

Eugene Garden Club News

March 2017

Volume 12, Issue 6

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

63 members

Eugene Garden Club

1645 High Street

Eugene, OR 97401



President's Corner

There's no sugar coating it. This weather sucks. And ain't nothin' we can do about it. I'm ready to dig into the soil and get with the program. But for the time being I guess I will make margaritas out of limes by....

- ...perusing catalogues and online sites to see what is new and exciting. Doing this gives me something to look forward to and inspires me.
- ...taking in some learning opportunities. This month Lane County Master Gardeners will present Patricia Hasbach's *Healing Gardens: Gardening for Your Health* and Hardy Plant Group is featuring Burl Mostel speaking about *Building Our Garden – Rare Plant Research*. Our own Juanita Manley will be presenting EGC's March program, *Propagating Plants*. And, finally, EGC's always popular *Plant Nerd Night*. It is an early spring must!
- ...attending a garden show and going to a few garden centers to see what they already have in stock. Window shopping is fun.
- ...spending time in my own garden. A little grooming can go a long way.

Whatever we do, choose some healthy activities with exercise and that should help us get through this time of year prepared for the excitement of spring. Life is moving on with all the confidence of warmer and sunnier days



. Debi Luidhardt
EGC President

Eugene Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

11:00 a.m. Photography Contest

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:00 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Propagating Plants*

By Juanita Manley

HOSTESSES: Jennifer Rabner*, Pat Kramer,
Mary Bromley

GREETERS: Juanita Manley & Phoebe Staples

How to Propagate Plants

Juanita Manley will talk to us about propagating plants for our March program.

She would like us to bring cuttings and divisions of perennials and shrubs for some hands-on instruction. Do wash off most of the soil. We will meet in the back room around the work table for this program.

Ant Alert! ! !



Ruth Michaelson found an ant infestation in the cupboard where coffee supplies are kept earlier this week.

When members put away coffee, tea, sugar, etc. after meetings please be sure ALL items are securely closed in tight containers. No sweeteners should be left out – not even the paper packets of sugar. Those little buggers find anything left unprotected. Thanks for your help.

Photography Contest Held

Bring your entries for the **State Photography Contest** to this month's EGC meeting by 11 a.m. and our members will vote for their favorites in the following categories:

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.

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". Our winning entries will be presented for vote at the March 24 Willamette District meeting.

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

Willamette District News

... Spring General Meeting

Willamette District Director Sharon Wilson reports the Spring General Meeting will be at the Eugene Garden Club Friday, March 24, hosted by Springfield Garden Club.

There will be morning coffee and refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 meeting followed by a potluck. All members are invited to attend. The program will be making succulent wreaths to sell at our Garden Extravaganza in May. The Photography Contest for the District happens that day as well.

June Meeting Changes . . .

At our recent EGC Board Meeting, we voted to move our June 20 Membership Meeting and Installation of officers to the Camas County Mill, a schoolhouse bakery in Junction City at 91948 Purkerson Road.

The time will probably be 11:00 a.m. and cost \$10.00. We will plan to carpool.

More information next month.

Garden Extravaganza Coming Soon

The Saturday, May 13, Garden Extravaganza (Plant Sale) is not too far off and there is still time to plant up starts or seeds for that event. Our Willamette District sale is at the River Road Key Bank parking lot in front of Bi-Mart in conjunction with the Lane County Dahlia society.

Janet Calvert has "A New Look" at our usual "Potting Parties".

Is your favorite plant outgrowing its space? Tired of the "same old but true plant"?

Now is the time to divide those plants to share with others AND make some money for the Garden Club. This year we are relying on YOU to pot-up your own plants that you want to share.

On Friday, **March 31, beginning at noon, you can bring buckets or whatever to get potting soil and gallon plant pots** at Calvert driveway, on 1062 Woodside Drive (directions next month).

At the Membership meeting on March 21, sign up to let us know if you want soil and will come get it at Calvert's or later at the Club House.

Divide your plants (no more than 5 of one variety) and pot them with the pot full and looking like you would like to buy it in six weeks.

Prepare white plastic labels, (get at Calvert's or the Garden Club) with the names of plants, needs for sun or shade, color, and any other info you'd like.

Place plants in protected area and keep watered.

On May 13, take to sale site on River Road. More information to follow.

Questions? Call Janet Calvert, 541.686.2697.



Plant Nerd Night Coming

March 30 will be EGC's yearly "Plant Nerd Night" at the clubhouse, 6-9 p.m. FREE!

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, and Johnson Brothers Garden Market will be on hand to talk about, display, and sell new things for our gardens in 2017.

Raffle tickets will be sold and winners drawn for the plants that each nursery donates. Doors open for the public at 6:00 and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. Invite your neighbors and friends. Distribute the flyers. Plan to attend! And buy!



EGC and Pearl Buck Banquet

Georgia Zahar and Sherry Cossey will lead a group of EGC floral designers to make centerpieces for the annual Pearl Buck Center banquet to be held May 19, 6:30 p.m. at Shadow Hills Country Club. The theme this year is *Enjoy the Night in Black & White*.

EGC member, Dorothy Cruickshank, has been involved with this organization for many years and successfully involved our garden club in many activities there with the pre-school children as well as banquet designs and their fall Trivia Contest.

Recycling . . .

Some information on length of time for some materials to decompose printed in the Multnomah District of Garden Clubs and read at the OSFGC Board Meeting:

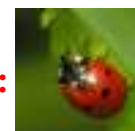
Paper Towel – 2-4 wks
Banana Peel – 3-4 wks
Paper Bag – 1 mo
Newspaper – 1.5 mo
Apple Core – 2 mo
Cardboard – 2 mo
Cotton Glove – 3 mo
Orange Peel – 6 mo
Plywood – 1-3 yr

Wool Sock – 1-5 yr
Milk Carton – 5 yr
Cigarette Butt – 10-12 yr
Leather Shoe – 25-40 yr
Tinned Steel Can – 50 yr
Foam Plastic Cup – 50 yr
Rubber Boot – 50-80 yr
Plastic Container – 50-80 yr
Aluminum Can – 200-500 yr

Ladybug a.k.a. Lady Beetle

coccinellidae

Our native ladybug numbers have been on the decline for the last ten years or so. There hasn't been a clear reason for the decline except many believe that the False or Asian Ladybug is the reason. In fact, it's hard to find a native Ladybug. Most that are found are the Asian species. The native beetle is bright red with 7 – 9 spots. The Asian beetle may be red, purple or yellow. They may be larger in size than the native.



Here are some Ladybug Facts:

- A Ladybug is really a beetle.
- The Ladybug was named hundreds of years ago (according to folklore) when farmers were grateful that these tiny insects protected their crops from being eaten. They called it 'Our Lady's Beetle' believing it had been sent from heaven.
- A single Ladybug can eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.
- A female Ladybug will lay more than a 1,000 eggs in her lifetime, but they are so small you can hardly see them.
- Ladybugs chew from side to side and not up and down like people do.
- The Ladybug uses its front legs to clean its head and its antennae.
- The spots on a Ladybug fade as it gets older, and some don't even have spots.
- Their spots can warn predators that they are poisonous, especially to lizards and birds.
- Ladybugs can live 1 year, and some may live 2 – 3 years.
- Ladybugs can be found worldwide. There are about 5,000 different species. About 400 species live in North America. About 750 of them live in California.

*Georgia Zahar
Bird and Wildlife Chair*

Resource: kidsgrowingstrong.org/ladybugs

The only insect that can turn its head is the praying mantis!

Plastic Bottle – 450 yr
Disposable Diaper – 550 yr
Plastic Bag – 200-1000 yr

March in the Garden

Change. The only constant in our world seems to be change. This winter's storms have changed the very character of many gardens. On the other hand it gives inspiration for a new look. We need to maybe return to choosing more zone 7 plants, especially the more permanent ones such as trees and large growing shrubs.

Planting time is fast coming so any unfinished projects need to be wrapped up. I still have storm damage to deal with and pruning when I can tell what is alive. Remembering dead, dying, diseased and damaged rule for pruning.

When planning your plantings, keep in mind the fall flower show and what you can plant for an early October flower show. The show will include veggies and fruits this year. Schedule should be out soon.

Hellebores are in full bloom. They grow easily from seed and spread throughout the garden. They need little in the way of care. I planted one white one many years ago. A few years back lavender blooms came up and this year a dark purple one came up. Hybridizers are trying to get their blooms to look up. That would be nice.

It's time to check stored dahlia tubers as well other bulbous plants in storage. Plant cool season seeds that will be ready to go out in April.

Juanita Manley, Horticulture Chairman

Dahlia Tuber Sale

A note from Cheryl Hawkins. . .

Mark your calendar! Dahlias of all varieties and colors will be sold at The Annual Dahlia Tuber Auction and Sale, Thursday, April 6. The sale starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Campbell Senior Center, 155 High Street in Eugene.

Door prizes and refreshments are provided and the public is invited. All sales will benefit the Lane County Dahlia Society. For more information, call 541.954.9694 or 541.337.0528.

This lovely dahlia to the right is Sandia Apache.



Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House

work party will be on the 4th Thursday this month, March 23, 11:00 a.m.

Elections Coming Soon

The arrival of seed catalogs, nerd night planning meetings, daffodils popping through the ground and the nominating committee beginning to look for officers for the next year. All signs that spring is just around the corner.

Now is the time for each and every member to take a few minutes and think about how they can contribute to the club. Remember, the more you put into an organization the more you get. Maybe being club president is not your cup of tea, but how about Secretary, or vice president, or trustee? Think of the skills you have. If you are good at running your own household, keeping everything in good repair, then maybe being a trustee is the job you'd like. If you're able to attend the monthly board meeting and are good at taking notes, the secretary's job is for you.

In addition to the regular officers, we are looking for a volunteer to work with Jennifer and learn the treasurer's position.

After you have decided what job you would like, give us a call and volunteer! If we get more than one candidate for a position, that would be great. Just call either me (541.741.1122) or Dorothy Cruickshank (541.342.2577).

Ruth Fry, Nominations Chairman

OSFGC News

Sherry Cossey, Sharon Wilson, and Georgia Zahar attended the March 13 Spring OSFGC Board Meeting in Albany and have some information to share.

1. We heard from ODOT concerning protecting pollinator habitat – over 75 % of flowering plants rely on pollinators and about 35% of the world's crop production does too. ODOT supports our NGC Wildflower Project and partner with OSFGC to plant wildflowers along highway rights of way.

2. Fred Meyer displays Free Fruit for Children in their produce department to promote healthy snack choices. We could send a certificate to our local Fred Meyer to recognize their effort. They will display it in the store.

What's Happening

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 Membership Meeting
- 21 Healing Gardens: Master Gardener Seminar
- 24 Willamette District Meeting, at EGC
- 30 Plant "Nerd" Night

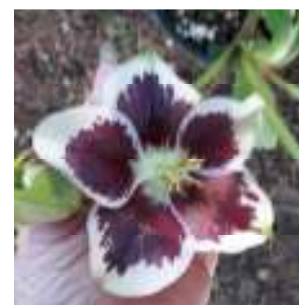


April

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

May

- 2 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 13 Garden Extravaganza at Key Bank, 10:00-4:00
- 16 EGC Membership Meeting
- 24 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.



Pictured are a few of the Hellebores and the February Daphne blooming the first week of March.

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

In the Garden – in March

Plant cool season crops such as peas, lettuce, cabbage, onions, kale & chard.

**Divide hostas, daylilies, mums, peonies, dahlias late in the month.
(Note: If weather is very cold, wait until April for dahlias; wait until you can see the tuber eyes well.)**

Feed rhubarb, cane berries, evergreen shrubs & trees with manure or complete fertilizer.

Plant berry crops (strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry).

Prune gooseberries & currants and feed with manure or a complete fertilizer.

Move existing rose bushes; plant new ones by the 15th; fertilize with 1 cu. alfalfa meal per bush by end of month.

Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.

Plant gladioli.

