

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 5, Issue 5

May/June 2023

Members Make It Happen at Marys River Grange #685



A St. Patrick's Day party at MRG was a successful way to surprise Jim Gray for his 78th birthday.



Toni and Jay organized the surprise for Jim, with lots of well-wishers and delicious food.



Sunday March 19th, 30+ people gathered to plant apple and quince trees at MRG for the Matt Coen Memorial Orchard, and helped move plants and dig irrigation lines.

Plan to attend the **Big To-Do in District 2!**
150th Convention of the Oregon State Grange
Polk County Fairgrounds at Rickreall, June 17-22
See MRG member and Willamette Grange President Jay Sexton in action as Oregon State Grange President, and MRG President Sonny Hays-Eberts as Oregon State Grange Treasurer (in suits)! Enter OSG contests! Sign up for the OSG AG Tour (limited to 40 people). Learn about and debate Resolutions. Learn about the Degrees. Meet National Grange Communications Director Phil Vonada. Meet other Community Grangers and members of our State organization. This year's convention will again be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom. More info: orange.org, Toni at 541-609-8335 or Jay Sexton at willamettegrange@gmail.com

We made our own Nature Baskets

Friday March 24th at the MRG Hall, 16 members and friends played with natural materials and additional objects to create our own unique and magical nature baskets.

The inspiring and fun event was led by Jan Wilcox, who has been making baskets for 45 years, and Stacy Moore.



We had good help.



Wonderful, encouraging teacher, Jan Wilcox



Jade's creation



Theo's first basket

Marys River Grange #685 regularly meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath and via Zoom. Potluck at 6:30.

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

Dues are \$50 per adult or \$100 for a family. Checks to "Marys River Grange" can be handed to the Secretary (Barbara Carter) at a meeting or mailed to Marys River Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath, OR 97370.



Windy Hill Farm
has goats for sale!
 Nigerian Dwarf kids will be disbudded, banded, and vaccinated, ready for new homes the last week of May.

For more information contact Laura Coen
 331-201-5458
 lauraploeg@yahoo.com
www.windyhill-familyfarm.com

Mount Union Historic Cemetery

Did you know that Mount Union Historic Cemetery was founded in 1861 with a gift of two acres given by freed slaves, Reuben and MaryJane Shipley? Located at 2987 Mount Union Avenue, on the east side of Neabeack Hill in Philomath, the cemetery is managed by Mount Union Cemetery Association, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to the upkeep and maintenance of this local treasure.

Come join us on our maintenance work days, **the second Saturday of every month**, April through October, from 9:00am to noon. Tasks may include trimming shrubs, picking up storm debris, cleaning headstones, mowing, weeding and weed eating. Bringing your own tools will be very helpful. Carpenter skills are welcome for renovative work on the sheds. Please call Janet Cornelius 541-231-4899 if you have questions or would like to schedule another time to donate your skills and labor to preserve this wonderful cemetery.

SATURDAYS
 MAY 13TH
 JUNE 10TH
 JULY 8TH
 AUGUST 12TH
 SEPTEMBER 9TH
 OCTOBER 14TH

Read Mt. Union Stories at philomathnews.com!

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

Potluck at 2:30.

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

If you would like to help financially or volunteer please contact Willamette Grange at willamettegrange@gmail.com or call 541-609-8335. - Toni Hoyman



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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 July/August Messenger: June 26th



Mark Files' Celtic Forge key rings are hand-forged out of pure brass and made to last a lifetime. See celticforge.net or call him at 707-601-6351.

MRG's Annual Plant Sale & Seed Swap
Saturday April 29th



Beautiful day at MRG, with many donations to benefit the Philomath Community Garden



Mike Terry helped sharpen knives and tools at this event.



Marilyn is one of many volunteers who made it happen, and spearheaded Lupe's Garden Service Project afterward.



Windy Hill Farm's baby goat whisperer, Wyatt
[Photos above and below are by Laura Coen.]



Baby goats were most popular with everyone.



Thank you, Windy Hill Farm crew!

Plants and Roots

Last month Marys River Grange #685 held its fifth annual Plant Sale and Seed Swap over the last six years (we missed 2021 due to COVID).

Fundraising can seem like an unrelenting chore, and we have completed enough large projects over the last five or six years, with the roof and foundation work, to realize a hard truth – often the fun is lacking in fundraising. However this event raises funds for Philomath Community Services, and at least to me, that charitable direction alters the equation so much.

The addition this year of baby goats from Windy Hill Farm (thank you Laura and Wyatt) and decorative flags by Mark Files (thank you) contributed to the festive feel.

The positive comments from community members for our Grange supporting another organization such as Philomath Community Services, the generosity they displayed in making donation-based purchases, and the thanks and gratitude expressed from PCS, are obvious evidence of why charitable fundraising can feel so inspiring.

Yet I find even deeper and more fulfilling reasons in hosting this event. Instances such as an encounter with the older gentleman who donated hardy kiwis to the Grange, planted by Nate, tended by Toni and others, who was delighted to find them thriving, and is willing to provide another male plant if needed, illustrate the roots and bonds that such an event creates. Our Grange cares about our community, yet events like this remind me that our community also cares a great deal for our Grange and what we do.

By focusing on agriculture and plants which can supply food and beauty, this event is true to basic Grange principles. Elevating it by providing useful advice and instruction about habitat, soil preparation, pests, identification, tending and more (this year we added tool sharpening), addresses higher Grange principles. And by donating the results to benefit Philomath Community Services and Lupe's Community Garden, I think we meet the highest principles of the Grange.

– Sonny Hays-Eberts, President, Marys River Grange #685

Windy Hill Farm Aid Continues

Friends of Windy Hill!

Get your goat, dog, chicken, alpaca and Coen fix AND help a Grange farm! Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094caaa72ba02-windy#/>

Thank you for the beautiful piano now in the Hall, Talia!

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Your support for the Philomath Food Bank is greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donations (either food or \$) at the PCS facility on Tuesdays 3-7 PM or Thursdays 9-12 PM, 360 S. 9th St., Philomath.

More info: philomathcommunityservices.org or call 541-929-2499. Mail your donation to: PCS, PO Box 1334, Philomath OR 97370.

Women of the Grange

Our aim is to enhance all of our membership experiences and grow our community. You are invited to join us.

Meetings are usually on 3rd Sunday of the month, 2-4 pm. May 21st, 1-3pm, we plan to prepare an entrée to freeze and then serve at the State Grange Convention in June.

Contact Suzy Johanson at 2Suzanne@mail.com for more info.



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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



"How well do you know Philomath?" challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

[The answer is on another page.]

Yoga at the Grange

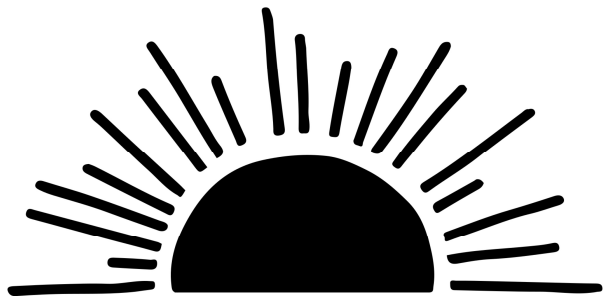
Summer 2023

Tuesdays 7pm-8pm

July 25th - August 29th, 2023

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

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



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MRG Book Corner with Yadira:

Introducing a book that you can find in the MRG library.

Hiking Hot Springs in the Pacific Northwest,

Evie Litton, third edition

The most important detail about this book is that it was published almost 20 years ago so the fees and access information are out of date but don't let that stop you from checking out this book!

There are trails out there for the backpacker, hiker and river rafter. Now is the perfect time to start planning your outing. Especially if you aren't trying to reserve a camp spot but instead get out and do a little dispersed camping. In case you aren't familiar, dispersed camping is where you have legal permission to camp but there's no designated spot, no "amenities", no host, no crowds...you get the picture.

Perusing through this book gave me so many ideas about where our next adventure could be. It covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. It's a great way to hone in on which area you are most interested in so that you can then get yourself to the city library to find a guidebook that is more current or get online to learn more.

Did you know that there's hidden hot springs at a special spot right next to the Owyhee River (Eastern OR)? You'd have to brave rattlesnakes and a river crossing to get there on foot...or if you're in the know, you could float to it on a raft. I love the idea of this adventure.

If you have mobility issues, don't despair! As long as you have access to a car, there are plenty of hot springs and warm springs in the magical PNW that are roadside!

I learned a lot in a small amount of time looking through this book, and I highly recommend it. Don't forget to write down your information on the Check Out Clipboard.

Checking a book out is as easy as writing your name and book name down on the clipboard hanging on or near the bookshelf. When you return the book, just cross your name out.

Philomath Farmers' Market

**Sundays, 11-3, Philomath Community Library
Starts May 28th!**

Weeds are the strong and persistent creatures who live in weak circumstances.
— Howard Bjornson, Weeds



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Come Dance With Me

- Marion Whitney

Come dance with me,
Said the Clematis to the Oak,
I'm too old and stiff, he replied,
Lean on me and sway.
So the purple Clematis and the gnarly Oak
slow danced in the afternoon breeze.
Friends are special.

Heritage Tree Nominations Were Accepted!

To recognize, foster appreciation of, and honor particular trees of significance in our community.

See www.ci.philomath.or.us/heritagetree

"The tree on the grounds of the Philomath Museum has the potential to be a great learning tool for our community. It will also last for a very long, long, long time. It deserves a special name. No one will be able to cut it down. What a legacy... My name suggestion for the tree is The Heritage Learning Tree!"

- Jackie McDougall Weiner

Jackie Weiner has been cast as the lead in a play at the Albany Civic Theater! The play is **Moonglow: A Poignant Love Story for the Ages** by Kim Carney and directed by Sarah Roth. "Maxine, a feisty, bitter Alzheimer's victim, doesn't want to move into a nursing facility. But when she meets Joe, a widower who shares her love for dance, her outlook begins to change. Although the two clash when lucid, they begin an affair that rejuvenates and fulfills them. But can these lovers – played simultaneously with an elderly twosome and a young, vivacious couple – stay together despite their families' wishes and their fading vitality?"

June 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, and July 1. "It is powerful."

albanycivic.org/shows/Moonglow

What do Community Granges do? Check it out.

Southern Oregon Zine Fest 2023, May 27th

The Bellview Grange, Ashland, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Come experience the first annual Southern Oregon Zine Fest! Whether you are well versed in zine culture or not, this fest will have something for everyone. Zines (zeens) are DIY, self-published books, magazines, and comics! Peruse vendor tables, learn about what the local zine community has to offer, contribute to a collaborative zine, and stick around for a workshop!



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



Sasquatch greets patrons of the Meet'n Place Tavern on Main Street. Derived from the Halkomelem "Sésquac," meaning "wild man," the word was first used by the Coast Salish peoples.

- Suzan Foley

Nate's Ag Committee Report, May 2023

I read somewhere that human minds aren't well adjusted to exponential growth. It deranges our sense of proportion and outpaces our typical tempos. We're mostly unnerved by what we can't grasp, and even with the math to demystify it, still it's startling to experience first hand. You might watch the buds slowly form on the end of a twig over weeks without much change, and then in a few days a leaf erupts, doubles in size, then doubles again in a matter of hours.

I saw another example when I was out on a field to check when I might till it. The soil had been like a bog until the rain stopped for a week straight. Still it was too wet to work and even the mice left tracks in the mud, but on the eighth day a few surface cracks appeared in the shrinking clay. Every fissure exposed more surface area to the drying air, creating more fissures, causing more drying, and by the tenth day it could hold up a tractor without leaving a rut.

A worthy agriculture harnesses the power of exponential growth as effortlessly as possible. It's the source of our sufficiency and our surpluses. One challenge we've always faced is that we're not the only organisms that play the game. Aphids multiply without consulting tables. Virus can spread disease before we can spread the word. Exponents propel all manner of pathologies that could doom a crop, field, farm, farmer, community, and a society. Best to act early and with dispatch if you want to keep a good thing from going bad, no matter what field you're in.

See *First Session, First Impression* by Sonny Hays-Eberts on p4:

<https://orange.org/res/bltn/back/august-grange-bulletin-small.pdf>

for his enthusiastic review of his first experience with attending the Oregon State Grange Convention in 2018.

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-Maria Montessori