

Eugene Garden Club News

January 2017

Volume 12, Issue 4

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz
62 members

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street



President's Corner

“January is the quietest month in the garden..... But just because it looks quiet doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs the pure rainfall while microorganisms convert tilled-under fodder into usable nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come.”

*Rosalie Muller Wright, Editor
Sunset Magazine, January 1999*

Enjoy your quiet, my friends. Spring is a promise.



. Debi Luidhardt
EGC President

There are no green thumbs or black thumbs. There are only gardeners and non-gardeners. Gardeners are the ones who ruin after ruin get on with the high defiance of nature herself, creating, in the very face of her chaos and tornado, the bower or roses and the pride of irises. It sounds very well to garden a 'natural way'. You may see the natural way in any desert, any swamp, any leech-filled laurel hell. Defiance, on the other hand, is what makes gardeners.

--Henry Mitchell

Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, January 17, 2017

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. General Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Extending the Season*

By Darren Morgan

Shonnards Nursery

Coordinator: Sister Janet Marcisz

HOSTESSES: Georgia Zahar*, Dianne Dewey,
Phyllis Hamel

GREETERS: Sister Janet Marcisz, Jean Damon

First EGC Meeting of 2017

Darren Morgan from Shonnard's Nursery in Corvallis will be presenting two talks on "Extending the Gardening Season" in Eugene, January 17, one at our Eugene Garden Club meeting at 1:00 p.m., and the other at the monthly Master Gardeners seminar that evening, 7:00 p.m., at the OSU Extension office, 996 Jefferson.

Darren is a life-long resident of the Willamette Valley and has worked in the nursery industry for over 25 years. He will show several techniques for extending the gardening season.

Look for in this Issue

New members	Squirrels
Walama Project	Photo Contest
December Events	Calendar
Groups to Meet	Storm Damage

INS & OUTS

OF THE EUGENE GARDEN CLUB

. . . DIRECTORIES

Please make the following changes to your Member Directories:

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Greens Sale Wraps Up

Congratulations ladies and gentleman again on a very successful 2016 Holiday Greens Sale! At our recent EGC Board meeting the figures for the sale were reported. We had expenses of \$1,019.23 and gross income of \$6,771.00, so we netted \$5,751.77. Hooray!

We had a wonderful variety of plant materials and plenty of conifers to make beautiful products. Thanks to all brought stuff, made things, fed us,

On sale day, December 3, nearly everything was sold by 12:30 so we cleaned up and put up a sold out sign on the door by 1:30 p.m. and went home. The few things that were left, 2 large, 2 medium, and 1 small poinsettias, some of the birch "angels", and a wreath for the fireplace were all purchased either the next day or the following weekend when several of our members were at the clubhouse making 24 small table centerpieces for renters who were having their holiday banquet that night.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TIME, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS FUN EVENT!

Walama Restoration Project

Alley Engelbrecht talked with the EGC Board of Directors this month about the Walama Restoration Project which is involved with various civic entities like the Corps of Engineers, BLM, Forest Service, City of Eugene, and more. They present and organize projects to help our habitat in the Eugene area including Oak Prairie Habitat rehabilitation and work on creating special habitats in Alton Baker Park to name a couple of examples.

Alley is the Volunteer Coordinator for this organization and a recent UO graduate in Environmental Studies. She is interested in attracting involvement with our club and members perhaps even setting up something for eradicating the ivy at the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House.

Since one of the purposes of our Non-Profit 501(c)(3) club is involvement in civic and community outreach, we will be hearing more about possibilities with the Walama Restoration Project.

Potluck at December Meeting

EGC traditionally holds a Holiday Potluck for our December meeting with volunteers decking out tables with their own linens, tableware, and floral designs. This year we had harp music in the background and were further entertained by the duo Eugene Harpists composed of professional classical musicians Jane Allen and Patricia Lambert (Dianne Dewey's daughter).



Husbands Gene Michaelson, Bernard Damon, Bill Dewey, harpists Patricia Lambert & Jane Allen. Donna Shirley is with her table above.

Squirrel Appreciation Day January 21, 2017

Squirrel Appreciation Day is an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate your tree climbing, nut gathering, neighborhood squirrels. It's held mid-winter when food sources are scarce for squirrels and other wildlife. Sure, squirrels spent all fall gathering and putting away food. But, their supplies may not be enough. So, give them an extra special treat today to supplement their winter diets.

Not everyone likes squirrels. While they are fun to watch skirting around the yard and trees, they are aggressive at bird feeders. Squirrels tip almost any bird feeder and spill seeds in search of the particular seeds they want. In the fall, they attack our pumpkins on front porches in search of the seeds inside. For gardeners, they dig up and steal flower bulbs, and may eat some of the veggies in your garden. *(And on your editor's property, they climb the fir trees, tear apart the cones, eat the seeds and throw the "petals" or scales all over the driveway for a couple of months or more!)*



When you think about it, mid-winter is the best time to appreciate squirrels. In the winter they provide a little entertainment. During the other times of the year, you may look at them as a pest in the flowers and vegetable gardens.

Georgia Zahar, Birds & Wildlife Chair
Resource: www.holidayinsights.com

FAC to Meet

The Flower Arranging Class meets again on the 3rd Thursday of the month, January 19, at 1:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Georgia and Sherry ask you to plan for "*The Magic of Winter*" using white, green, brown, and blue with some creative components. Fresh and/or dried materials. Creative components relate to using your plant material and or container in an unusual way. You can cut, roll, wrap fresh or dried material, and you can even paint dried material.

(White for snow, green for foliage plants and conifers, brown for cones and blue for sky sometimes!) As usual, bring your own containers and plant material. We always have material to share of course!

Willamette District News

PHOTO CONTEST

District Director Sharon Wilson reports that our State Garden Club will again have a Photo Contest at the State Convention in June. The photos must have been taken between January 2016 and April 1, 2017. They must be 8"x10" and matted not to exceed 11"x14". Eugene Garden Club will judge our entries at the March regular meeting with the winners presented for vote at the March District meeting.

Categories 1 – 6 will have both Color and Black & White classes. Category 7 will include both Color and Black and White together in one class.

1. Landscapes/Seascapes
2. Gardens
3. Floral
4. Birds, Butterflies, Insects
5. Pets
6. Wildlife
7. President's Choice, which is Frogs.

Photos must be taken by current EGC members and may not have been enhanced by Photoshop or similar programs.

New Interest Group Forming

The Eugene Garden Club is offering something new, a vegetable gardening discussion group for home gardeners. Experienced? Come share your knowledge. New to veggie gardening or have challenges? Come learn from experienced gardeners.

During the four sessions, get your questions answered, share resources, trade seeds, etc., no charge.

Meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club on the second Wednesdays of the month, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14. Public is invited. Carol Prud'homme will be the facilitator. Questions? 541.988.1383.



Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar, Camille Noel, Ruth Michaelson, Monica Henry, & Sharon Wilson made 24 small floral designs for table centerpieces and one large one to be used at a renter's holiday banquet in the clubhouse in December.



EGC Member Is Featured Quilter!

Our very own Jennifer Rabner, EGC Treasurer, has been featured in a new quarterly quilting magazine, *Quiltfolk*. The picture above shows Jennifer showing Dorothy Cruickshank on Greens Sale day a couple of the pages in the first issue of Michael McCormick's new publication. (Jennifer even has on the same top as in the photo on the right page.)

The McCormick and his Editorial Coordinator along with a photographer came to interview Jennifer in her home and photograph many of her beautiful handmade quilts. The article is about 8 pages long and includes several pictures of her and her quilts in her home surroundings. Congratulations to Jennifer! And the magazine also featured her friend and fellow quilter Sally Welch similarly. Each publication will feature quilters from a different state, and they started with Oregon.

A Master Gardener's Song

An Original Poem by Linda Smith
(Sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things")

Some KNOCK-OUT Roses and PAN-SIES for bloomin;
HERBS in a pot, namely DILL, MINT, and CUMIN;

BROWN PAPER BAGS for my clippings of grass;
These are some things that I'd like this Christ-mas.

SPRING-LOADED PRUNERS, E-LEC-TRIC
HEDGE TRIMMERS;
NEW GARDEN HAT with an extra-wide brimmer;

LONG GAR-DEN HOSES WITH NOZ-ZLES
THAT SPRAY;

Surely these gifts should just brighten my day!

When the sun sets, when the bees sting,
when my back gets sore;
I'll simply continue to dig in the dirt
Now wait there's a few things more...

SEED CAT-A-LOGS and a few SHINY HAND-TOOLS;
BIRD FEEDERS, KNEE PADS AND POTS
COVERED WITH JEWELS;

CHEMICAL TREATMENTS to kill all my weeds;
STORAGE CONTAINERS to hold all my seeds!

WATER FEATURE! Add a WOOD BENCH!
Think I'll need a BIGGER YARD...
There's too many more of my favorite things!
Deciding is just ----- TOO HARD!

Submitted by Ruth Michaelson

Recovering from Ice and Storm Damage

Try not to disturb frozen plants until they thaw. Remember how the trees shattered when they came down while frozen. Yes, those impeding traffic must be dealt with immediately. But in the garden leave them alone until they thaw out. Many will not show real damage until buds start to break in early spring. We could have more freezing weather before normal pruning season.

House plants seem to be losing more leaves than normally. I brought my big house plants inside the day before the ice storm started. I waited too long. A month earlier would have helped. I have had trouble keeping them damp. Will just have to watch until sign of growth starts before pruning.

If you had a power outage, you lost African Violets and other tropical plants without heat. When I was away, I turned the house temp to 61, so Violets not happy. Some are still wilted after watering so I will cut off the tops, all but about 3 leaves and put in my fish tank propagator. Wet soil and wilted leaves at the same time on African Violets equals root rot.

It is the middle of winter so light coming in windows is at its lowest. Best not to give much fertilizer. Wait until signs of growth to start fertilizer program for our house plants.

Juanita Manley, Horticulture Chairwoman

(Your editor lost 12 African Violet, 3 poinsettias, during the 6-day power outage. House temperature was 35 degrees! Many plants have dropped leaves, and all the orchids new leaves wilted.)



What's Happening

January

- 3 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 17 Regular EGC Meeting
- 19 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 20-22 Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show
Lane County Fairgrounds
- 26 SMJ House work party, 11:00
- 31 Clubhouse Cleaning Party, 9:00-2:00 or so



February

- 7 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 12-26 NW Flower & Garden Show,
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle
- 16 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 21 EGC Regular Meeting
- 24 Willamette District Board Meeting, EGC



March

- 7 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 8 EGC Veggie Growers Group, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 9-12 Lane County Home & Garden Show, Fairgrounds
- 13 OSFGC Board Meeting, Albany
- 16 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 21 EGC Regular Meeting & morning workshop
- 24 Willamette District Meeting, Springfield hosts
- 30 Plant "Nerd" Night



Can you tell which photo is which?

*--dappled willow, --sage, --small carex,
--santolina, --snotty rooster*

Ice changes our plants so much and does so much damage to some! And the extended power outages hurt many house plants.

**Eugene Garden Club
Sherry Cossey
87205 Willowdale
Eugene, OR 97402-9133**

In the Garden – in January

Plant deciduous fruit & shade trees. Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs & trees.

Bring cuttings inside from quince, forsythia, flowering cherry to force bloom.

Plant peas & sweet peas if soil is well drained.

Begin planning this year's garden.

Order new roses for March 15 delivery. Remove old leaves from rose bushes and clean up rose beds. Prepare beds for planting new roses in March.

Don't forget to feed the birds who have come to depend on your supply.

