

Marys River Grange #685

Philomath, Oregon



2020

Community
Service
Yearbook



Pandemic Version

**Marys River Grange #685
2020 Community Service Yearbook**

Introduction

Community Service Report

Fundraising

Gathering Together Farm Support

Aiding the Community

Plant Sale and Seed Swap

Saving the Willamette Community and Grange Hall Historic Building

Holiday Farm Fire

Philomath Community Services Holiday Cheer

Fighting Hunger

Community Health

Low Cost Medical Clinics

Yoga at the Grange

Bringing the Community Together during a Pandemic

Initial Pandemic Response

Social Zoom Hour

Virtual Harvest Fest Art Show

Grangerbread Village

Juniors

Nature Detectives Program

Publicity and Individual Works

Social Media

Marys River Messenger and Publicity

Individual Works/Marys River Grange Volunteer of the Year

Summary

Appendix: Copies of 2020 *Marys River Messenger* Issues

Introduction

As the calendar turned from 2019 to 2020, Marys River Grange had a full slate of community service events planned. But this year would turn out far differently than planned. In January members began work for the April Plant Sale and Seed Swap, gathering at work parties hosted by Sunbow Produce. By the time March arrived, trays of seedlings were ready, but the public was warned to shelter in place. Orders were taken by phone and email, and delivered to doorways, and the majority of starts given to Lupe's Community Garden, while the sales went to Philomath Community Services. In addition, GreenGable farm donated a large amount of seed potatoes.

The Farmworker Medical clinics were cancelled, as was the Highway 34 cleanup, Amazing Grange Day, Harvest Fest, our Pie Auction, several planned Conversation Projects and regular events such as game night were cancelled indefinitely.

Marys River Grange adapted. In addition to holding our meetings via Zoom, we held monthly Zoom social events where we could check up on each other and have some face to face, over a screen time. When the pandemic situation was unsure, we formed an emergency team with other local organizations, offered the use of our Hall to the city of Philomath, and formed a telephone tree. We directed donations and funds to create an emergency fund for those who might require medical or employment assistance. Thankfully our county was never affected severely enough to require the use of such contingencies.

With our ability to conduct in-person events limited or prohibited, most of our community service was conducted by members on their own time; however we still managed to conduct Yoga classes online and outdoors, support the Philomath Community Services and the Holiday Cheer program, use some emergency funds to help repair a community home for medical needs and hold an online Harvest Fest Art Show.

A pandemic can't keep a good Grange down!

Introduction

Community Service Facts

The pandemic affected our public presence. In 2019, Marys River held over 70 events. In 2020, we held slightly fewer and many were held online.

Marys River members worked only 300 hours less helping our community in 2020 (1700 hours) than 2019, showing their own desire to continue aiding our community.

Marys River held Yoga classes and Social meetings over Zoom to keep connections alive.

Members promoted events in newspaper articles, flyers and on social media.

Marys River Grange still managed to raise over \$2,300 to support our community, and thanks to the generosity of member farms such as Sunbow Produce, GreenGable Farm and especially Gathering Together Farm, over \$20,000 was raised to support a wide variety of local causes.

2020 Community Service Events

Farmworker Medical Clinics, Yoga, Nature Detectives, Social Hour, Home Repair for Medical Patient, Holiday Cheer, Harvest Fest Art Show, Grangerbread Village, Farmworker Pandemic Assistance, Pandemic Response, Aid in Census Training, Holiday Farm Fire Response, Plant Sale and Seed Swap Benefit, Formation of 501c3 for Willamette Community and Grange Hall and support of AA Meetings.



FUNDRAISING



Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving.
Hank Rosso

Fundraising

Gathering Together Farm Support

Marys River held several small fundraising events and Sunbow Produce organized a food and financial aid drive for victims of the Holiday Farm Fire in adjacent Lane County, but it is Gathering Together Farm who leads our Grange in financial support of our community.

In 2009, when Marys River Grange voted to close, John Evelund and Sally Brewer lead the effort to save the Grange. This farm not only cares about the Grange, it cares about its workers and its community and it puts that caring into action. The farm itself is a Grange member, in addition to John and Sally.



Gathering Together also sponsors the low cost medical clinic held at Marys River, of which only three were held in 2020. They rent the hardware and drapes to provide semi-private patient areas and the costs of medical supplies. Marys River provides the Hall space at no cost and several of the staff are Grange members.

Gathering Together also allows the Philomath Community Service Gleaners to come to the farm weekly and glean the fields and greenhouses in order to provide food to the Philomath Food Bank.

Gathering Together provides support to many community organizations and fundraisers. A gift certificate to the farm restaurant is a sought after commodity. Gathering Together donated over \$4,000 to schools, colleges, Granges and non-profits for a wide variety of causes: youth, sports, agricultural programs, suicide prevention, and more.

Fundraising Facts



\$2,356 raised by Marys River
\$10,354.50 value of crops gleaned at GTF
\$7,974 other food donations by GTF
\$1,256 community donations by GTF
\$23,105 total raised

Supported Philomath Community Services (Gleaners, Holiday Cheer, Community Garden), victims of Holiday Farm Fire and local non-profits.



There is no power for change greater than a community
discovering what it cares about.
Margaret J. Wheatley

Plant Sale and Seed Swap Benefit

Marys River Grange has a close relationship with Philomath Community services. In addition to working as a Grange to support the organization, our members also volunteer to serve with the Gleaners program, Lupe's Community Garden and the Holiday Cheer Program.

The plan was to expand on the inaugural efforts of 2019 by working together at Sunbow Produce, who would supply soil, containers and hoop house space and allow us to provide an expanded offering over last year.

But by March, the pandemic intervened and any plans of holding an in-person sale were dashed.

So members collected sales remotely and delivered them safely. With the pandemic looming, there was a lot of interest in starts. A large number of starts and seeds, as well as a large donation of unsprayed seed potato were donated to Lupe's Community Garden.

Despite the curtailed event, the 2020 sale still managed to raise nearly as much as 2019, and provided a greater number of starts to Lupe's Community Garden.



(A pre-pandemic, pre-mask work party at Sunbow Organic Produce)

Plant Sale Facts

Twelve members worked 125 hours, raised \$275 and donated plants to Lupe's Community Garden.

Saving the Willamette Community and Grange Hall Historic Building

Working on a Grange Hall is not usually considered community service, but the Willamette Community and Grange Hall on Greenberry Road south of Corvallis is not a usual Grange Hall. Willamette Grange #52 is the second oldest active Grange in Oregon and the Hall has deteriorated since a combination of heavy snowstorm and fire damaged the roof.

The building is a recognizable feature between Corvallis and Eugene, and has a long history of community use until it fell into disrepair.

The building is listed on both the Register of Benton County and National Historic Places, due to its unique style and age. The Hall will be 100 years old in 2023, and members of Marys River have begun working with members of Willamette to take steps to save the Hall.

Marys River members formed a 501c3 Foundation, paying all initial costs, to assist with grant writing and allow for tax-deductible contributions to support the Hall. They have also written and obtained several grants to assist with the roof project, and other building and grounds improvements, started an online social media campaign on Gofundme, and worked with Willamette members to take initial steps to address some of the physical issue with the Hall.



(New Water Tank)

WCGHHBF Facts

Repairs have included fixing the plumbing to the bathroom, replacing the pressure tank, strengthening a bathroom floor, cleaning the Hall interior of junk, removing all plaster to gain access to the roof and bird proofing the roof as well as adding a temporary sheeting to reduce leaks.

Planned for 2021 is portico restoration and roof replacement.

To date \$23,500 of \$80,000 has been raised for the roof replacement.

Please join our effort to
Restore Willamette Grange!

We are working to restore this community building by its 100th Birthday in 2023.

From this



2020

To this

original
condition
1923



Save The Hall – Phase 1: stabilization with new trusses will repair roof damage in 2021
We are presently at about 30% of our \$80,000 goal.

We seek tax deductible donations through our non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation.

Donations can be sent to WCGHHBF at P.O. Box 1923, Corvallis OR, 97339

Or donated online at: <https://gf.me/u/yj54kk>

All donations to WCGHHBF are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Willamette Community and Grange Hall Historic Building Foundation is gathering partners and funds to fully restore this resource for community use. When restored, this building will be available for rental, community educational, social, and cultural activities, and family events.

History: Built in 1923 as a joint effort between the community and Willamette Grange #52, it has served as a community center for south Corvallis and Monroe as a place to gather for weddings, school graduations, meetings, dances, educational programs, and more. In 2008 it was accepted in the National Register of Historic Places.

Work so far: We have received grants and donations to replace all rusted water piping and the water pressure tank, repair rear stairs and bathroom floor, restore the entrance portico (happening soon), temporarily cover the roof to stop leaks and stop bird damage, removed damaged plaster and lath on the second story, and complete roof engineering plans.

Questions? Contact Toni Hoyman or Jay Sexton 541-929-5452
or email WCGHHBF@gmail.com

This historic building is located at the corner of Hwy 99W and Greenberry Rd.
7 miles South of Corvallis and 10 miles North of Monroe

Aiding the Community

Holiday Farm Fire

As if a pandemic was not enough to deal with in 2020, late summer saw some of the worst fires in the history of the state of Oregon. From the outskirts of the Portland metro area, on the coast, through the Santiam and McKenzie Valleys and in the south near Ashland, homes and even entire towns burned. Thousands were displaced, and the orange, smoky air that settled over the state added to the misery of 2020.

The area around Marys River Grange was not affected, but the Holiday Farm Fire that destroyed the entire town of Blue River and threatened Walterville counted some of our friends and fellow Grangers among the displaced.



(donations collected by Sunbow Produce)



(Nate and Yadira of Sunbow Produce)

Sunbow Produce sought donations from customers and made a large donation, and Marys River Grange sent \$200 to Walterville Grange to use to aid local victims.



(Walterville Grange donation to fire victims)

Holiday Farm Fire Facts

173,00 acres burned
4,700 people displaced
431 homes burned

Contributed \$200 to Walterville efforts.

Sunbow Produce collected food, personal hygiene items, clothing, water and more.

Philomath Community Services Holiday Cheer

Not only did the 2020 pandemic take a toll on human life and mental health from enforced isolation, jobs were lost, and for many people in the service industries, those who were still able to work faced reduced hours and tips. Economic hardship was a real factor for many.



The Holiday Cheer program, directed by member Laura Coen addresses this need at a time when it is felt most harshly by many – the holidays. The program provides a hygiene basket and food to each eligible family, and seeks volunteers to purchase Christmas gifts consisting of clothing, a book and a toy, with input from the family for children (at an average cost of \$75 per child).

With the need higher than ever, Marys River Grange supported eight children in 2020. Five Grange members shopped for the gifts, while eight offered to assist with distributing the items to the families.

Holiday Cheer Facts

60 families with 163 children and 113 adults were served in 2020.

\$600 donated by Marys River Grange to support 8 children.

28 Volunteers worked 275 hours.

This is the second year Marys River Grange has participated.



(Five Grangers and a community member at work distributing for Holiday Cheer)

Aiding the Community

Fighting Hunger

Marys River Grange responded to State Master Susan Noah's call to work with local food banks in 2018, and since then, fighting hunger has become a primary work of Marys River Grange.

Even though the Plant Sale and Seed Swap was cut short due to the pandemic, it still provided Tomato, Pepper, Kale, Cabbage, Lettuce and Squash starts to Lupe's Community Garden. In addition, GreenGable farm donated a large amount of unsprayed seed potato.

The lack of physical meetings also impacted Marys River Grange's support of the Philomath Food Bank, as fewer in-person meetings provided less opportunity to collect donations and funds, yet members still sent checks in support.

Gathering Together Farm not only allows the Philomath Gleaners to glean their crops, it also contributes to several other local community groups fighting hunger.

Marys River Grange works with and supports the Oregon University Extension Service, Ten Rivers Food Web, and Friends of Family Farmers, all organizations concerned with helping grow food.

Fighting Hunger Facts

77 pounds of food, household items and pet food donated to Food Bank.

\$435 donated to Food Bank.

\$7974 value of food and donations by GTF to hunger causes.

Member Denise Guinn serves as Program Manager of Lupe's Community Garden.

Member Catherine Biscoe serves as Program Manager of Philomath Gleaners.



Philomath Food Bank
PO Box 1034, 340 S 9th Street
Philomath, OR 97137
503.878.0490
DENRVS-100300N

0100156

Quantity: 100.00
Unit: lb
Total: 100.00

Donor: Marys River Grange

Item	Quantity	Unit	Price	Total
dog food	40	#		
red. proc	5	#		
cash			\$16.00	

Thank you

Signature: [Signature]

COMMUNITY HEALTH



It is health that is the real wealth, and not
pieces of gold and silver.
Mahatma Gandhi

Community Health

Low Cost Medical Clinic

Marys River works in combination with Gathering Together Farm (a business member, and the owners John Evelund and Sally Brewer are members) to provide this medical clinic targeted at helping farm workers. Grange members warm the Hall prior to use, sometimes aid with setup, and provide free use of the Hall. Usually seven or eight people work - four to five medical personnel (three of whom are Grange members), two people to handle scheduling and billing, and one translator. On average, they see 6-15 people per clinic, and the majority of the work concerns sore backs and muscles. By addressing these problems locally and at a low cost, more serious injuries are prevented.



(Clinic in action at the Grange Hall, source OPB)

Nurse Jean Weisensee and Dr. Gabriel Ledger (in center of following picture) are also members of Marys River Grange.

(Nurses and Doctors at the clinic)



Only three medical clinics were held in 2020, yet an important milestone was met. In March, GTF, Marys River members, medical staff and GTF farmworkers celebrated the fiftieth medical clinic since the inception of this program.

Farmworker Clinic Facts

Dr. Gabe Ledger and Nurse Jean Weisensee are members of the Grange

2020 celebrated the fiftieth Farmworker Medical Clinic held

Community Health

Yoga at the Grange

In 2019, Laura Coen began offering Vinyasa Yoga at the Hall. There is no charge for Grange members, and a sliding fee of \$5-20 for non-members, although no one is turned away. Yoga provides health benefits, and is one more opportunity for the rural community to use our Hall.



The winter session was able to be held at the Hall, and some in-person outdoor classes held during the summer as well as classes held over Zoom.



(Yoga class held via Zoom)

Yoga Facts

On average, six to twenty people attended a Yoga session.

Yoga provides physical and mental health benefits to those who practice it.

Zoom attendees came from Eugene, Spain and California.

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER DURING A PANDEMIC



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.
African Proverb

Keeping the Community Together During a Pandemic

Initial Pandemic Response

By the time the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, the news concerned overflow in hospitals, rising death counts, and a sense of fear and uncertainty. Despite shelter in place orders, Marys River Grangers connected online and via the phone to organize on how to deal with this new threat to our community.

Marys River established an emergency fund, to assist those with medical or employment issues arising from the pandemic. Marys River also partnered with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter to work together, and should the need arise, we offered the use of our Hall to the City of Philomath.

A telephone tree was established, to keep our social bonds active during this time of enforced isolation.

Thankfully, Benton County was not majorly affected by COVID-19. While it did reach Oregon's Extreme Risk category and stayed there longer than most counties, our hospitals never reached overflowing. Nonetheless, most, if not all members knew at least one person or family member affected by the pandemic.

Early in the pandemic, members worked safely to fix a rotting support beam for a home needing to accommodate a medical bed. Funds from the emergency fund were used, and over several days the rotten support removed, a concrete footing used to remove contact from soil, the home jacked up and a new support inserted. In addition, deadfall and a demolished porch were cleaned up.



(Support work on home)

Marys River received news from Henry Storch, of Old Blue Raw Honey and Grange member, a community of farm workers were idle and having difficulty. A donation of \$200 was made and several Grange members also provided work for some of the farm workers.

When Churches closed facilities, Marys River allowed the local AA chapter to hold meetings at our Hall.

Marys River provided the Hall for free to the Census Bureau for training.

Pandemic Facts

Benton County had fewer than 2,000 COVID-19 cases in 2020.

No Marys River Grange members were infected in 2020.

Keeping the Community Together During a Pandemic

Social Zoom Hour

By the summer, fear of an overwhelming pandemic in Oregon had eased. While the fear of a massive outbreak had subsided, it was achieved through closing facilities, schools, churches and workplaces.

With lockdowns and closures, isolation replaced infection as a primary concern. This concern intensified as the summer ended and the ability to meet safely outdoors was impacted by weather.

Marys River began to hold Zoom Social Hours every third Wednesday. This allowed members and friends, especially those who lived alone, to have some contact. We even had one member, who had traveled for remote work right before the start of the pandemic, join us from Kansas. We also had a member who had moved to eastern Oregon join us for several sessions.

The gatherings were generally small, ranging from four to eight people, yet helped provide a lifeline to those who had no other social interaction during periods of enforced isolation.

Social Zoom Hour Facts

Six Social Zoom Hours were held in 2020.

The furthest attendee was in Kansas.

CONVERSATIONS AT MARYS RIVER GRANGE



**Seeing the Forest and the Trees:
Stewarding Our Public Lands**

We live in a state with abundant forests, and yet we don't all see the same thing when we look into the woods. Oregon is known for both its timber industry and its deep environmental values. What are the beliefs we have about our forests and what will we, as a state, do to steward, manage, and protect this special resource?

Come share questions, ideas, and experiences in a conversation facilitated by Mariah Acton.



A free public program hosted by Marys River Grange #685 and sponsored by Oregon Humanities.

Mariah Acton is a graduate of the University of Oregon where her master's work focused at the intersection of conflict resolution, nonprofit management, and public administration. She works as a strategic business analyst at Oregon Housing and Community Services in Salem, where she helps facilitate conversations around housing, homelessness, and anti-poverty policies. As a former researcher for the US Forest Service and volunteer facilitator with forest collaboratives in the southern Willamette Valley, she recognizes that this is an exciting time for public-driven, sustainable forest management, and she appreciates that there are more conversations to be had.

Oregon Humanities

Thursday,
March 12, 2020
6:00 p.m.

24707 GRANGE HALL RD.
PHILOMATH, OR

CARPPOOLING
ENCOURAGED

EVERYONE INVITED!
FREE AND OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED

FOR MORE INFO:
CALL: (541) 829-2907
EMAIL:
MARYSRIVERGRANGE@
GMAIL.COM

MARYS RIVER GRANGE #685
24707 Grange Hall Road
Philomath, OR
www.marysriverrgrange.org

(cancelled in 2020)

Keeping the Community Together During a Pandemic

Online Harvest Fest Art Show

One more casualty of the pandemic was our Harvest Festival, where craft vendors sell products, cider is pressed, other community groups are invited to raise funds and old time music provided.



Organizer Susan Stogsdill decided to host an online Art Show, and provided art and craft prizes from her business. Artists were allowed to offer their art for sale, with Marys River Grange keeping a small percentage. Almost 300 people would view these submissions.



Seven artists submitted works, and they were photographed and presented online.



(Winner!)

Junior member Phoebe Coen submitted a Zentangle art piece about the recent fires which won best of show.

We are hoping to add a live, in-person Art Show to the 2021 Harvest Fest next year.

Art Show Facts

Seven artists submitted eleven pieces.

The high bid for Phoebe's work was \$55.

Keeping the Community Together During a Pandemic

Grangerbread Village

One thing that people missed during the holidays of 2020, as the virus surged, was seeing the traditional holiday shows. Marys River tried to fill that gap by holding an online 'Grangerbread Village' show on Facebook.



Grange members made light houses, houses, and best of all, Jim Rouff and Camille Hall fashioned a gingerbread farm.



This is another idea we hope to do in person in 2021.

Grangerbread Village Facts

Ten Grangers submitted a variety of structures for posting on Facebook.

The submitted photos received 729 Facebook views.



A person's a person, no matter how small.
Dr. Suess

Juniors

Nature Detectives

Yet another pandemic casualty was in-person school. In an effort to aid parents, teach kids, and provide some measure of social interaction, Judy Hays-Eberts and Caroline Choquette developed the Nature Detectives program for Marys River Juniors and their friends.

Gathering outside, masked and in safe family units keeping distance from each other, two sessions were held.



The first, at Greasy Creek near the Hall investigated water flow, found evidence of beavers and provided an opportunity to play in the creek.



The second, at Fitton-Green Wilderness Area investigated the flow of air and its effect on vegetation.

Nature Detective Facts

Eight Junior+1 members attended at least one session.

Five non Grange member youth attended.

PUBLICITY AND INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS



Without publicity there can be no public spirit, and without public spirit, every nation must decay.

Benjamin Disraeli

Publicity and Individual Works

Social Media

Marys River uses its social media outlets (members and friends mailing lists, Grange website, Facebook and Nextdoor) to advocate for community causes and to attempt to strengthen our community. Some examples are reaching out to friends and members to help Philomath Community Services and members in distress, promoting events supporting organizations such as K-9 Care-a-van, Senior Dog Rescue of Oregon, Ten Rivers Food Web, Benton County Sustainability Coalition and others, and reaching out to members for opportunities for those interested in small scale farming.

Marys River Grange has several members with strong IT skills. Some of them support community web sites, and Marys River supports several local community organizations by hosting their mailing lists for members.

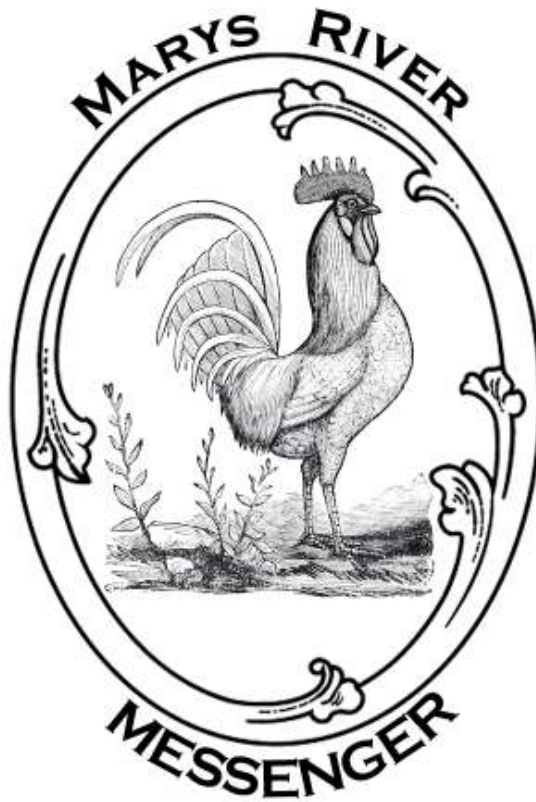


(Sharing a post from Friends of Family Farmers online)

Publicity and Individual Works

Marys River Messenger

Partly to thank the community for its assistance and support in the 2018 roof repair project and also to keep our members and other Granges in Benton Pomona informed, Marys River Grange began publication of an 8-page newsletter, published by Judy Hays-Eberts. The publication is provided free of charge to members and Pomona Granges. Copies are further distributed at the City of Philomath, Philomath Library, and Philomath Community Services. The PDF is posted on the Marys River Grange website. *Marys River Messenger* is published bi-monthly and contains a calendar of community events, usually from Granges, OSU Extension Service and 4-H. Free advertising is provided to Grange member businesses.



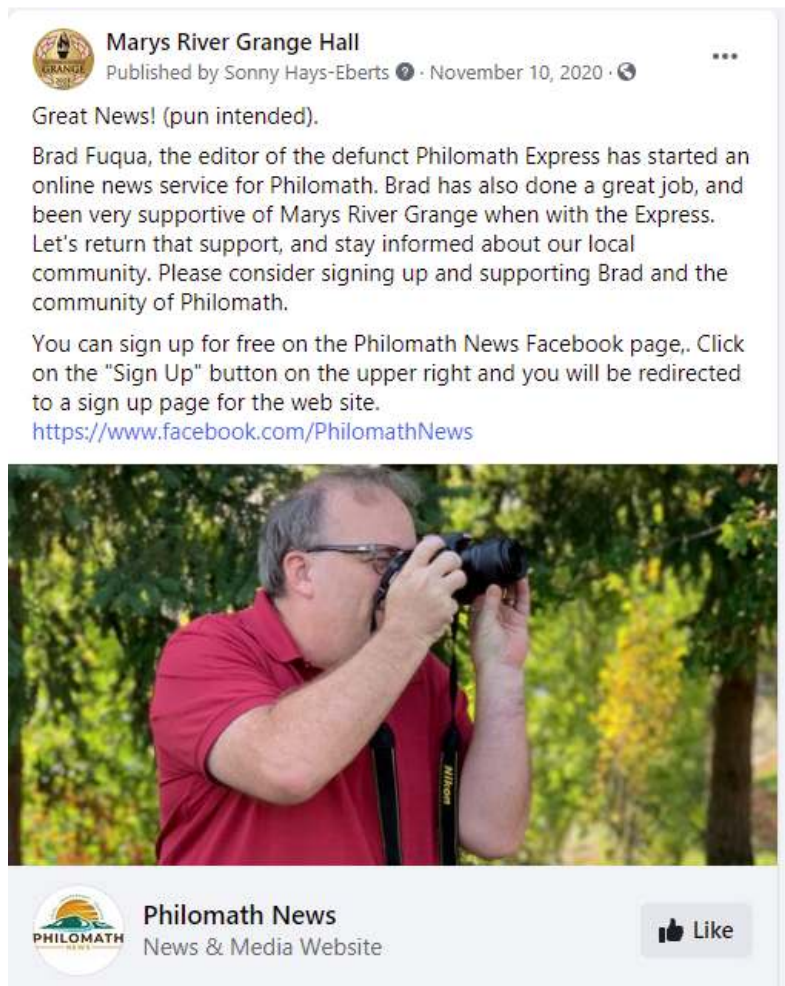
Publicized Events

Plant Sale/Seed Swap – Reader Board, Flyers, Social Media, Marys River Messenger
Nature Detectives – Social Media, Marys River Messenger
Yoga – Flyers, Social Media, Marys River Messenger, State Grange Bulletin
Early Pandemic Measures – National Grange Good Day Magazine, Social Media, Marys River Messenger
Harvest Fest Art Show – Social Media, Marys River Messenger
Grangerbread Village – Social Media, Marys River Messenger

Publicity and Individual Works

Publicity

All Community Service events are advertised online, on Facebook and Nextdoor, however this year there was no need to post flyers. We also share our events with partner organizations, so the information is disseminated on mailing lists of organizations such as Ten Rivers Food Web, Benton County Cultural Coalition or the Benton County Sustainability Coalition. Most are also presented on the City of Philomath reader board, in the Corvallis Gazette-Times or Philomath Express. However, in 2020 the Philomath Express folded. Marys River Grange was happy to see Brad Fuqua start a new online news service, The Philomath News, and we support his work and hope to be featured in it and use it to advertise our events.



MARYS RIVER GRANGE

Hall back to life amid pandemic

Marys River Grange has certainly been affected by the pandemic. All of our planned activities, including Amazing Grange Day with our rummage sale and pie auction, our plant sale and seed swap, our road cleanup on Highway 34, and our Harvest Fest with craft booths and cider pressing, were all canceled.

Our hall rentals for community and family events were all canceled by the renters, as families and organizations came to grips with the uncertainties of the coronavirus, travel and public health restrictions.



JAY SEXTON

Recently we have had some rentals under rules set out by the state and our state grange leadership. As an event venue, our square footage limits us to a maximum gathering of 50 people, with masks and distancing, contact tracing sign-in, disinfecting stations and hourly disinfection of commonly touched surfaces.

After the recent prohibitions, we are glad to be able to offer our hall for families and organizations which have been unable to meet. One recent use of the hall was a training by the U.S. census for their local field workers. The training for this very important task was supported by Marys River Grange by providing the hall for free for four days.

For our grange members, one pandemic difficulty has been our inability to meet and socialize at

our monthly potluck and business meeting. Grange supports rural communities with nonpartisan, nonsectarian, face-to-face cooperative action. We have missed the face-to-face part.

During March and April, we met via Zoom by phone and computer, and in May, June, July and August, we met outside in the Grange backyard, wearing masks in a distanced circle of chairs. We could check in with each other and see half of our faces and conduct our monthly business, but – no potluck! (sigh)

Our ongoing membership drive reached the 100 mark. Membership gain is one measure of success and Marys River Grange now has the third-highest membership of Oregon's 164 granges. Other marks of a successful grange are community involvement, hall improvements and participation in state grange affairs, and Marys River is active in these areas as well.

At Marys River, annual dues are \$50 per person or \$100 for a family membership. Our monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Email us at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or call 541-829-2907 for more information.

An exciting addition resulting from our family memberships is the development of our junior grange with activities for children between 5 and 13 years of age. Normally we have activities for the juniors during our monthly meetings.

This last weekend, we had a special "nature detectives" activity for the kids, investigating

Greasy Creek (which borders our grange property). Marys River Grange, after existing for 93 years, with young families in our membership, and junior activities at our meetings, is confident we will uphold the grange motto "Esto Perpetua" – "Let it be Perpetual."

Willamette Grange No. 52, our sister grange at the corner of Greenberry Road and Highway 99W, is making progress in restoring its majestic hall. A \$5,000 grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund paid for an engineering plan to repair the damaged roof structure. The necessary roof structural repair is planned for 2021 with fund-raising success.

They have also established a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation to allow tax-deductible donations to support the restoration. In the next few months, the sagging front porch will be restored. Improvements to the water system, restrooms and landscaping are all progressing as well. Keep an eye out for an open house for this great building – on its way back to being more of a community resource than a pitiable relic. Contact willamettegrange@gmail.com to help.

After this uncertain time, we look forward to again having public events at our grange halls to celebrate the connections in our communities.

Jay Sexton, a former master of Marys River Grange, currently holds the office of steward. He can be reached at marysrivergrange@gmail.com.

(Article in August 19, 2020 Philomath Express)

Publicity and Individual Works

Individual Works

In addition to serving our community on behalf of the Grange, many of our members dedicate countless hours to community service at their own initiative. Philomath is proud of its reputation as a city of volunteers, and our members are happy to contribute to that reputation.



(Wyatt and Phoebe Coen helping rebuild a fence)

Here is a sample of some of these efforts.

Over 200 hours were spent by a single member cleaning up Marys River gravel bar and Marys River Park, while others aided in beach cleanups and county park cleanup efforts.

Marys River Grange members formed a 501c3 Foundation, the Willamette Community and Grange Hall Historic Building Foundation, to restore and preserve the historic building.

Not only does Marys River Grange support many branches of Philomath Community Services, our members also serve as Directors of the Community Garden, Gleaners and Holiday Cheer programs. In addition, several other members volunteer time, energy, money and donations to these programs.

When schools were open, members volunteered to tutor, teach yoga, teach robotics and teach music.

Publicity and Individual Works



(Toni Hoyman sewing masks)

During the pandemic and fires, individual members collected food and donations for fire victims, shopped for the elderly and endangered and sewed masks for places as far away as the Navajo Nation.

Members volunteer in support of a wide variety of organizations that serve our community – AA, Girl Scouts Troop 10310, Library, ARC, Senior Dog Rescue of Oregon, Mt. Union historical cemetery, Ten Rivers Food Web, and also serve on a variety of non-profit boards.



Our members are involved with our community, and they strive to keep it a friendly, caring rural community.

Publicity and Individual Works

Volunteer of the Year



The 2020 Volunteer of the Year of Marys River Grange is Caroline Choquette. Caroline spends many hours cleaning Marys River and the Marys River Park and she is a staunch supporter of the Food Bank. She and her loyal and friendly canine companion Darwin are regular attendees at meetings, where Caroline serves as Vice-President, and her desserts are eagerly anticipated whenever potlucks may return. This year Caroline came up with the idea and worked with Judy and the Juniors to implement the Nature Detectives program, where Marys River Grange and community youth come together to observe nature, gather clues and draw conclusions. Thanks to her work on this fun and exciting program and her steadfast resolve in taking care of the natural world in our community, Caroline is our 2020 Volunteer of the Year



Summary

The year 2020 was a challenging and unexpected year. Planning events and coming together were challenging at best, and impossible at many times. Despite the obstacles, fear, isolation, pandemic, economic hardship, fires, and other events that roiled 2020, Marys River Grange members stood up and supported our community and Grange. As community service chairperson and President of Marys River Grange, I am tremendously proud of the effort our members put forth, and I hope that in 2021 we may be able to once again work together in our common charge to be quiet, peaceful citizens who feed the hungry, help the fatherless and widows of the world, and strive to do well.

Sonny Hays-Eberts

APPENDIX A

MARYS RIVER MESSENGER

