

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 7, Issue 3

January/February 2025

Marys River Grange #685 Turns Over a New Year

President's Annual Report for 2024

If Marys River Grange had a theme for 2024, it is "with Fidelity." Grangers were steadfast in their dedication to bring engaging events to Philomath, work on our Junior Hall remodel, and create community connections that spread the good will of the Grange (for good reason!). Marys River Grange is going into 2025 with robust fellowship, a beautiful hall, and high aspirations. This year saw regular offerings of country dances, bluegrass jams, yoga, spoon carving, farm health clinics, and bingo. Such events as our Plant Sale, Amazing Grange Day, Talk Like a Pirate Day, Harvest Fest, and Wreath Making not only helped fund our charitable ventures and hall upkeep, but also helped bring the Philomath community together. A profound thank you to our volunteers all.

For the new year, I would like to recommend three areas for our Grange to focus on.

First, committees are the grease that turn the wheel of the Grange. As I pressed last meeting, committees are one of the best ways for individuals to contribute and bring their passions to actuality. For many of our committees, it is a single person writing the reports. However, there are others which are more institutionalized, meet regularly, and discuss their committee's purview with much success. I charge you the members with having your committees meet in person at least quarterly, fill your committees with at least three members, and most importantly, have fun with them! Make them your own.

Second, I would encourage our members to be more active with our fellow Grangers at the Pomona and State levels. The Benton County Pomona Grange is an excellent way to meet fellow Grange members and discuss rural issues. The next meeting is Saturday, January 18th at 10:00 right here at Marys River Grange when we will be meeting in the traditional set up. Meanwhile, as our State President may tell you, the State Grange offers a plethora of engagement opportunities. This includes all manner of contests which will be detailed in the contests book forthcoming later this winter. I would like to see each member of our Grange submit at least one entry for the 2025 State Convention.

Finally, the perennial topic of all Granges is membership growth. On this front, MRG has done well in recent years. Going into 2025, we stand as the second largest Grange by membership in Oregon, and we are not far from first. I encourage Grangers to invite their friends and family to potlucks, meetings, and events for them to see what the Grange is all about. Let's get Marys River Grange to #1!

In closing, I have been honored to serve as President. I first came to the Grange in fall of 2021 when my wife and I moved to Oregon. We were accepted into the Grange with open arms and found opportunity and friendship. The Grange truly has become a second home and I just wanted to say I love you all.

Friends, the Grange is all of us. We are the premier family, grassroots, community organization where each individual has the power to make a difference. I encourage each and every Grange member to consider where they would like to see Marys River Grange go in the future and how they can be a part of that growth.

Fraternally, and with gratitude,

Mike Terry

2024 President, MRG #685

Marys River Grange Happenings

Moonlight Country Mixer – Mondays, 7-10 pm, \$5, host/instructor Jamie Lee

Bluegrass Jam/Workshop, 2nd Weds. – February 12 (no Bluegrass Jam in January), 7 pm, \$7 adult/\$5 youth; listeners donate as desired

BINGO, 2nd Friday – Jan. 10, Feb. 14, 6-8:30 pm, \$10 for 10 games (3 cards each), \$1 blackout tickets

Yoga at the Grange – Starting in March

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

Marys River Grange #685 Officers for 2025

President: Judy Hays-Eberts
Vice President: Mike Terry
Secretary: Bea Johnson
Lecturer: Suzy Johanson
Treasurer: Karen Hudspeth
Steward: Kurt Wiedenmann
Assistant Steward: Nate Johnson
Lady Assistant Steward: Marilyn McGettigan
Chaplain: Mark Files
Greeter: Nancy Wiedenmann
Musician: Yvonne McMillan
Pomona: Reyna Evans
Ceres: Susan Stogsdill
Flora: Laura Coen
Executive Committee: Kurt, Yvonne, Stacy Moore

Marys River Grange #685 would like to proudly announce that our Volunteer(s) of the Year are Kurt and Nancy Wiedenmann. Hot afternoons, cold mornings, and the occasional injury did not deter Kurt's work on the Junior Hall remodel and other upkeep on our Hall. He has been our faithful steward and co-rental coordinator. Nancy's diligent service as our worthy treasurer and co-rental coordinator has been critical to our Grange's success. Her meticulous bookkeeping has kept the cogs of our organization well oiled, and her warm greetings of renters has brought smiles to the community.

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

Families are welcome at MRG monthly meetings, with activities for children included.

Benton County Granges Host Bingo Monthly

Fairmount Grange #252

1st & 3rd Saturday, 6 PM at Fairmount Grange Hall

Marys River Grange #685

2nd Friday, 6 PM at Marys River Grange Hall

10 games: 5 regular, 5 special pattern

Plus: 1 blackout with Block of Nine prize

\$10 for 10 3-on games (3 cards each for 10 games)

\$20 for 10 6-on games (6 cards each for 10 games)

\$1 per blackout ticket

50/50 split on prizes/fundraising

Drinks & snacks for sale. Free door prizes!

Willamette Grange #52

1st Thursday, 6 PM at Greenberry Tavern

Philomath Community Meal – every Tuesday, 6 pm, at College United Methodist Church (1123 Main St.), free to all. Live music after meal. (Tax deductible donations accepted.)



SPOON JAM!

Spoon and other green-wood carving circle

What: Carving, skill sharing, community building
Who: Beginner to Advanced carvers (Ages 16+)
What to bring: Your own tools and wood
When: 3rd Wednesday every month, 5:30—8:30 PM

Donations welcomed for use of space

RSVP Required
Contact: Kileo Denzer,
kileo@handprintpress.com,
or text 541-740-7243

Marys River Grange
24707 Grange Hall Road
Philomath, Oregon
97370



THE YOUTH COMMITTEE PRESENTS

WILDLIFE TRACKS AND SIGNS

Meet us in the Junior room to learn about the elusive local wildlife by reading animal tracks and learning signs.

YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- Key tracking techniques, such as gait pattern and scat
- Identify local wildlife tracks and signs

We will be recreating animal tracks with plaster, please dress in clothing that can get messy

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2025
Starts after the potluck

Learn more about the Mary's River Grange Here



Be involved in the Grange! Standing committees are appointed annually and include: Agriculture, Community Service/Involvement, Deaf Activities and Family Health, Education, Finance, Grange Worker's Activities, Information, Junior/Youth, Lecturer's, Legislative, Membership, Relief, and Veterans. Other committees are created to fill particular needs, such as Building, Grounds, and Rental.

Marys River Junior Grange Hall Remodel



MRG's Junior Hall remodel is about 95% done (minus the storage cabinets). There is still some light trim work to finish up, which will be done in the next few weeks. The room is now available for use, but we won't move anything into it until the Building Committee gives us the green light.



I installed these two cabinets with the help of my two sons (took 45 minutes). I bought these at Habitat for Humanity for \$95 (with my senior discount). Shelves are adjustable.

- Kurt Weidenmann,
MRG Steward, Building Committee volunteer

ALL AGES WEEKEND WORKSHOP
Saturday, January 11th
 10am - 1pm Partner Pattern Lessons (\$25)
 Cha-Cha, Horseshoe, El-Paso, Schottische
 2pm - 6pm Country Swing Lessons (\$35)
 Progressive Beginner - Intermediate Swing Series
 \$25 for morning lesson, \$35 for afternoon, or \$50 for both
 7pm - 11pm Social Dance
 (\$5 or Free with workshop purchase)
24707 Grange Hall Rd, Philomath, OR 97370

Benton County Pomona, which includes all Granges within Benton County, will meet at Marys River Grange on January 18th at 10:00 a.m.
 This event is an excellent opportunity to meet fellow Grange members from across the county, have a say in resolutions and county business, and see the traditional set up of Grange meetings. All Grange members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pollinators Forever

Wild Flowers Hummingbirds
 Bees
 Butterflies

We support hummingbirds, bees and butterflies
 Mark Files
 1056 Pioneer St.
 Philomath, OR 97370
 541-360-8759
 pollinators369@gmail.com

I will be selling wildflower seeds at the Corvallis Winter market 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Also sharpening knives and gardening tools.



Wreath Making 2024

The fragrance of cedar, fir and pine boughs filled the Marys River Grange Hall as over 60 grange members and local families created colorful wreaths and swags during the Grange's annual holiday festivity.

Parents helped children snip limbs of holly and Douglas fir to adhere to grape vine forms making the shape of the wreaths. Participants enjoyed finding their special red and green bows and trinkets to decorate their unique creation. Several extra wreaths were specially made to donate to residents at Stoneybrook Assisted Living – these are always well received.

A huge draw to the event this year was the healthy comfort food provided by Mark Files and his friend Leo. Hungry bellies appreciated hot baked potatoes, yams and sweet potatoes topped with cheese and exotic spices.

Special thanks go out to Ray Drapek who filled the hall with holiday piano tunes. A favorite is always the Charlie Brown Christmas and Flight of the Bumble Bee melodies.

Thank you to all who helped make the wreath making event a huge success. We look forward to putting on another celebration next season. Please come join us!

- Stacy Moore,
MRG Youth Committee



“It was lovely to share smiles and well wishes,” said Suzy Johanson, who accompanied Stacy Moore to deliver wreaths to Stoneybrook Senior Living residents.

Nate's Ag Committee Report, December 2024

In our region it's easy to look out the windows (almost portholes) in the late Fall and feel the best of the year is behind us. If jubilation is for June, then give December to descent. We can take heart knowing what drops to decay gets remade farther on. This is Nature's season to stockpile resources for the Spring uplift. It helps to remember a year runs along a spiraling path, like that of a stylus on a vinyl record, except we make the groove as we go. Along the way, we replay our track with what fidelity memory can keep, humming the familiar tune and making the rest up from scratch.

Farmers, head for the hearth! Repent, refresh, and make ready to recast. Let the wreaths on your doors be so many flags of the embattled and allied republics of cheer and sanity. Get companionable. Find tubs to soak in and friends to chatter with. Just don't forget to bask a bit in the fleeting glory of some free time all to yourself.

Cordially,
Nate Johnson,
MRG Agriculture Committee



Certified Organic Produce
Gourmet Restaurant
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www.gatheringtogetherfarm.com



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www.windyhill-familyfarm.com
Philomath, Oregon

Windy Hill Farm has volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities!
Contact Laura at 331-201-5458 or lauraploeg@yahoo.com

Blue Zones and Quality of Life

See www.bluezones.com or *The Blue Zones: Lessons from Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest* by Dan Buettner, National Geographic Books.

What is the real value of understanding the wisdom and knowledge that is brought to us by National Geographic in the study of blue zones? The answer is not about how long we live, because this is dictated by many factors. The answer is the quality of our life. By using the blue zones as a model for well-being, community and health, we create a better life for ourselves.

We will all die when our time comes, but hopefully we can live with joy, gratitude and the blessings of community until that time comes.
- Mark Files

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

If you or someone you know who works in agriculture, forestry or the fishing industry is struggling, call or text **833-897-2474** for help. The Agristress Helpline is free, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has trained counselors with experience in those industries who can take phone calls in 160 languages, with English, Spanish and Vietnamese professionals available to respond by text.

"Strangers are just family you have yet to come to know."
- Mitch Alborn

Philomath Community Services

Nancy's Food Pantry and June's Kids Klostet Hours:

Tues. 4:30–7:30pm
Thurs. 9:00am–12:00pm
Third Sat., 12:30 to 3:30pm
(closed holidays)

Donation Hours:

Mon.–Fri., 9:00am–3:30pm
Call ahead: 541-929-2499
(closed holidays)

Addresses:
Physical: 360 S 9th St Philomath OR 97370
Mailing: PO Box 1334 Philomath OR 97370

ALL AGES

WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 22nd
 12pm - 4pm Country Swing Workshop (\$45)
 Guest Instructor: Jianbo He - Intermediate Swing Series

6pm - 8pm Country Swing J&J & Line Competition (\$10 each)
 5pm - 11pm Social Dance
 (\$5 or Free with workshop purchase)

24707 Grange Hall Rd, Philomath, OR 97370

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

Oregon Humanities Event
 LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis
 January 30, 7:00 p.m.

Ruha Benjamin will serve as this year's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration keynote speaker. Dr. Benjamin is the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University and a 2024 MacArthur Fellow. Her keynote, titled "Who Owns the Future? From Artificial Intelligence to Abundant Imagination," will address the social dimensions of science, medicine, and technology, focusing on the relationship between innovation and social inequity.

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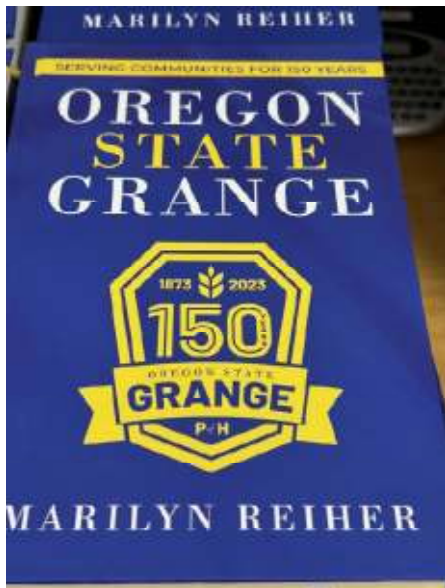
These are the few ways we can practice humility:

- To speak as little as possible of one's self.
- To mind one's own business.
- Not to want to manage other people's affairs.
- To avoid curiosity.
- To accept contradictions and correction cheerfully.
- To pass over the mistakes of others.
- To accept insults and injuries.
- To accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked.
- To be kind and gentle even under provocation.
- Never to stand on one's dignity.
- To choose always the hardest.

- Mother Teresa



Author Marilyn Reiher attended the Holiday Open House at the OSG office in Salem on December 8th. A copy of her book about Oregon State Grange history is available at Marys River Grange.



The Grange, officially known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is a family-friendly fraternal organization with a rich history and a highly visible community presence. It is an example of democratic, grass-roots activism and is non-partisan at all levels. Its policies are established through debate, but in collaboration and unity. Community service is an integral part of the Grange.

In 1867, the National Grange became the first nationwide farm organization and was the first national organization to give full voice and vote to women, 60 years before the adoption of Universal Suffrage in the United States.

In the 1870s, the National Grange was the first national farm organization to attempt to organize African American farmers following the Civil War.

Maxtivity's Happy Noon Year at Marys River Grange



Numerous family-friendly activities at Marys River Grange hosted by Maxtivity, Philomath's nonprofit arts and crafts creative space, on New Year's Eve included the appearance of Caesar the "No Drama Llama." The event was a great success!



Cousins Tesla and Rylee joined Granger Maisie Woo for fun and llama love.

Read more local news at philomathnews.com

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*: Feb. 24th**

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



Time to pay annual dues! No changes from last year. Please make sure to send them in in a timely fashion, which will greatly help the officer team.

Individuals: \$55

Families: \$110

Business Associates: \$55

Cash or Checks may be made out to Marys River Grange #685 and given either our Secretary Bea Johnson, Treasurer Karen Hudspeth, or sent to our mailing address below (please don't send cash through the postal service):

Marys River Grange #685

P.O. Box 1301

Philomath, OR, 97370

