soil amendments, soil mixes, cover crop seeds, organic pest controls, and more to over 200 local farmers and gardeners. Check out the sale guide for our list of products.

If you have suggestions, ideas or would like to volunteer, please email us at: soilamendmentsale@gmail.com.

- Ten Rivers Food Web

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

2022 MRG Officers

Let us take a brief moment to appreciate those who are willing to serve in the role of Grange Officer, giving their time and energy to keeping Marys River Grange moving forward.

President: Sonny Hays-Eberts

Vice-President: Susan Stogsdill

Lecturer: Mike Terry

Chaplain: Caroline Choquette

Steward: Jay Sexton

Assistant Steward: Nate Johnson

Lady Assistant Steward: Elizabeth Bolte

Gatekeeper: Suzy Gilruth

Secretary: Barbara Carter

Treasurer: Denise Guinn

Flora: Suzan Foley

Ceres: Amanda Terry

Pomona: Judy Hays-Eberts

EC1: Suzy Gilruth

EC2: Matt Coen

EC3: Kurt Wiedenmann

In the previous issue of this newsletter, Suzy Gilruth featured Charlotte Gray in her column A Joyful Heart. Charlotte passed away on Sunday January 2, 2022.

Charlotte Gray, a long time Granger and member of both Marys River Grange and Willamette Grange passed away from cancer on January 2nd. She had been in hospice care for several months. Jim, her husband of 47 years, was at her side and told us her passing was peaceful.

Charlotte grew up in the Springfield area. She was a member of the Grande Ronde Confederated Tribes. Early in the Covid outbreak I worked with Charlotte collecting materials and sewing masks to distribute locally and to send to Siletz and Grande Ronde Tribes here in Oregon, and to the Navajo in New Mexico. We also sent masks to a New York City children's hospital. Her failing health made it hard for her to sew but she continued to gather material and thread for me to supply our ongoing project.

This last year her health took a decided turn for the worse. I visited her during her hospice care to bring flowers to cheer her up, and to report the news of the progress made at Willamette Grange. She always enjoyed the flowers and marveled at the pictures of the new roof. I am happy she lived long enough to see it completed.

Her desire to stay involved, contributing to community, and her appetite for sweets will be missed. - Toni Hoyman

Willamette Grange #52 meets on the second Sunday of the month, 3 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

This year, write a letter to someone you love.



“How well do you know Philomath?” challenge.
What is this spot and where is it located?
 [The answer is on another page.]



Willamette Grange #52: What A Year!

This year, with community help, Willamette Grange succeeded in stabilizing the walls and replaced the trusses and roof of its hall. We raised over \$120,000 in grants and donations. This was a huge undertaking and we want to thank everyone that contributed materially, and in spirit.

We were able to hold seven community events, mostly outside, using our new small stage built by volunteers with wood donated by our wonderful Grange neighbors at Marys River Grange. Our goal was to engage our community around gardening, native plants and insects, food and health connections, interaction with local farmers, and fun. We increased visitors to our Grange Hall and nearly doubled our membership. Including activities for young families brought us our first family membership to Willamette Grange #52! It is clear people are looking for community and places to come together.

We wish you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. Please join us in 2022 at Willamette Grange for tours or planned events!

Fraternally,
 Toni Hoyman Secretary, and Jay Sexton President, WG#52



Photo by Kim Woo

I love seeing the snow pile up on the trees, it makes the city look so magical!

Random Thoughts, December 22, 2016 **First Christmas in new House**

*Here I sit by the Christmas tree,
 collecting wobbly thoughts.
 I notice the unlit branch
 where the lights have slipped.
 I do not try to fix the lights,
 Not unusual this time of year, to slip, that is.
 Clumps of dirty snow can make one slip,
 A thought slips by unanswered.
 A deed slips by undone.
 A birthday slips by, the world did not notice.
 A phone call from Minnesota reminds me of sledding.
 I smile as I think of the inch of snow
 that has me house-bound.*

*It is a new house. New walls surround me.
 A new roof shelters me from the winter snow.
 Sweet memories slipped through my hands
 this year as I boxed them up,
 put them away and moved on.
 The unlit branch on the Christmas tree
 does not bother me.
 The tree does not need to be perfect.
 I may move an ornament to cover the hole,
 but I know what is important in this life.
 One can survive the darkness,
 But one does not do it alone.*

- Marion Whitney

Kindness does not go rotten.

- Swahili proverb

Wreath Making at Marys River Grange 2021



Indoors and outdoors, masked and merry, Grangers gathered to celebrate the season together by creatively crafting with shared supplies and community spirit.

Selection of pies from the 1950 Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book (1st edition). This cookbook was passed down to me by my mother Wilma.
- Suzan Foley



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Susan Stogsdill, Owner

On the score of economy, we say, have soup every day. On the score of health, we say, have soup every day.

- Anonymous, Table Observances, 1854

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



MRG's Wish List of Tools and Materials

In December, Marys River Grange was gifted with the donation of 35 sturdy metal upholstered chairs from the New Life Fellowship church in Philomath. Much appreciated, from one community organization to another!

Also, the new oven generously donated in honor of Cleda Jones by her family came at a time when one of the Hall's ovens needed replacement.

Still looking for 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

Snow Fritters—Mix a half-pint of milk with a liberal pint of flour; when a thick batter is obtained add a half-teaspoon of salt and finally a cup of light snow (snow must be light and dry); fry the fritters in a kettle of hot fat as soon as possible, keeping the batter where it is cold between each frying. This dish can be varied by adding a finely chopped apple and an egg, making snow pancakes.

Many dainty dishes and cakes may be made deliciously light by adding a cupful or bowlful of new-fallen snow in its season.

- January the Thirty-First, The Daily News Cookbook, c 1896



Philomath Christmas tree lighting night 2021

Worthy Sisters, the interests, the social relations and the destiny of man and woman are identical. She was intended by our Creator to be the helpmeet, companion, and equal of man—the perfecting half added to his hemisphere—thus completing the fully-globed orb of our common humanity; hence, as one, each shares the glory or the shame of the other.

- Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry

Marys River Grange #685 Secretary's Record

January 18, 1930. Because of inclement weather no grange was held.

Feb. 7, 1930. Marys River Grange 685 met in regular session and was opened in due form by acting Master Mark Phinney. Roll call of officers showed three officers and two committee absent.

...Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. In accordance with the ritual the charter was draped in memory of Bro. E. A. Parker who passed away January 31, 1930.

...Mrs. Mann chairman of H.E.C. appointed Sister Robbins to make the coffee for the next meeting.

The following bills were read

C. M. Minton plumbing repairs \$1.15

(To be deducted from rent payment)

Broom J. S. McMurtry .95

In absence of finance committee...Bills ordered paid.

Communication of thanks from Mrs. Parker was read.

...Matters of Anniversary celebration brought up and deferred until the Master was present. Bro. and Sister Baker reported not seriously ill.

...Lecturer's hour consisted of music by the grange and Bros. Blake and Porter and Sister Blake. An interesting discussion of the "Test of the Modern Farm Life" by Louis K. Geil.

Bro. & Sister Pape, Bro. & Sister Tallman, Bro. & Sister Blake and Bro. Briggs each spoke briefly.

Receipts.

Reinstatement 2.00

Application 1.00

Dues 12.40

Total 15.40

...Penny drill netted .38

Grange closed in due and regular form.

34 present.

Eva M. Phinney

Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:
Bike rack in front of the Philomath Community Library.
Donated in 2015 by the Philomath Arts Council. (Mosaic by Karen Lee Thompson and Alexis Spakoski, steel fabrication by Brett Pyle.)
- Suzan Foley

Now is the time to prepare for spring and MRG's
Annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap in late April.

Green Versatility

Green: most impartial of colors
lends itself to friend and foe alike.
Green is in the olive branch of peace
green is in the laurel wreath of war
It shows growth in a plant
The pennyworth of an emerald
The refuse of vomit

Green: a color of life, it tops the
youngest beansprout and the
most ancient of redwoods
the tang of lime
the saltiness of the olive
the bite of tea
the delicate taste of lettuce
all know green's touch.
Green grows in the hustle and
bustle of a city
Green grows on the hard-worked
soil of a farm
Green grows on the peace of the grave
Green spreads with little regard
of what red thinks of it
Green is a conqueror consuming
the world.

- Eric Leman



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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 March/April *Messenger*: February 21st

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



Yoga at the Grange Winter 2022



**Mary's River Grange is offering yoga classes
Tuesdays AND Thursdays 7pm-8pm,
January 4, 2022 - March 17, 2022***

**no class on Thursday, March 3*

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

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

Renew for 2022

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

Send to

Marys River Grange #685

PO Box 1301

Philomath, OR 97370

Still true...

I am especially thankful for all the people I've gotten to know through the Grange – newborn to 90+ years old – who are each unique and wonderful and part of the whole. It's great to see kids enjoy being at the Hall, as well as older folks getting together there. I am thankful for all the people who help, whether or not the effort is their idea. I am grateful for those who make/bring delicious foods for our potlucks. I am grateful for moms and dads and farmers, for all the people who share their time, experience, skills, and willingness. I am grateful for all the people who love their community and put their values into practice. I am thankful for all the people who came before and new ones who will carry the Grange into the future they envision for it. I am grateful for all the people who use their talents and abilities to care for each other, to deepen our roots, and produce such good fruit. May we all realize our blessings and be uplifted by the creativity and inspiration demonstrated through the presence of the Grange and continued for the enjoyment and benefit of all concerned.

- Judy Hays-Eberts, vol. 2, issue 2, Nov/Dec 2019