

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 4, Issue 5

May/June 2022

Refilled and Refreshed

I read recently the seventh COVID surge is underway... Yet, the sense of optimism I described last column persists. Who knows where we'll be in a month? One of the things I've learned is to be flexible, and part of that is enjoying what you have in the moment.

There is much to enjoy - the ninety-fifth birthday party for Marys River was great – a big turnout with both visitors and members, because who can resist baby goats? Thank you, Windy Hill Farm, for the star attraction.

We held our first potluck this year in April. Judy and I were running late to the meeting, so it was fantastic to see the parking lot filled up as we arrived. I think everyone is ready to meet, to talk, to feast on wonderful food and to experience some semblance of normality.

Marys River members are hoping to take advantage of this ability to gather again, and of course, we encourage it to be done as safely as possible.

By the time you read this, Marys River Grange will have held our fourth annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap to benefit Philomath Community Services, and it was a popular event, raising \$1,300 for our community. In May we will resume our Highway 34 cleanup, tentatively scheduled for Saturday the 7th – I'll send an email reminder, and if the date changes at our May meeting, that will be included in the email. Also, you can always contact us at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-829-2907. The current Yoga session wraps up in early May and will resume on the 24th. The latest offering at the Hall is a dinner theater production titled *Always... Patsy Cline*. Shows will be held on the 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st and 22nd of May, with a pre-show dinner an option for some shows. See <https://akajeannette.com/apc/> for tickets.

We continue to improve the Hall. Gutters have been added, and a 2,500 gallon water capture tank has been installed by Nate Johnson. This helps address the problem of water running off the main Hall roof and flowing under the Junior Grange Hall. Demetri Balint and Jay Sexton expanded our parking lot, and Matt Coen replaced the sign out front – it is gorgeous! Susan S. is working on large mural of Marys River to hang in the Hall, and the theater group repainted the stage walls. As several Grange members have commented "You have to love the work ethic of Grange members!"

We've discovered some foundation issues. We hope to start working on the Junior Grange Hall, replacing the wooden supports that keep it off the ground, which are badly decayed on the west side, and to place a moisture barrier. The Main Hall project is estimated at \$33,000 to replace an old log that has fallen into contact with the soil. We hope with these repairs, to ensure our Halls are capable of surviving well into their second centuries. While the unexpected foundation issues have altered our plans for renovating the interior, I am sure we'll find a way to adapt and overcome.

Here's hoping for continued progress in our work for our community and with our Hall, and to see you soon at a meeting or one of our events.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts, Marys River Grange President



Laura and Matt Coen installed MRG's new sign on April 24th.

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. Potluck at 6:30.
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



Granger Maisie helped her parents choose plants at MRG's annual Plant Sale & Seed Swap on April 30th.

CHORES = LOVE

Did you know chores can improve a kid's life?

Growing up in my family, we all did chores. It was the gateway to independence. Mom taught us to clean our rooms, clean the bathroom, do dishes, garden, cook, sew and do our own laundry.

We were able to make doll clothes, clothes for ourselves, Halloween costumes, gifts for our family. Knowing how to sew helped us to create our own style.

Knowing and learning how to do all these chores helped us to be responsible, and when we left home we knew how to take care of ourselves. We were taught the skills that carried us through the challenges we faced as adults.

Growing up, I thought all my friends did chores, too. It was just a part of life I thought was normal. I was shocked to find out my friends did not do chores and did not know how to take care of themselves. Wow, visiting some of my friends who shared an apartment... Aaaaauuggg, what a mess! And they were so clueless when it came to cooking. Forget sewing. If their clothes ripped or even just lost a button, they just went and got new clothes. What a waste.

No, we did not get paid to do chores either. We got room and board, and Love! My parents loved us enough to make sure we would succeed as we went out into the world and could and would become a part of a working society.

Chores make us stronger, responsible, good adults.

- Susan Stogsdill, Marys River Grange Vice President

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The Farm Stand is now open 10-4 on Sundays

GreenGable Farm offers U-Pick and already picked strawberries in early June, as well as Self-Serve flowers, at their field on NE Wolcott in Corvallis.
541-929-4445

REMINDER - At the June 1st meeting of Marys River Grange, members who attend will vote on updated By-Laws.



Windy Hill Farm

has goats for sale!
Four Nigerian Dwarf doelings and three wethers will be ready for new homes the first week of May.
All kids have been disbudded, neutered and vaccinated. Check out our website for a gallery of this year's cuties.

For more information
contact Laura Coen at
331-201-5458

www.windyhill-familyfarm.com

Renew for 2022
Dues - \$50 per person or \$100 per family

Send to

Marys River Grange #685

PO Box 1301

Philomath, OR 97370

Marys River Grange maintains a fund to assist those members who are active in the Grange and desire to maintain their membership but have difficulties with the cost. This generally pays half of the dues, yet for exceptional circumstances may even be able to do more. All decisions are made by a small committee with respect for privacy concerns. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please add to your dues payment, and indicate so in the correspondence. Thank you for helping your fellow Grange members.

If you are an active member and are dealing with a challenge to pay your dues, please contact the Grange President and they will ensure the committee is apprised of the circumstances.

A Joyful Heart

By Suzy Gilruth

Sharing with you the many wonderful members of Marys River Grange

This article features Marys River Grange Junior Volunteer of 2021, Wyatt Coen. Wyatt is an active member of our Grange and helps with work for the Grange also. He often lends a hand in hard as well as creative work. A first time experience of handling the sound board for the Gabrielle Louise concert held at the Hall last year was a highlight for Wyatt as our electronics assistant, as well as for all those in attendance.

I first met Wyatt Coen and his sister Phoebe while we were volunteering for Holiday Cheer, a Philomath community gifting benefit their mother Laura has led for the past three years. Wyatt immediately began talking to me about his love of reading and his creative interests. With bright, engaging eyes and a generous heart he presented me with a handmade snowflake before the end of my shift. I was deeply touched by interacting with these remarkable people.

Wyatt enjoys a variety of interests including sports, designing and constructing things, along with reading practical research and science fiction. He runs 3k cross country and runs just for fun! In middle school track activities Wyatt enjoys relay sprint, long jump, as well as discus and javelin competitions. Soon he'll begin baseball practice where he plays 2nd base and pitcher positions. Wyatt learned a new skill when he found the archery club through 4-H. He is also involved with 4-H horticulture and bee keeping. He participates with a giving garden through the Shepherd of the Valley Church, where people care for their own raised beds to grow food for themselves and also to donate to the Corvallis Food Bank. Wyatt is considering entering his mojito mint to Fair. Besides biking and exploring the forested part of their family farm at Windy Hill here in Philomath, there are even practice disc golf stands to enjoy. Wyatt loves to snow ski and would love to live closer to the mountains, perhaps when he attends college. He has lived to tell the tale of an avalanche threat, where luckily his dad was able to pull him to safety. Wyatt's family are avid canoe campers. Swimming, raft floating, and hiking are enjoyed during their many summertime adventures.

As a young entrepreneur, Wyatt is locally known at both the seasonal Philomath Summer and Corvallis Winter Farmers Markets as 'The Spoonsmith.' He uses silver spoons to create rings and does quite well at selling them. He and his father Matt constructed a special work bench just for Wyatt's projects and creations. Wyatt easily explains his smithing operation as well as the science concerning welding projects. Wyatt proudly showed me the wide pitch fork he made for his mom from steel round bar and pipe with a maple branch handle. Laura says it's great for handling mulch! One interesting art project he made with the help of his dad consists of a bed of upright rusty railroad tie nails with a pair of shiny metal dice suspended above. He calls it "High Stakes." Wyatt shared the piece's symbolism of the common people versus the wealthy elite, with the metaphorical vision that the dice will also become rusty, thereby eventually evening out reality in the end.

Whittling is a favored pastime and currently Wyatt has been working on making maple wood chain links, just to prove to himself that he can. He is a winning ribbon champion at both County and State Fairs for his recycle project made from corks, bottle caps, and odds and ends fashioned into warriors and placed in battle scenes. There's no end to Wyatt's creative interests as he

collects rocks, shells, and random stuff he finds. Looking toward the future Wyatt is interested in architecture, although he may want to study engineering in order to be able to design a variety of things.

Wyatt has long enjoyed the written word. Currently he enjoys works like Stephen King's short story Nightshift collection. Since Wyatt is an avid reader, I asked him with which historical person would he like to visit? Immediately he thought of Genghis Khan, but was concerned that since Genghis was so ferocious it might be too dangerous. Perhaps his dad's favorite baseball player might be a more enjoyable choice.

Clearly Wyatt has an interesting life and his future is bright!



Marion Whitney Loves to Share

We have poets in Marys River Grange, and Marion Whitney is the one most recognized. She will be 95 in December, which has not slowed her writing. She writes stories for a weekly writing workshop, and Wednesdays she meets with Live Poets, when she reads her poetry to a group on Zoom, who listen intently to each other and kindly critique only if requested. Writing brings purpose, practice, and discipline to her life. Her poems capture a moment, are a life in pictures written down. Whitney produced a small book of poems, *My Poems...some of these are good*, in 2019.

"We are all our stories," says Marion. Recently she was asked to give a presentation at Stoneybrook Village Clubhouse. She will show her life in poetry with the theme "how I came here", as a way to bear/share/carry grief. She would like to offer the presentation at Marys River Grange, as well.

She believes in the old custom of friendships, and that women are generally better at that. "Different groups bring out different things in me," Marion related. She used to write letters. "History is recorded by women's letter writing," she said, as she noted in her poem *Woman, You Are Strong*:

*You give life to a new soul on a lonely prairie,
We know you by your diary:
"The next day we continued on our way to a new
land."
You are not in history books.
Woman, you are strong.*

*In a sod house you put a bouquet of forget-me-nots
on the rough-hewn table. You stoke the fire,
bake the bread, rock the little one,
and teach the older ones.
Woman, you are strong.*

*You cannot vote, but you are there
working beside your man, loving the children,
crying for those you left behind and
those who died on the journey west.
Woman, you are strong.*

*There is no statue of you on a horse
with a sword held high above your head.
There is no granite stone etched with your name.
We know you by your letters.
Woman, you are strong.*

Inspired by *A Daughter's Walk* by Jane Kirkpatrick, 2012

Nowadays, Marion is drawn to do photography and make cards, perhaps with a poem or two. And, she still enjoys line dances. In fact, Marion became a member of Marys River Grange after attending a country dance at the Grange Hall hosted by member/musician Matt Neely. Her favorite dance, however, is the Electric Slide – which she is happy to teach.

She appreciates the history of the Grange, and wants to keep it alive. She likes the people and what they represent; just likes to be a part of it. Marion feels that people want that kind of organization.

Jack and Marion Whitney moved with sons David, Paul, and Dan up to Oregon in 1964 and became teachers in Newport for five years before finally being allowed to teach in Corvallis. (Corvallis had a rule that a married couple could not both be employed at the same time in that school district.) She taught 6th grade at Wilson School and Highland Middle School, and Jack taught at Crescent Valley. Jack passed away in 2015.

Her parents came from Sweden, and they later brought over her half-sister Julia. Julia was many years older and was like another mother; she made pretty clothes for Marion, who grew up as an only child. Marion enjoyed "Pretending", using her imagination and real things like wooden cheese crates and fruit boxes for play. She loved school – her teachers, the discipline, every bit of it. Her folks were from the old country, and Minneapolis had a bubble of Swedes.

Marion earned a degree in Education at the University of Minnesota. Back then, a woman had the limited choice of becoming a secretary, nurse, or teacher. She went out West, where they were desperate for teachers, and she was hired immediately. She lived in Oakland, where she met Jack. Marion and Jack married in 1952.

She also loved the ocean. And, in 1968, Jack wrote a book about tide pools, for which Marion did the illustrations. It was sold to schools throughout the Northwest. Jack also created wood sculptures with exotic woods. Her house is a museum of his work.

Marion was 88 when Jack passed on, and she was determined to make the best she could of her remaining years. "Be joyful every day in whatever I do," is her motto. "Spread it." She is comfortable, with shelter and loved ones. "People can choose to be negative and it can become a habit," Marion observes; "we have to *practice* making positive choices." Her favorite things are music, writing and dancing. She doesn't like conflict; can't change anyone with arguing. Marion has a message for everyone: "Read more poetry!"

She has a special fondness for trees. "Trees are doing what they're supposed to be doing." Marion makes apple crumble with fruit from her neighbor's tree. They have a trampoline in the backyard and she sees little heads bobbing over there. She says humor is the best medicine. Marion enjoys living with her son Paul, and feels it's good to keep up and have a toe in technology. "Keep playing games or using your head for something," she advises. She sees so much going on in nature, just sitting on the patio. She would also love to get kids started writing poetry – perhaps haiku. It's fun to find just the right word.

"My poetry is not organized; it's free verse, sometimes it starts to rhyme. I never know where it's going," Marion Whitney shares. "You find you learn something about yourself."

There is much more to the story of Marion Whitney, and in turn the story of Marys River Grange. More treasures to uncover as we make the best of this time together. Let's keep learning!
- Judy Hays-Eberts

Recommended by Jane Kirkpatrick: OSU's Letitia Carson Legacy Project, honoring the formerly enslaved woman who came to Oregon in 1845, was forced off land close to Soap Creek she had settled and worked on, and did not give up!



Marion Whitney at Imagine Coffee, March 2022

Like a Seed.

*Like a seed we are each planted and we wait.
We are restless for the darkness to pass.
New life stirs in our souls.*

*Then one morning we are awoken
To a birdsong, a purple hyacinth,
A rhododendron exploding with pinks,
And we wave to a neighbor as we reach for
the morning newspaper.*

*It is time for renewal and growth
as we hold the thin thread to infinity
with Wonder and Joy.*

Inspired by Diane Wilson's poem, "The Seeds Speak"
- Marion Whitney, 2022

"Just as there can be no real home without the influence of
the homemaker, so there can be no Grange really worthwhile
without the finer perceptions and influence of women."
- Installation of OSG Home Economics chairman, 1954

GRUBBY GARDENING

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Garden informational presentations: 11AM and 1PM

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Willamette Grange Hall 27555 Greenberry Rd
Corvallis OR Info: 541-609-8335



"How well do you know Philomath?" challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

[The answer is on another page.]

Check this out: *The Bountiful Container: A Container Garden of Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits, and Edible Flowers* by Rose Marie Nichols McGee and Maggie Stuckey, c2002, in the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library collection. Nichols Garden Nursery relocated to 1136 Main St. in Philomath in 2021.

Hello from Willamette Grange #52!

We had our first potluck since the pandemic started, and it was our first meeting on our summer schedule of the second Wednesday, 6:30 potluck, 7:00 meeting time. We had 13 people and a mighty fine potluck. It was wonderful to be back together in the Hall.

Our success with the stabilization/roof project last year has energized us for 2022 restoration activities. We are receiving engineering assessments and estimates for several projects around the Hall. Fortunately our foundation has gotten great reviews but drainage is a problem at our very flat location. Several solutions are being proposed for consideration.

As we removed water damaged plaster we found a few spots of dry rot that volunteers are repairing. Our application to Pacific Power for upgrading our electrical service has been submitted, and we will begin designing our electrical plans with a consultant soon.

We have our schedule for events at the Hall for this year. The first three are **Grubby Gardening** May 7th, **Bees & Trees** June 4th, and **Blueberry Bash** July 23rd; all events are 10 AM – 2 PM. Stop by and share the Family Friendly Fun!

- 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

See also: willamettegrange.org

MRG's Wish List of Tools and Materials

Tools needed!

We are saving funds to repair the foundation support under the Main Hall. However we will also proceed with what we can get done on the Junior Hall. The next step will be to replace the foundation supports with pressure-treated 6x6 supports, before placing a moisture barrier.

In order to accomplish this, we will need some house jacks and long levels. If any member is willing to loan them to the Grange for this purpose, please contact Sonny at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or 541-829-2907.

Also - we are beginning to hoard supplies for the Junior Hall, where we will start with the ceiling. If anyone has, or is willing to donate R28 ceiling insulation, electrical wire for lights and outlets or 5/8" sheetrock, these are items we can stage until needed.

– Sonny Hays-Eberts and MRG's Building Committee



New rainwater catchment tank at Marys River Grange.

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Susan Stogsdill, Owner



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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

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 | > contact: oldbluerawhoney@gmail.com
> facebook: [facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney](https://www.facebook.com/oldbluerawhoney) | > instagram: [@oldbluerawhoney](https://www.instagram.com/oldbluerawhoney)

New varietals: Dewberry & Vine Maple, Late Wildflower, Thistle & Groundsel, Clover & Meadowfoam, Dewberry & Meadowfoam, Peppermint, Pumpkin & Clover, and Clary Sage, Red Clover & Pumpkin



Jim Gray and Roxie at MRG's meeting in April.



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Trilliums, photo by Barbara Carter

Marys River Nature Detectives counted 301 Trilliums and more on April 16th in Marys River Park.

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 Philomath, Oregon

Philomath Farmers Market: Sundays, June 5 – Oct. 16, 11-3



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Marys River Grange #685

M is for members, we have 85.
A is for action, we're really alive.
R is for river, that flows by our hall.
Y is for youth, we welcome them all.
S is for service to others each day.
R is for ritual we try to obey.
I is for insurance for loss from a fire.
V is for vim, good members don't tire.
E is for effort to attend every meeting.
R is for right to send you this greeting:
 Welcome to Marys River Grange

- handwritten in MRG scrapbook with old photos, mid-1950s

Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:
 This is a photo of the Community Garden at Philomath
 Community Services, 360 S 9th St.
 - Suzan Foley

MARYS RIVER GRANGE NEWS, 1974:
 Grange meets every 1st and 3rd Sat. at 8:00 P. M. at the hall
 sure do wish some of you could come once in awhile. If you
 feel unwanted or unneeded you couldn't be more wrong, your
 Grange needs and wants everyone of you.

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 July/August *Messenger*: June 27th

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



Yoga at the Grange Summer 2022



**Outdoors! (weather permitting)
Tuesdays and Thursdays* 7pm-8pm**

May 24th - June 30th 2022

**no class Thursday June 23rd & 30th*

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

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

MARYS RIVER GRANGE HALL #685 PRESENTS
AN AKAJEANNETTE THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

*Always...
Patry Cline*



Written & Originally Directed by Ted Swindley
Based On A True Story
Directed by Deborah Wren

MAY 13-22, 2022
FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT 7PM / SUNDAYS AT 2PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE \$15-\$30*
VISIT WWW.AKAJEANNETTE.COM/APC
*DINNER THEATER PROVIDED ON SELECT SHOWINGS



Musical clearances secured and used by permission.
Any taping, filming, recording, or broadcasting of this play (musical or otherwise) is strictly prohibited.