

# Eugene Garden Club News

March 2020

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78 members

Eugene Garden Club

1645 High Street, Eugene, OR 97401

Member of National Garden Club, Pacific Region,  
Garden Clubs, Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs



## President's Corner

Hello Everyone!

Here's hoping you all are doing well and staying healthy! In just a couple of months, life can bring a whole new awareness and concern for our health and how we keep doing our normal routine and where we go for social and recreational activities. There is never a dull or boring moment if we stay connected to what the country/world is doing. At times, it can be a struggle to keep focused and reasonable.

I recently bought "The Old Farmer's 2020 Almanac." I have not looked at one for many years and found reading it can take me back to childhood memories. An article about pansies called "The Flower with a Face" was fun reading for the gardner in me. It said pansies are descendants of the wild violet and were grown in Europe as early as the 4th century B.C. The blossoms were used in potpourri, added to sweet and savory dishes, used to flavor alcoholic drinks and to perfume linens.

They thrive in rich, well-drained soil that receives morning sun and afternoon shade. Deadheading the spent blossoms ensure continuous blooming. Folklore says that "To plant pansies in the shape of a heart is a sure sign that they will flourish."

I hope you are enjoying your blooming plants so far this year. Pansies are some of the early blooming plants in my yard right now. Take good care....see you all on March 17th.



..... Pat Kramer  
EGC President

## Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2020

11:15 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

11:45 p.m. General Meeting

1:00 p.m. By Joe Stack

### *Wildlife in the City*

**HOSTESSES:** Lucy Chambers\*, Jennifer Rabner,  
Vicki Jefferson, Dianne Dewey

**GREETER:** Ann Rollins

## March EGC Program

Joe Stack, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife will be our program presenter at the March General meeting.

Joe has worked for ODFW a little over six years. He grew up and attended college in Indiana. He then moved to California where he worked for the federal government in the San Francisco Bay area focussing on shorebirds. He then went to Florida and worked at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge for 3 years. His career with the ODFW began with Wildlife Research, studying the movement, mortality and habitat preferences of the black-tailed deer.

He now is tasked with protecting and enhancing all wildlife and their habitat; to promote healthy wildlife populations, quality hunting and viewing opportunities, and coexistence between humans and wildlife.

*Georgia Zahar, Co-Vice President*

## Garden Tool Danger!

I was feeling great about finishing up rose and other spring pruning, but the mood quickly changed when put the pruners on the shelf. They jumped off the shelf and badly cut my right hand ring finger with about a 2 inch long cut.

Moral of the story is - be sure the safety is fastened on the pruners before putting away! That accident has kept me out of the garden for 2 weeks.

We attended the 3-day NW Flower and Garden Show in Seattle at the Convention Center. Saw EGC members Debi Luidthardt, Lucy Chambers, Dorothy Cruickshank, Marilyn Hunter and Sister Janet. I enjoyed a new exhibit which displayed porcelain mannequins dressed in flowers and other horticulture greenery. The costumes were so creative and gorgeous. My favorite had a short dress with a shawl made of asparagus greenery with stockings that looked like green lace made of the same greenery.

I attended two Seminars, one by Dan Hinkley from Heronswood nursery near Seattle about his adventures when collecting plants. The other was on gardening with native plants by Linda Chalker-Scott a UW professor.. I bought her book and intend to plant a few more natives in my garden. I urge any of you who can to attend this show at least once.

Lucy Chambers commented how amazing the flowers, trees, soil, wildlife, birds, bees and exhibits were. She attended the seminar *Ask Cisco Oh,la,la!* followed by a book signing and meeting Seattle's gardening celebrity Cisco Morris. She said we can go to [gardenshow.com/seminars](http://gardenshow.com/seminars) on our computers to access all the seminars.

*Jackie Getty, Horticulture Chairman*



## Garden Extravaganza Coming Soon

The Saturday, May 9, Garden Extravaganza (Plant Sale) is not too far off and there is still time to plant 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. It is just south of the River Road and Beltline interchange.

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.

First of all, **SANITIZE THE POTS BY WASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER, RINSE AND THEN DIPPING IN SOLUTION OF 1 GALLON OF WATER TO 1 TABLESPOON OF CLORINE BLEACH. AIR DRY.** Divide your plants (no more than 5 of one variety) and pot with **SOIL FROM GARDEN CLUB OR other COMMERCIAL POTTING SOIL. NO "HOME" DIRT** please!! Fill the pot with plant and fresh potting soil. Make it look like you would like to buy it in six weeks.

Prepare white plastic labels, (get from Janet Calvert at the Garden Club). Provide names of plants, (common or botanical), need for sun or shade, color, and any other info you'd like. Colored pictures from seed catalogs are of great help for sellers and buyers.

Later this month there will be planting soil and gallon pots (in need on cleaning) available at the clubhouse and at Janet Calvert's home. Check your emails.

At the March 24 meeting, sign up to let us know if you want soil.

Place plants in protected area and keep watered. Early on May 9, take plants to sale site on River Road. More information to follow.

Questions? Call Janet Calvert, 541.686.2697p  
Camille Noel, 541.337.0528

# Plant Nerd Night Coming

Plan to Attend Plant "Nerd" Night  
Thursday, March 26

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. & Plant Sale begins  
Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Free Ticket to win a Plant!

Nurseries  
Gray's Garden Center  
Corner Store Nursery  
Sedum Chicks  
Shonnard's Nursery



To all of those have signed up to help, THANK YOU! Nurseries arrive anywhere between 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Sign up sheet is still available, to come and help and we will go over the evening festivities at this coming March EGC meeting.

Invite all family and friends or any plant "Nerd" you know and bring your shopping list.

We only provide sandwiches for our nursery guests. So...bring a sack lunch, if you want.

*Sharon Blade, Dorothy Cruickshank, Kathleen Gray*

## APRIL EGC BUS TOUR CANCELLED

**Due to the increased expense and the fear of the Coronavirus, the April bus tour to the Portland Japanese Gardens and Crystal Springs Rhododendron gardens has been cancelled.**

**The April program is TBA. If you have questions, call, text or email Lucy Chambers.**

**541.218.5370**

**chamberslucy.1015@yahoo.com**



(owlet chicks)

## Tristan's Story

Northern Saw-whet Owl  
*Aegolius acadicus*

Tristan, a member of the Northern Saw-whet family of owls, has lived at the Cascades Raptor Center (CRC) since January 2007. The bird was originally found in NW Oregon in October 2006 with a wing injury. When the wing failed to heal sufficiently for the small bird to return to life in the forest after six weeks in rehab the owl was transferred to CRC where he has resided since. As an adoptee of the EGC we a special interest in this particular owl. A certificate of adoption hangs in the club along with a Natural and Personal History of Tristan.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the smallest owls in North America. The female weighs an average of 100 grams or 3.6 ounces and the male less at 75 grams (2.6 oz.). So what do we commonly use that weighs about 2.6 ounces? The nearest I could find is that a male Saw-whet weighs less than a deck of cards. Even so these small, mostly nocturnal, feeders are amazing hunters that prefer to sit quietly on a low branch and then swoop down on their favorite prey-rodents.

Early in breeding season, males sing incessantly at night to defend territory and attract a mate. Favorite nesting sites are in tree cavities high above the ground where the female lays sometimes as many as seven eggs. As the female remains almost constantly in the nest during incubation it is the male's responsibility to bring food. After hatching the female remains with the chicks until the youngest is around 18 days old. When the young leave the nest mostly the male takes over the feeding.

Some good news: according to Audubon there is probably some decline in numbers due to habitat loss, but the owl is still widespread and fairly common.

For those who would like to personally meet Tristan the CRC's hours are as follows: Tuesday through Sunday 10-4 and closed Monday. Beginning in April the center remains open until 6.

*Donna Michel  
Bird and Wildlife Chairman*

## Veggie Group Meets

All you veggie growers! Meet at the EGC Clubhouse from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join a veggie gardeners' discussion group the second Wednesday of March, April, and May to share your knowledge and maybe gain a little info on the following topics that were selected by the February participants. Of course, there will always be time at the end of each session for Q & A to get your questions discussed. We also share resources, seeds, starts, and anything else pertaining to veggie gardening that you can think of.

For March 11 our topics will be around soil and compost:

- ....Soil testing - what does it show and why is it important?
- ....Does cat manure pollute soil?
- ....Compost greens and browns
- ....Different types of compost bins and ways to compost
- ....Cover crop for soil improvement, when to plant, and when to remove

For April 8 our topics will be specific crops, planting timetable and fertilizer needs:

- ....Best time to plant onions
- ....Best time to plant potatoes
- ....Fertilizer for rhubarb
- ....Tomatoes without blossom end rot
- ....Time for planting fall and winter gardens, especially lettuce
- ....Strawberries - get ready for new crop

For May 13 we will be discussing pests in the garden:

- ....Cats in garden
- ....Leaf miners in chard
- ....Companion planting for pest control and improved production

*Carol Prud'homme, Facilitator*



*Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House* work party will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday this month, March 26, 11:00 a.m.

## Willamette District News

### ... Spring General Meeting

Willamette District Assistant Director Lucy Chambers reports the Spring Meeting will be March 27, hosted by the Eugene Garden Club.

There will be morning coffee and refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and the 10:30 Spring Meeting followed by a 11:30 potluck. All members are invited to attend. We bring our own table service along with our special food that we prepare.

At 12:30, our program will be presented by Dan Gleason, Co-owner of "Wild Birds Unlimited". His topic is Birds of the Willamette Valley. If you have any bird you would like to have identified, bring a photo or description to share during his question & answer period.

During the day, the Photography Contest for the District level happens with photos from all 6 Willamette District garden clubs participating: Cottage Grove, Eugene, Junction City, Oakridge, Springfield, and West Side Garden Clubs.

There will be a Country Store (which we may bring items for), and also items to win in drawings.

Come one come all!



# What's Happening



## March



- 3 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 11 Veggie Discussion Group
- 12-15 Lane County Home & Garden Show, Fairgrounds
- 13 EGC Veggie Growers Group, 1:30
- 17 EGC Regular Meeting
- 19 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 26 Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, 11:00 a.m.
- 26 Plant "Nerd" Night, 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Willamette District Meeting, EGC
- 29-30 OSFGC Board Meeting, Mt. Hood District



## April

- 7 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 8 Veggie Discussion Group, 1:30 p.m.
- 17 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 21 EGC Regular Meeting
- 24 Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, 11:00 a.m.
- 27-30 Pacific Region of NGC Convention,  
The Oregon Garden, Silverton

## May

- 5 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 9 Garden Extravaganza at Key Bank, 10:00-4:00
- 16-17 *Spring in Eugene*, Standard Flower Show, EGC
- 19 EGC Regular Meeting



*This issue includes several of Patty Boynton's card table designs for our February regular meeting. Each design included list of the dried plant material used in the design. (And Patty made the boxes as well!)*



**Eugene Garden Club  
Sherry Cossey  
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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 15<sup>th</sup>; fertilize with 1 cu. alfalfa meal per bush by end of month.**

**Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.**

**Plant gladioli.**

