

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 6, Issue 2

November/December 2023

Before Year's End...

Marys River Grange Happenings

Country Dance, 1st Friday – Nov. 3, Dec. 2, 7-10 pm,
\$5 adults/\$4 under 18; DJ Luke Coomber

Bluegrass Jam/Workshop, 2nd Weds. – Nov. 8, Dec.
13, 7 pm, \$7 adult/\$5 youth

BINGO, 2nd Friday – Nov. 10, Dec. 8, 6-8:30 pm,
\$10 for 10 games (3 cards each), \$1 blackout tickets

Christmas Singalong – Dec. 9, 7 pm. Dessert
Potluck. Holiday dress or Ugly Sweater encouraged.
Hosted by Yvonne McMillan.

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

Wreath Making with Family and Friends at Marys River Grange Hall

Bring family and friends for a joyous time together
creating your own seasonal wreath!
Explore your talents while enjoying hot cider, cookies
and listening to live piano music!

DATE: Sunday, December 10th

TIME: 1-3

WHAT IS PROVIDED: Wreath bases, pine boughs and
ribbons will be available.

WHAT TO BRING: Some materials are available but if
you can bring any of the following: scissors, wire
cutters, floral tape and hand pruners.

DROPPING OFF WREATH BOUGHS: If any Grange
members would like to help collect pine boughs for the event
then please feel free to drop off any material at the covered
porch area by the North Door of the Grange anytime a few
days before the event.

Questions call: Stacy Moore 541-908-1093

*The Philomath Farmer's Market vendors thank you for
providing us with a cozy indoor location for our end of year
potluck. Fellow grangers Laura Coen, Mark Files, Nate
Johnson and Yadira Ruiz were all vendors in the 2023
season. We saw many familiar faces during our time at
market. There's still room for new vendors in 2024 so if you
have an interest in selling your wares, make sure to get in
touch with one of us so we can connect you with Janel and
Brian next Spring.*

Then sing me the life of a farmer, With comfort and
health in his train, And heed not the voice of the charmer,
That whispers of speedier gain;

With all the rich treasures 'tis teeming, That heaven on
man can bestow; O the farmer, the farmer forever, Three
cheers for the plow, spade, and hoe.

- 4th verse of "The Plow, Spade, and Hoe,"
The Patron: The Official Song Book of the Grange



Mark Files at Wreath Making 2022



“How well do you know Philomath?” challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

[The answer is on another page.]

MRG Grounds Committee Report

Jim R turned off the water line to the hoses and irrigation. Nate is managing our rooftop water-collection tank. Many thanks to you both!

Anyone who feels the urge, please feel free to pull dandelions anytime you come out! It will help our "lawn" reseeding effort. Thanks again to the stalwarts who have tended plants, weed-eaten the Grange Road fence line and pulled weeds through the year!

Seeding for the front lawn area where we have our Grange events and orchard will be in the spring, so please send me (camillehall@peak.org) any ideas you have for mowable grass alternatives (probably not meadow plants, which want to grow taller) to add to the mix.

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Celery and Nut Salad—One cup each of chopped celery and English walnuts, a little salt, one-half cup of mayonnaise dressing, to which has been added one cup of sweet cream. Serve in a bed of blanched celery leaves.

-FRIDAY, DECEMBER THE THIRD. *The Daily News Cookbook*, c1896

Nate's Ag Committee Report, Nov. 2023

Our hefty cabbages may be fit to burst but we'll pull them before they can let themselves go. The beets are dense and sweet, the radishes huge, and the carrots keep coming. It's the beginning of the end of the year's offerings, but it's encouraging to see the hardy greens looking so fulsome. We're grateful it rained so much lately, though potato harvest got a little sticky and garlic planting waits in a lengthening queue.

This year Jack Frost showed up arm-in-arm with Fall's beauty. What's easy on the eyes sometimes runs with what's hard on the heart. We'll get used to both, and only get tired of the one that hangs around longest.

The shady cat warms up on the dark fabric in a sunlit tunnel where our tomato vines molder on dangling twines. Small lettuces are tucked under light cloth to keep their color and shine while the spent crops go drab and dull in the chill. It's wreck and ruin before my eyes, but also a sign of easier days ahead. If you'd walked with me on the crystal carpet this morning, you'd have heard me give a devil his due: "Long time, Jack. Good to see you back."

- Nate Johnson, Sunbow Produce,
MRG Agriculture Committee



Certified Organic

www.sunbowproduce.com

Is your budget making it hard to support our farm? Let us help! Using funds from our Oregon Food Bank grant, we can give you a boost every time you shop with us. All you have to do is let us know you'd like to use OFB grant funds and we'll fill you in on the details. Funds will be available until December 20th, 2023 or until the funds run out, whichever comes first.

"See garlic is a pretext for waiting. It has no other way but the long wash of time to extract the sulfur components from the soil and to distill them into its distinctive potion: all garlic questions ultimately may have to do with the passage of time, and therefore with mortality, and therefore with vampires, whatever they may be."

— Stanley Crawford,

A Garlic Testament: Seasons on a Small New Mexico Farm
(submitted by Jim Rouff)

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

Community Meal, Every Tuesday: 6 PM at College United Methodist Church (1123 Main St). Everyone welcome—FREE to all! Live Music after Meal. (Tax deductible donations accepted.)

Your support for the **Philomath Food Bank** is greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donations (either food or \$) at the PCS facility on Tues. 3-7 PM or Thurs. 9 AM-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.

Mount Union Cemetery is grateful for the wonderful community support from all those who have participated in our monthly work parties. Work parties are suspended until spring. Our annual meeting, open to all, is on November 18th at 1:00pm, at 1412 Applegate Street (New Life Fellowship church). - Janet

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

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Susan Stogsdill, Owner

Day of Thanksgiving.—Each guest is given a piece of paper on which is written, "Day of Thanksgiving." Each one is asked to write from the letters in the words of "Day of Thanksgiving" a list of things for which he is thankful. The ones who have the largest list will be asked to read them. If there is any question about any word being cause for thanksgiving, the reader must explain why he is thankful for that particular thing. This will cause a lot of merriment.

- The Cokesbury Party Book, 1932



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Yvonne McMillan and Suzy Johanson painted the Junior Grange Hall on Labor Day (and the next day), along with Stacy Moore, Mark Files, and Judy Hays-Eberts.

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 22nd

THE SPORT OF KINGS

Falconry is the art and practice of hunting for wild quarry with a trained hawk or falcon.

It was known as the sport of kings dating back four thousand years making it the oldest field sport known to mankind. The Middle Ages represented the Golden era of falconry and was an art taught to children of gentry along with archery and riding. The day-to-day care and training of the birds was carried out by a residential falconer. The Royal Falconer was so highly respected he was sometimes considered fourth in line of seniority in the court.

So precious were falcons, they were worth more than their weight in gold. A story from history tells us that during a crusade, the Ottoman Sultan Beyazid captured the son of Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. 200,000 gold ducats were offered for ransom but rejected. What Beyazid demanded was something more precious: Twelve white gyrfalcons.

Falconry continues to be practiced enthusiastically today worldwide. In America, it is regulated by state fish and wildlife agencies but taught the old way – master to apprentice – during a two-year apprenticeship.



Apprentice falconers learn about the care and keeping of the raptor and how to create the bird, beast and human partnership that secures game in the field. Modern falconers depend on public land and the generosity of landowners to provide appropriate hunting opportunities for their birds.

Pursued species in the Willamette valley include sparrows, starlings, doves, quail, pheasant, chukar, waterfowl, squirrel, cottontail and jacks. The appropriate game differs for each species of raptor held – as in golf, one needs the right club for the swing. Appropriate land is a combination of species and quantity of game, and accessibility to move the game in a



manner that provides the raptor an opportunity to pursue and capture.

The Oregon Falconers Association is hosting a field meet at Marys River Grange January 12-13.

If you would like to offer hunting land opportunities or accompany a falconer on a hunt please contact: Alina Blankenship, Alina@Blankenships.net, 503-969-6119.



BLUE ZONES

Dan Buettner is the coordinator and author of many books about blue zone living. His work with National Geographic has become groundbreaking, and along with National Geographic they are making this information available to us and its most practical form.

Small towns and communities have accepted a challenge to modify their lifestyles and create an environment for healthy living.

Members of the Grange by their very nature are doing many of the things that the blue zone lifestyle recommends. We walk on soft ground, we walk on hills, we lift and carry, and most important we care for each other. Community is difficult to create in a time of modern mass media, but with effort and wisdom community can be created. The individual can create community in their mind and lifestyle, and the members by joining together in projects and spending time together. We create community.

The same mass media that confuses people and tells them to eat sugar can also tell us the wisdom of a proper diet and the importance of how to exercise. effectively.

Creating an environment that supports our best sleeping habits, exercise, routines, and a healthy diet. This is what we do and this is what National Geographic recommends. Many blessing are ours.

Sincerely, Mark Files, MRG Lecturer

Use Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet, and Doctor Meryman, for thy Physicians.

Let thy kitchen be thy Apothecarie.

Let warme clothing bee thy nurse.

Let good companie and good hospitalitie be thine exercise.

Let thy needie, old, poore and hungrie neighbours bee rememb'ed.

- From Ram's little Dodoen Gardening Calendar, 1606

Marys River Grange Harvest Fest 2023

Thanks again to coordinator Susan Stogsdill!

Photos by Suzy Johanson.



Harvest fest had its challenges this year... but we persevered. We did have 13 vendors, and the cider press, Sunbow Farm's free veggie table. The kitchen was handled with our fantastic members. The chili, potatoes, and nachos went over well. Members donated baked goods to sell, a big hit.

Jim Rouff, Mike Terry, and Camille Hall pressed cider offered for donations.

I want to thank all the members for their participation, cooking, pressing cider, putting out signs and picking them up, breaking down at the end of the day.
— Susan Stogsdill

Talk Like a Pirate at MRG 2023



Talk Like a Pirate contestant Lindy Young was the winner of one of the pirate flags awarded by host Yvonne McMillan.

Joel Chadd, Gabrielle Louise, and the True North Duo performed an in-the-round concert featuring original songwriting at Marys River Grange on Sept. 17th.

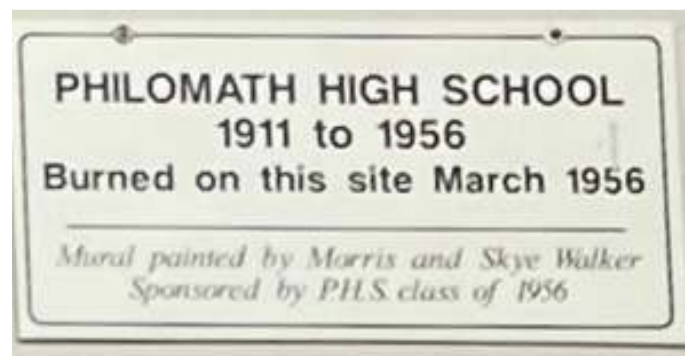


Sonny Hays-Eberts manages the soundboard.



Judy Hays-Eberts read pirate stories to children of all ages.

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



This painting by Morris and Syke Walker was sponsored by the PHS class of 1956. It hangs in the Mary's River True Value, the site of the high school before it was lost to fire.

— Suzan Foley



The Junior Grange Hall was decorated for the occasion by Suzy Johanson and Theo Woo.

My Path
Sisters, Oregon 2022

I have walked this path before.
I was younger then, three inches taller,
with a straight back and strong legs.
Dry pine needles over the years of mountain dust,
pave the soft path today.
Stickery pine cones challenge me.
I carefully wobble my walker around them.
Back then I joyfully soccer-kicked them
out of my way or collected some.
Handle the pine cones with care,
they are not cuddly, sharp spikes
extend on the end of each plate.
What a marvel, nature's will to survive
as seeds are scattered by birds and small critters
for future ponderosas.
Like a dry pine cone, I am no longer in my prime.
May my seeds be scattered in a modest way,
so it can be said, "Marion was here."
It is warming up, and I am a bit tired.
I nestle my walker into the dry dusty path,
and sit on the seat in the mottled sun.
I was tan back then, "brown as a nut."
I am wiser now and avoid the sun rays.
I breathe in the fresh mountain air.
It is quiet except for some chittering birds.
Small chipmunks dash about me,
I laugh at them, "What's the hurry?"
Are they avoiding predators from above,
as their ancestors did so long ago?
I sit so still and they race past my feet.
Not a breeze is stirring, I am comfortable.
I look up at the trees with bark
like brown and orange puzzle pieces.
The trees stand so straight as I once did.
Twisted silver limbs decorate the forest floor,
I use to collect them for future works of art.
I collect none of them today.
The Sculptor has left the scene.
A breeze begins to stir.
In this magnificent cathedral I pray out loud
my gratitude for the saints in my life.
My path is bumpy and bountiful.
It is getting late. I must return to the motel room.
Someone who loves me is waiting for me.
I stand to adjust and turn the wheels.
With a huff and a puff I head forward.
He is not the one who waited for me years
before. I heave a mighty push. He is my son.

- by Marion Whitney

November is National Novel Writing Month!

See nanowrimo.org and their Young Writers Program for
info and draft an entire novel in just one month!

Write-ins at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library,
2nd Floor Board Room: Nov. 4th, 18th, and 25th. Bring your
preferred writing tools.

Marys River Grange History, December 1933
Transcribed by Elizabeth Baker, 1937

The men of the grange have kept busy rain or shine on the hall
and now all logs up, rafters placed and part of sheathing on main
building. Part of rafters on anteroom and waiting for lumber. There
were 39 loads of gravel hauled on front yard. The com. announced
the building will be turned over to the Executive com. the first of
the year.

On Wednesday Dec. 6 members of the bldg. com. and others
met at the Hoyt home with Mr. Booth to see about financing the
grange. Need about \$300 to complete building. The idea is to
make notes up to \$25 and sell them, said notes to bear 4% and
have serial numbers. When enough money on hand to pay one,
put numbers in hat and draw one, to be paid every 6 mo. or year.
Mr. Booth donated \$25 for which the grange was very grateful.
The bldg. com. reported Ed Davis one dollar on shingles and a
discount of 10% on sheet metal.

Grange voted that bldg. com. be authorized to make
arrangements to get the money up to \$300. A bill for \$8 – for
nails was presented.

The program for the first meeting in Dec. was directed by Alice
Coolidge and Katie Hoyt and ended with a skit which produced
two handsome birthday cakes, one for Elizabeth Baker and one for
Fred Sedenberg, as their birthdays fall on the same day & was the
date of this meeting – Dec. 1st.



We have small 'listening groups' of co-workers who go to the
homes of old people and sit down with them and let them talk.
Very old people love to have somebody listen to them and let them
talk, even if they have to tell the story of thirty years ago. To listen,
when nobody else wants to listen, is a very beautiful thing.

- Mother Teresa, *The Joy in Loving*

Read more local news at philomathnews.com!

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



Veterans' Voices, the fifth and final year at the Majestic Theater in Corvallis, is a wonderful event that supports the Honor Flight for veterans to travel to Washington D.C.

On November 10, 11, and 12, 2023 there will be a presentation of eight short 10-15 minute plays portraying local veterans. This year one of the plays portrays a poignant experience had by the late husband of grange member Jackie Weiner (y-ner). A limited number of tickets can be purchased at www.majestic.org.