

Eugene Garden Club News

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75 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!

I hope you are doing well. We still don't know when we can open our clubhouse for meetings, programs and renters. The good news is that Covid infections and deaths are going down. Hopefully some of you have received a vaccination. I have not, but have pre-registered with Lane County.

With flowers popping up in my yard....crocus, hyacinths, snowdrops, daffodils, blue iris, I am starting to think of what new plants to try. Native plants, shrubs and trees are becoming a focus for me these days. Especially knowing our pollinators are more drawn to them and get better sustenance. I planted a perennial *Allium* "Blue Twister" ornamental onion a couple of years ago. Last summer it had so many pollinators on it during August that I could hardly see the top of the plant. It was grown by the Blooming Nursery of Corvallis.

I bought a flowering red currant at Nerd Night a number of years ago which is native to Oregon. It was so beautiful and a major magnet for pollinators, butterflies and hummingbirds. But it was killed by heavy snow two years ago. I plan to replace it this year and am also hoping to plant some Oregon grape which is Oregon's State Flower. Oregon Grape, along with beautyberry, nowberry and Himalayan honeysuckle are wonderful shrubs with berries that birds are drawn toward. I have a Viburnum (a member of the honeysuckle family) which is blooming right now with beautiful white blossoms that will turn red and then into berries.

INSIDE TODAY:

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Our Conservation Pledge has more meaning than ever as survivable habitats for animals, plants/trees, frogs, insects, ocean life, and even humans is becoming more scarce. Trees are burning up in wildfires and being cut down because of disease (as in my neighborhood). Air and water pollution is a threat and worry. Our Earth is suffering.

I have read that Eugene is losing some of its tree cover due to disease and non-native species not thriving. Native gardening is being encouraged by many writers of gardening articles. If you are planning to plant a new tree or shrub this year, consider a native to our area. I encourage you to remember our Conservation Pledge as you hear about the disasters in our world. (It is printed on the back of our pink Member Directory) Let's each do at least one thing to help our planet.

Warmest regards,



. Pat Kramer
EGC President

Spring in the Garden

Time to prune the roses if you haven't already done that job. While you are pruning, inspect the lower third of the canes for "rose stem girdler damage". (You can look this up on your computer). Rose stem girdler attacks members of the rose family, mainly berries such as raspberries and marionberries along with other similar varieties. Any canes with girdler damage should be pruned out and put in garbage.

If you have fruit trees and haven't pruned them yet, that is another job that needs to be done right away as the buds are already beginning to swell.

To dissuade slugs and snails around really appetizing varieties of hostas, when all else has failed try using pennies in a loose double row around the base of the hosta. Slugs do not like to cross copper. Of course if too many of us do this, we will create a shortage of pennies. Maybe we should go to the Australian money system which has nothing as small as pennies.

To find micro climates in your garden, plant daffodils in various spots around your garden, and the first ones up indicate a warmer spot.

It is time to get weeds pulled before they go to seed. The wintercress and groundsel are already blooming.

Time to get your "seed wish list" out and actually buy seeds. I made a trip to Territorial Seed Company in Cottage Grove on Valentine's day and found that they were already out of some items. I ended up with a half pound of "Fortex" pole bean seed because they were out of the smaller packages. So if any of you would like an ounce of seed let me know, and I will sell them at the same price as the 1/2 lb. price divided by 8.

Happy Gardening!

Jackie Getty, Horticulture Chairman



A Stroll Through the Delta Ponds A Eugene Garden Club Adventure

Please join Lucy Chambers & Georgia & Greg Zahar for a walk through the Delta Ponds on **Tuesday, March 16, 2021 @ 1:00 pm.**

Meet at the Valley River Center parking lot north of the J C Penney store at around 12:45 pm. At promptly 1:00 pm we will carpool to the Delta Ponds trail heads (there is limited parking at the trail heads). We will break into separate groups as there are two different trail heads. Each trail is approximately an eighth of a mile walk.

Hopefully we will see some wildlife. There are lots of birds and waterfowl. Some nutria and an occasional beaver. It's a little early in the season, but if it is sunny we might see a pond turtle basking in the sun!

Dress for the weather. Bring your camera. Please wear a mask. Any questions? Call Georgia @ 541-521-5489 or 541-686-8397.

Georgia Zahar, Co-Vice-President



Hellebores – to the left, from Julie Yamane's yard this year and above, from Sherry Cossey's Willowdale yard in 2019.

Thank you to Julie Yamane for sharing pictures from her yard this year. Below is her red camelia and witchhazel, and the hellebore on previous page is Winter Jewels Sun Flare. Bottom of this page is one of her sedum planters.



Look Around Us

With the pandemic and wintery weather, it seems we are spending more time on line and watching TV. I've found some sites that I enjoy and would like to share them with you.

If you're on Facebook, join the group called "Eugene Gardeners". There you will see posts from gardeners right here in Eugene discussing every aspect of gardening. Some post pictures of their gardens and some ask questions about where to find a certain product or plant. Many times people offer their surplus plants, or gardening equipment, sometimes for free. I find it very interesting and informative.

Another thing I enjoy is the newsletter from Garden Gate magazine. You can sign up on their website to receive e-mails from them. Although a few of the e-mails are advertising their magazine and books, most contain good information and articles.

Also check out UTube. Just say "Container gardening" or any other topic and you will be surprised at the number of really good videos available. Hope this helps you until we can get out and actually do some gardening!

Ruth Fry



Plant Sale 2021

Hi my gardening friends.

I have missed our get-togethers so much! Here's hoping we will have the Garden Extravaganza to look forward to this year.

It is a plant and tuber sale including Willamette District Garden clubs and the Lane County Dahlia Society in early May. In the past we have been able to hold our sale the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, which would be May 8th this year. Key Bank has been allowing us to use their parking lot on River Road.

That would all need to be approved of course, but it's good to make some effort to plan ahead.

If you have some plants you can share please begin to pot them up in new soil and pots.

More info will be coming as the date nears. Spring will be upon us before we know it.

Enjoy,

*Camille Noel
Plant Sale Chairman*



A couple of hellebores Sherry brought with us in our move to SongBrooke Park.



Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House work party will be sometime this month, 11:00 a.m. Possibly on a Wednesday, the 10th, at 10:30 a.m.

**Eugene Garden Club
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*****State Garden Club*****

Member Sharon Wilson is the Awards chairman for our Eugene Garden Club and she is looking for suggestions for the Gardener of the Year Award for the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs.

Sharon would like some input for nominees for that award which is presented at the yearly state convention. She needs information by March 25.

sharonrwilson@yahoo.com.

And Sherry Cossey is the State Chairman for the annual Horticulture Award which is given for outstanding achievement in horticulture and its allied fields at the summer convention. Send any considerations her way.

cossey@riouasa.com.

OSFGC has initiated a special project called *“The Promise Tree Project”* which will help provide trees or shrubs to Oregon forest fire victims. The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) has teamed up with us to help the thousands of people with hundreds of homes and properties destroyed by the Labor Day fires in September 2020.

For Lane County, Pat Kramer, Sherry Cossey, Georgia and Greg Zahar, and Sharon Wilson have been in the process of contacting our local housing authorities to find ways of disseminating \$50 vouchers to folks as they file for building permits to replace their destroyed homes.

The next step is to solicit donations from organizations to help provide funds for the vouchers. If you belong to a group that might want to contribute, please give information to one of our EGC folks listed above.