

Eugene Garden Club News

February 2017

Volume 12, Issue 5

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

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street



President's Corner

Plants (next to dogs perhaps) are man's best friend. We simply would not exist if it weren't for plants. Plants provide food for our bodies, materials for our shelters and release oxygen that we need to breathe into the atmosphere. Arguably even more important than all these reasons are the role they play with our mental health.

When we are surrounded by plants we tend to be more productive, more creative, and more civil. We can heal faster; our nerves can be calmer and we can be happier. Plants do all of this without us even being aware that it is happening.

As gardeners, we recognize the benefits. This is February, Folks! Time to roll up those sleeves, put on those gloves, and get to work at being productive, creative and civil. (I wonder, are there many plants in the White House??)



. *Debi Luidhardt*
EGC President

Look for in this Issue

New member

Plant Nerd Night

Flower Show

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Special Octopus

Rose Pruning

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Willamette District

In the Garden

Eugene Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. General Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Sustainable Landscaping*

By Gwendolyn Scott

Master Gardener, OSU

Coordinator: Ann Rollins

HOSTESSES: Kathleen Gray*, Sally Townsend,
Norma Helliwell

GREETERS: Peggy Funkhouser, Bev Hackleman



Create Sustainable Landscapes

What is sustainability anyway? The United Nations in 1987 noted that "sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the well-being of future generations."

OSU is more specific when they discuss sustainable landscapes. Sustainable landscapes protect, balance and integrate multiple interests: soil, water, plants, wildlife and humans. Deciding on that balance is a very personal decision.

Gwendolyn Scott created and oversees the sustainability class for the OSU master gardeners. She will discuss the issues in this sticky topic.

Ann Rollins, Program Coordinator

INS & OUTS OF THE EUGENE GARDEN CLUB

. . . DIRECTORIES

Please add our new member information to your Member Directories:

Patty Boynton
25285 Perkins Road
Veneta, OR 97487
541.935.0344
pboynton@islercpa.com

And change the date for our Garden Extravaganza in conjunction with the Lane County Dahlia Society to the usual Saturday before Mothers Day, which is

May 13.



FAC to Meet

The Flower Arranging Class meets again on the 3rd Thursday of the month, February 16, at 1:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

The assignment this month is to make miniature designs. That means no more than five inches in any direction. We may use fresh and/or dried plant material and may make several designs.



Pictured above and to the left are designs produced last month by Patty Boynton, Camille Noel, and Ruth Michaelson.

They were experimenting with using blue for the sky, white for the snow, and brown for the cones and downed trees that we had in Eugene this December.

Plant Nerd Night Coming

March 30 will be EGC's yearly "Plant Nerd Night" at the clubhouse, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Blade, Ruth Fry, and Dorothy Cruickshank have plans in place for members to sign up to help in this event when

McKenzie River Nursery,
Territorial Seed Company,
Shonnard's Nursery from Corvallis, and
Johnson Brothers Garden Market, Coburg

will be on hand to talk about and display new things for our gardens in 2017. Plan to attend! And buy! Raffle tickets are sold that night for chances to win plants that the nurseries give away.



Sign up sheets will be available at our February meeting plus promotional material to have and place everywhere!

Willamette District News

Our Willamette District Board will meet at the Eugene Garden Club, Friday, February 24, with morning snacks and beverages – 9:30 a.m., Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

The District General Meeting will be Friday, March 24. New officers will be installed then.

Remember to bring your photographs to the March EGC meeting to be considered for the OSFGC Photo Contest which takes place at the June Convention in Siskiyou District. All the rules were in our January newsletter or can be seen at the OSFGC website as well. And there is also an 8th class, Ladybugs, in Color or Black & White.

*Sharon Wilson
Willamette District Director*

“Perhaps our best hope for gardening as an art is that gardening is an activity whose never-achieved aim is progress towards a never-completed work of art.” *Geoffrey Charlesworth (1988)*

The Blue-Ringed Octopus

Don't touch the Blue-Ringed Octopus. First you will feel nauseous. Your vision becomes hazy. Within seconds you are blind. You lose your sense of touch. You cannot speak or swallow. Three minutes later you are paralyzed and unable to breath.

You knew the blue-ringed octopus is extremely poisonous, but how were you to know that this was one when it's tiny parrot-like beak bit through your wetsuit. The last thing a victim sees are blue rings – visible only when it is about to attack.



The blue-ringed octopus is the size of a golf ball but its poison is powerful enough to kill an adult human in minutes. There is no known antidote. The only treatment is hours of heart massage and artificial respiration until the poison has worked its way out of your system.

This tiny octopus lives in the shallow coral and rock pools in the Pacific and Indian Oceans from Japan to Australia. They are rather cute, being brown or yellow in color with blue and black rings. But don't pick one up – by the time you see the electric blue rings, it's too late!

There are three or perhaps four species of this genus *Hapalochlaena*.

*Georgia Zahar,
Birds & Wildlife Chairman
Resource: www.didyouknow.org*



Willamette Arrangers Guild January Designer's Choice "Outside the Box" floral designs were made by Sharon Wilson, Georgia Zahar, Jackie Getty, and Monica Henry going clockwise beginning from bottom left. They had to use some sort of packing material.

Mark Your Calendar

FLOWER SHOW

Harvest Moon



October 7 – 8, 2017

Sponsored by the **Eugene Garden Club**

Details coming soon!

If you would like to be a part of the Flower Show planning, please come to the EGC clubhouse on Monday, Feb. 27, from noon to 2:00, or so. Bring a lunch and your thinking caps.

We will be brainstorming ideas for the Flower Show schedule. What kind of horticulture do we want to show? What types of floral designs do we want to show? We will need titles for everything. Please join us! If you are coming, please let Georgia Zahar know.

541.686.8397 or 541.521.5489 or gzahar@comcast.net

Willamette Folks Arrange

Willamette Arrangers Guild is an offshoot of the Eugene Garden Club that began in 1979 with 18 members and Dorothy Dwyer as chairman.

“Membership is limited to 20 experienced arrangers who demonstrate their continued interest by entering Advanced Amateur and Open classes in Standard Flower Shows.”

The objectives of the guild are to increase and advance our knowledge in the art of flower arranging, to be informed of the latest techniques used in the media and to help our fellow garden club members in learning the art.

Most of the members are also National Garden Club Flower Show Judges, but that is not a requirement for membership. Typically, the Guild invites prospective members to participate. Currently, there are 13 members from Eugene, Junction City, Springfield, Westfir, and Oakridge.

Time to Prune Roses

On Tuesday, the 21st, at 10:40 a.m. before our February EGC meeting, Dorothy Cruickshank and Marilyn Hunter will give a rose pruning “workshop” in our Front Garden.

Imitate Nature to Control Pests

Insects are attracted to newer growth leaves, which to insects reflect light as bright yellow, not green. You can use this attraction against them to control white flies and aphids by enticing them to sticky yellow sticks.

Select short smooth sticks – such as paint stirring sticks – for container plants, larger stakes for small garden and wooden planks or plywood panels for large gardens. Paint the stakes with a bright canary yellow paint. Once they are dry, smear them with petroleum jelly. Push the stakes into the soil near plants to attract insects. Wipe the stakes clean and reapply petroleum jelly as needed.

(Borrowed from article in Multnomah District Newsletter, written by Lynne Schaefer of Sunriver.)

The Meaning of Flowers

Anemone - sincerity, forsaken

Aster - symbol of love

Bluebell - humility

Cactus - endurance

Camellia - good luck gift for a man

Chrysanthemum - “you’re a wonderful friend”

Crocus - gladness

Daffodil - respect; and the sun always shines when I’m with you

Daisy - loyal love and innocence

Forget-me-not - true love and good memories

Hyacinth - “please forgive me”

Honeysuckle - happiness

Hydrangea - “thank you for understanding”

Iris - wisdom, faith and hope

Magnolia - nobility

Marigold - grief

Petunia - “your presence soothes me”

Primrose - “I cannot be without you”

Sweet Pea - “thanks for a lovely time”

Sunflower - pride, sunshine

Tulip - perfect lover and luck

Violet - faithfulness, virtue

Wisteria - welcome

In the Garden

January was a real change, (shock) from the last few years. Last year we started January with daffodils up and blooming in early February and this year they are nowhere in sight.

The ice and snow means we have a lot to do in the area of pruning. Let's start with the question of why do we prune? Pruning is for plants that need a little assistance growing into a well-shaped plant. We don't prune if there is no disease or dead parts and the plant looks well shaped.

Make a habit of buying plants that are of a size that will continue to fit the space in which they are placed. Plants that grow too big and have to be continually cut back make unsatisfactory garden plants.

First take out the dead, dying and diseased branches. Then cut damaged branches back to good wood while keeping the ideal plant form in mind. Leaving damaged areas is where disease can get in. Good luck. Pruning is my least favorite garden chore.

Bring in some forsythia, Japanese quince, cherry or apple blossoms for forcing.

It is time to check all houseplants, especially your tropicals, for insects that like to take up residence in the leaf joints. That is where new growth and or blooms originate. They seem a little late hatching this year.

If you are getting anxious to start some seedlings for your garden, first estimate when you can plant them out. Don't start them more than 6 weeks before planting in the garden. Look at what you can provide in the way of enough light, moisture and warmth. Enough light is the one thing that we have the most trouble providing. Sterile soil, pots and flats are necessary to give a good start.

*Juanita Manley
Horticulture Chairman*

Meaning of Flowers continued . . .

Carnations

The flower of fascination

Pink - always on my mind

Striped - refusal

Red - passion

White - sweet, lovely,
good luck

Roses

The flower of love

Red - love, passion

Pink - happiness

White - purity, innocence

Yellow - friendship



What's Happening



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
- 23 SMJ Work Party, 11:00 a.m.
- 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

April

- 4 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 18-20 Pacific Region of NGC Convention, Seattle, WA
- 20 EGC Regular Meeting
- 27 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.



So far only 2 hellebores in flower, but many others getting ready. I think our special December-January weather has really slowed them down along with other late winter/early spring flowers.!

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

In the Garden – in February

Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.

Prune clematis and other vining ornamentals.

Prune and trellis berries, can berries and grapes.

Prune fruit trees & blueberries.

Plant new fruit trees and deciduous shrubs.

Plant onions outdoors when soil is dry enough.

Till in cover crops and/or organic material

Prune roses in middle of the month.

