



The Mahonia

The Official Newsletter of the
Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

MEMBER NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
& PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Volume 48-3 Winter Issue January 2026

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UPCOMING EVENTS

District Director's ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 10-11 am

Club Presidents' ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10-11 am

Dedication of Gold Star Marker @
Willamette National Cemetery
Sunday, May 24, 2026
11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland, OR

2026 Convention Dates
NGC--May 4-6, 2026, St. Louis, MO.
OSFGC--June, Venue and date, TBA
Pacific Region--October 12-14, 2026
Thousand Oaks, CA

MAHONIA SPRING ISSUE DEADLINE

Sunday, May 17, 2026
Send Word Documents & JPG Photos to
Sue Piper, Editor
susangpiper@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello everyone,

Well, winter has come at last. The rain is coming sideways and blowing in sheets across the valley outside my window. By the time you read this, the Holidays will be over and the long arm of Father Winter will be reaching across our wonderful State. These are the days when we start wondering "where are those catalogs of seeds and plants? Isn't it time to start planning for next year's garden? Enough already of winter!" It is during these quiet days that our gardens rest and rejuvenate for the coming year. It is also during this quiet time that I would like to send you my wishes for your gardens for the New Year.

May you have the garden of hope. May the spark of hope in your lives turn into a bonfire lighting the way from "maybe" to "yes" and dreams to accomplishments. May hope always sparkle within you, lighting your way on whatever path you take.

May you have the garden of joy. May your life be filled with the wonder and beauty of stars at night, warm summer days, winter storms, a hummingbird, the laughter of a child, a flower reaching for the light. May the joy of simple blessings be yours.

May you have the garden of peace. That great peace of knowing wherever you wander on your journey in this life that the Great Creator is always and forever holding you close. While life swirls around you with its twists and turns, ups and downs, may peace be your constant companion.

May you have the garden of love. Oh, that great garden of love. Love that surrounds us, goes through us, (Continued on Page 2)

From the President's Desk

(Continued from Page 1)

wraps us up in its warmth, and holds us tight forever. It comes in so many ways: a soft whisper, a shout, a touch, a smile, a hello, a prayer. It shines in your soul and warms your life.

While our Oregon winter blows across our gardens, I would like to thank all of you for being a part of OSFGC. Your membership in our clubs and districts make this Federation happen. You are our lifeblood and our future.

Thank you all so very much,

President Becky



PACIFIC REGION UPDATE



My theme is PLANT AMERICA: Wild, Wise and Wonderful!

My special project is Firewise Communities.

I am excited to announce a special ZOOM webinar series that will go into the details of Firewise Communities. And I am very thankful to Sue Piper, from our own Clackamas District, for using her wildfire prevention experience of more than 30 years in organizing this series.

The webinars will be held on the second Monday of February, March, April, August and September, from 2 pm to 3 pm. Mark your calendars!

And don't worry if you miss one, they will be posted on the Pacific Region website: <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/home>

Here are the titles for the five webinars. You will need to register for each webinar separately.

1. **Monday, February 9**
Firewise Webinar #1: Firewise Landscaping
Priscilla Robinson-President, Clackamas County Master Gardeners
Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0IVg32PgTBCZS26dayGa9w>
2. **Monday, March 9**
Firewise Webinar #2: Making Your Home Fire Resistant (Hardening Your Home)
Laura Blaul, Senior Wildfire Fellow, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/x1bM1pB4RTil-RkEz9BOQTQ>

3. **Monday, April 13**
Firewise Webinar #3: Insurance Matters: Understanding and Renewing Your Insurance
Emily Rogan, United Policyholders
Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d51CBVxwQaO6KN7PjB2ncw>
4. **Monday, August 10**
Firewise Webinar #4: Personal and Family Preparedness Before a Disaster
Todd Lando, President, Fire Safe Marin and Central Marin Battalion Chief
Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ahABCgwzTfeTFpu1c-MzvA>

5. **Monday, September 14**
Firewise Webinar #5: Organizing Your Neighbors—Firewise Communities
Joelle Frazier, Diablo Fire Safe Council and Macy Cornell, Oakland's CABS Firewise Neighborhood.
Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Hu32W-2nROmVkJUH_3pPdw

Please tell your Garden Club friends, your neighbors, your local fire department and even your local Firewise Communities about this special informative series.

Please take advantage of this opportunity. You will learn so much right in your home. See you in February!

Tanja Swanson
Pacific Region Director

DISTRICT UPDATES

Clackamas District:

The Challenge of Revitalizing Our District

As with many nonprofits, the Clackamas District has struggled the past few years. One the largest districts in the Federation, the District is still recovering from the pandemic while grappling with an aging membership within its six garden clubs.

Things came to a head this spring when no one was willing to step up to the plate as an officer. Club presidents didn't see the value in having a countywide garden club, but did see the need for greater support to club officers and a bridge between local clubs and the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, the Pacific Region of Garden Clubs and the National Garden Club.

We asked Board members to engage in a strategic planning process. We posed four questions, one at a time: What do you value about the Clackamas District? What could you do without? What are the strengths of the District that we could build on? And what are the challenges we face? Members answered each question anonymously and a scribe posted the responses so we could easily see what rose to the top.

With that feedback, we rewrote our mission and revised our Bylaws to reflect our new focus:

The Clackamas District helps member garden clubs thrive through education, training and networking opportunities in support of the National Garden Club's Conservation Pledge: to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth, and promise to promote education so that we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

To promote and further the interests and activities of member clubs, bring them into a closer relationship with Clackamas County community endeavors, and promote the establishment of new garden clubs.

As a result, we now invite all officers of member clubs to our Board meetings, even though each club only has one vote. Funneling everything through the hierarchy of the club presidents is no longer effective. We are eager to tap into the knowledge and experience of a larger group, and

it allows us to create a stronger community that sees first-hand the value of the District's work.

Our monthly e-newsletter goes out not just to the president of each club, but to all members who have agreed to be added to our **Clackamas Clippings** contact list. The newsletter promotes upcoming programs at each club, in the hope that gardeners from other areas might attend a meeting of interest. It also gives program chairs ideas for future programs. Each month we highlight an activity from two or three clubs with a photo and extended caption—to both recognize the club's efforts and to provide fresh ideas to other clubs in the District. The newsletter also includes a longer article from a Master Gardener that provides more in-depth information about local gardening challenges.

We've revamped our fall and spring luncheons with one hour of round table discussions on topics highlighted during our strategic planning process. The roundtables are another form of networking, which is a key element of the District's vision.

In January, we will run the first of two Leadership Academies via ZOOM for all club officers to provide training on best practices for officers and board members, and parliamentary procedure. The second Academy in February will focus on webpage considerations and social media. We recognize that many of our club leaders are elected with little training on their responsibilities, leading to inconsistencies and confusion. Our Board members felt this was a much needed service that the District could—and should—provide.

It is our hope that as our member clubs get stronger so will the Clackamas District. We'll keep you informed as we move forward.

Jennifer Buss
Co-Director

Sue Piper
Co-Director

Klamath District



Front: Angel Gillespie, Julie Breuer, Donna Rose, Jane Rider (in red). Back: Mo Shea, Wanda Baker, Tanja Swanson

Rogue District

Mid-November, the Rogue District invited Coos Bay Garden Club member David Kollen to speak at their Fall District Meeting, held in North Bend.

David's new topic "Pollination After Dark" was extremely interesting and delivered helpful information to consider as we make plans for new 2026 gardens and plantings. Given insight into the lives of these after-hour pollinators, presented ways in which we can prepare our surroundings to help create viable habitats to encourage them to stay close and benefit our gardens.

President Becky's Project "Give them a drink" promoting pollinator watering stations fits in beautifully as we find ways to give our little creatures a better chance to survive and fulfill their life's cycle.

Rogue District appreciates the Coos Bay Garden Club volunteers who planned and organized this event. It was attended by 38 people including three OSFGC State Officers, our State Advisor, former State President, current and former Rogue District Directors and Club Presidents. It is delightful to see members from all three clubs interact, becoming more acquainted and cheering one another as they win Wish-to-Win prizes galore.

Mary Kerr
District Director

Klamath District Garden Clubs began this Christmas season with gathering greens for our Christmas Cups program and wreath making. We joined with the Klamath County Library's Outreach Program about 15 years ago; now every Monday in December we make fresh cups of greens and flowers then deliver this Christmas Cheer each Tuesday to people who are unable to get out.

One recipient has saved all of her cups that she received from us over the years. At the district meetings we invite the community to attend our informative and educational presentations. This year our presentations were about bees and toxic plants.

Wanda Baker
District Director

Portland District



Come to our Valentine's Tea Party!
A Fundraiser for the Portland District Garden Clubs!!

Join us to celebrate this festive occasion when couples, friends, and families express love and affection! You will experience an English-style tea including finger sandwiches, scones and cakes, served with various teas: a tiered experience of delicate foods and etiquette! Along with the tea there will be music and a raffle, as well as baskets of flowers for sale!

This event is a fundraiser for Portland District Garden Clubs, supporting their charitable work around the area, such as wheelchairs for the mobility challenged at the Oregon Coast, the Gold Star Marker Program and the Oregon State University Botany and Agricultural Science Scholarship Fund. Hosted by Tuesday Morning Garden Club, Multnomah Garden Club, Oregon Cactus & Succulents Club and Villa Garden Club.

- ♥ The Valentine's Tea Party Fundraiser will begin at 1 PM, Saturday, January 31st, at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1740 SE 139th Avenue, Portland, 97233 in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♥ **COST TO ATTEND IS \$30/PERSON. SPACES MUST BE PURCHASED before January 24th!! Hurry!! Spaces are limited!**
- ♥ To reserve your space(s), send your check made out to Portland District GC to Pat Allabastro, 12633 NE Morris Street, Portland OR 97230-1635.
- ♥ **We can't wait to see you at the Portland District Garden Clubs' Annual Valentine's Tea Party Fundraiser!**



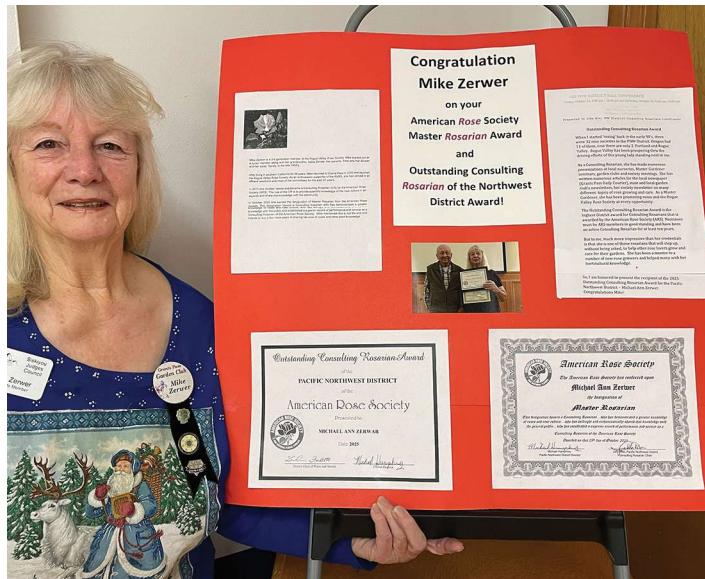
Sue Ceglie
Director

Siskiyou District

What an exciting time it has been as the new Siskiyou District Director. At the 2025 Seaside Convention, Illinois Valley and Grants Pass met the Member Challenge, Kathy Simmons received the Presidential Citation and Gena Goddard received the Member of Distinction Award. She also received the Suzy Twist-Powell Designer Award and, as the recipient, created a design of her own.

At the October 2025 PNW District Fall Luncheon Mike Zerwer earned the designation of Master Rosarian from the American Rose Society. This designation honors a Consulting Rosarian who has demonstrated a greater knowledge of roses, rose culture and established a superior record of performance and service as a Consulting Rosarian of the American Rose Society. To Mike's surprise, she also received the Outstanding Rosarian for the Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society (ARS)!

Terry Lynn Miller Director



Grants Pass Garden Club member Mike Zwerger was doubly honored --receiving the designation of Master Rosarian from the American Rose Society and the award for Outstanding Rosarian for the Pacific Northwest District of the American Rose Society this past October..



Kathy Simmons of the Illinois Valley Garden Club received the Presidential Citation at last June's OSFGC Convention.



Gena Goddard of the Grants Pass Garden Club received the Suzy Twist-Powell Designer Award as well as the Member of Distinction Award at last June's Convention.

IN PROFILE--Leanna Woodall



Leanna Woodall has been the **Mahonia** editor for the past 5 years, bringing her sense of color and style to the main communications vehicle for the Oregon State Federation of

Garden Clubs, Inc. (OSFGC).

"Unfortunately, I have MS, and with my right hand getting weaker, it takes two or three times as long to put the newsletter together. It was time for someone else to take the lead," she noted.

Leanna is a long-time garden enthusiast. A native Oregonian, she is one of 8 children whose parents are now in their 90's. She grew up in the Witch Hazel area of Hillsboro in a farmhouse that her mother sold three years ago after 56 years. "When I moved out in 1968, I joined the West Metro Garden Club, which was the evening club associated with the day-time Beaverton Garden Club. When the West Metro Club disbanded, I joined the Beaverton Garden Club in 2005." She served as the Beaverton Garden Club President from 2011-2013.

Leanna worked at Intel for 26 years as a senior administrative assistant; 16 years in a research department. "We changed the world, when Intel came out with new chips. And I met people from all over the world!"

"In the early years, Intel used to celebrate its success by hosting out of town events for staff. One year they took 1000 people to the beach, another they took 1200 people to Seattle for one night, and other year, to Seattle for three nights.

"We'd have special contests and costumed presentations. One year I made a toga for Craig Barrett, then a Senior VP and later President of Intel. Another year I created a King Tut costume for him, and then Chinese costumes for "The Great Wall" theme, and Hawaiian costumes for "The Big Kahuna" theme. It was great fun!"

Leanna's creativity shined through in her years as **Mahonia** editor. She'd search for appropriate poetry or artwork to make each issue unique and engaging. And even though she has stepped away from the **Mahonia** keyboard, she continues to participate in the Beaverton Garden Club's activities.

"People in garden clubs are the nicest people in the world. They are the epitome of hope, because anyone who will plant an ugly brown bulb in the fall believing that it will grow into a beautiful tulip or daffodil, that person has hope for the future. I've never met someone in a garden club who was not a nice person!"

IN PROFILE--Bruna McBride



Our very own OSFGC Historian Bruna McBride celebrated her 90th birthday in November!

Bruna was one of the original Beaverton Garden Club members back in 1989, and has lots of tales, tall and small, about where BGC has been and what they have accomplished. She writes a monthly newsletter for the club, and is vigilant about getting new members' stories on the front page!

If anyone has any questions about past State Presidents, clubs that have come and gone, or wants the 'inside scoop' on the happenings of dozens of Oregon garden clubs, do yourself a favor and take Bruna McBride out to lunch. Get ready for stories, anecdotes and firm opinions about people you know and love!

We all wish you a fantastic birthday, Bruna, and all the very best for the upcoming year!

Bernadette Sterry
OSFGC First Vice President

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blue and Gold Star Markers



Save the Date!

Sunday, May 24, 2026
Noon
Dedication of OSFGC's
Gold Star Marker @
Willamette National
Cemetery
11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd.
Portland, OR 97086

Deepfelt thanks to the many garden clubs, districts and individuals who contributed to our campaign to install a Gold Star Marker at the Willamette National Cemetery. We've ordered the marker (similar to the one pictured here from the Dallas Garden Club) and are organizing the dedication ceremony for the Sunday of Memorial Weekend.

Gold Star Memorial Markers were added by the National Garden Clubs to their already existing Blue Star Memorial Program in 2015. Today there are 10 Gold Star Markers installed or scheduled to be installed in Oregon, including the two that mark Highway 30 as the "Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway."

U.S. Highway 30 is the third longest highway in our nation, extending from Astoria, Oregon to Atlantic City, New Jersey, crossing eleven states. The Oregon portion of this historical highway begins in Astoria and 477 miles later exits at Ontario near the Idaho border. Gold Star Markers in Oregon honor the nearly 6,000 Oregon veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, leaving their loved ones (parents, siblings, spouses, sons, and daughters) behind to become known as "Gold Star Families."

For a full list of all Blue & Gold Star Markers in Oregon, go to:

<https://oregongardenclubs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Oregon-markers-to-113-final2025.pdf>

Not Just a Marker:



West Linn Garden Club faithfully maintains the Blue Star Marker at Highway 205 (#77) with seasonal floral displays, such as this one for Veterans Day. Because this marker is situated at the Willamette Falls Viewpoint along 205, personal letters and memorabilia are left at the marker for the loved one who is at war or has passed. A recent visitor shared: "This marker is the only one that is so easy to stop by and spend time reflecting. I stop every time I drive along this route to look and remember."

Diane Awalt, West Linn Garden Club

We hope that every district and club will send a representative to this important event. OSFGC has an ongoing relationship with the Willamette National Cemetery. We installed two Blue Star Markers there, one in 1995 and another in 2001. We also raised funds to install the Carillon Bells in 1975, in honor and loving memory of all veterans. OSFGC member Florence Mason worked tirelessly to make the dream of the carillon bells a reality.

**Jane Sercombe, Chairman
Blue and Gold Star Committee**



OSFGC's First VP Bernadette Sterry, Blue/Gold Chairman Jane Sercombe, Past President and Gold Star Daughter Gaye Stewart, and Current President Becky Cook represented our state garden club at the dedication of a Blue and Gold Star Marker at the American Legion Post 10 in Albany last August. The veterans across the State continue to be avid supporters of the Blue and Gold Star program.

Membership--Get Them Involved (and coming back!)

There's an interesting phenomenon that happens when a new member walks into a meeting. They get greeted, they get a name tag, and then they get ignored.

It's not just garden clubs - civic groups, craft groups, hobby groups, even corporate groups--all tend to distill into the people who know each other and the people who are new.

Established members are there to reconnect with friends they haven't seen in a month or so, and many of us get so caught up in getting caught up, that we unconsciously exclude the fresh faces from our conversation, thinking, "someone else will talk to them, I just need to find out how X is doing." Suddenly, when you look around, that new face has disappeared. They took a big step and walked into the meeting, but unless they have a reason to stay, they will walk out and find another club to join or activity to do.

To break this cycle, ask the new person to help. Is there something in your car that they could carry in for you? Could they bring a plate of cookies to the next meeting? Do they have an hour to do some weeding with you at the garden your club takes care of? We all love to feel needed.

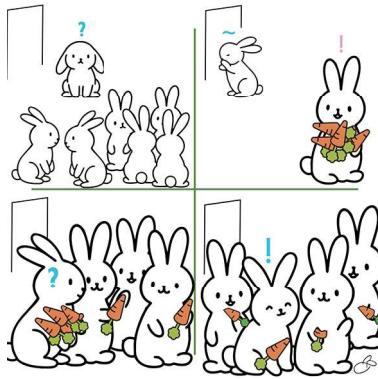
It's so important to talk to the friends you have at Garden Club. They are likely the reason you are there. You can be the reason that someone else is there.

Bernadette Sterry
First Vice President
OSFGC

Oregon Roadside Council

If your club is starting a project and needs funding, check page 33 of the OSFGC Directory. Funds are available up to \$250 for start up and another \$250 at completion.

Funds can be used for preparing a site for a



blue star marker (not for the marker itself) and then for the final landscaping of the marker, or for redoing the landscaping around an existing one.

Send a proposal with details of what you are proposing, location and pictures. Submit a final of what you accomplished to Beverly Siebel.

bds2213@gmail.com

Upcoming Awards Deadlines

Ellen Ambuhl Conservation Award

This award, along with \$100, is given yearly to a group or an individual who has made a significant contribution to help conserve our natural resources, highlighted in the Conservaton Pledge. Members, non-members, clubs, community groups and others are eligible.

Past winners are the North Coast Land Conserancy, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Gordon House in Silverton, and the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society.

To apply, send a simple Book of Evidence describing the work of the nominee to Norma Curtis by **April 15, 2026**

nlcurtis@hrcn.net
3900 Portland Drive, Hood River, OR 97031-9607

Garden of Distinction Award

The Garden of Distinction must be available to the public on a regular basis. It will be unique in a particular way as these previous winners demonstrate: the many year-round plantings that center around the Parkdale Bicentennial Garden Blue Star By-Way Marker, the 2022 winner; the variety of azaleas and rhododendrons at the Connie Hansen Garden in Lincoln City, the 2021 winner; the Blue Star Marker dedicated in 2007 along, with the veterans bench and plantings at Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park, the 2020 winner.

A Book of Evidence should briefly explain the history of the garden, the clubs dedicated to the upkeep of the garden, and photos that show the special focus of the garden.

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Nominations are due by **April 15, 2026**, to Jane Sercombe, Chairman.

jane.sercombe@gmail.com
4668 Calaroga Drive, West Linn, OR 97068-1023

Horticulture Award

Since 1943, the OSFGC Horticulture Award has been given for outstanding achievement in horticulture and its allied fields. The recipient is an honored guest at the OSFGC Annual State Convention and is presented with a Citation of Merit and a check.

Individuals, garden clubs and districts may make nominations. A Book of Evidence must be submitted, which includes a letter summarizing the reasons for the nomination and signed by the person(s) submitting the material. Pictures, newspaper articles written by and/or about the nominee, and letters of appreciation for work accomplished by the nominee may be submitted.

Please submit the nomination to OSFGC President Becky Cook at **seastudio06@yahoo.com** on or before **April 15, 2026**.

OSFGC "Heart" Award



Awarded to a member or members, club or district who have worked tirelessly and given "above and beyond" to the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs. A Book of Evidence is required. The

Executive Committee will

decide from the submitted applications who has shown "heart" for OSFGC. The award, presented at the State Convention in June, is a Heart art piece, a Certificate and the Book of Evidence.

Please send to President Becky Cook by **April 15, 2026**.

seastudio06@yahoo.com
44475 Aeolian Way, Neskowin, OR 97149-9700

Suzy Twist-Powell Designer of the Year Award

Awarded in memory of Suzy Twist-Powell, who promoted excellence in floral design through her skillful and artistic draftsmanship, active support of flower show schools and symposiums, organization of flower shows, and participation in the multiple activities of the Garden Club at all levels.

The award will be given to an individual who is an active member of a local garden club affiliated with the National Garden Clubs (NGC) and has most fully met the following criteria:

- Is recognized by his/her peers as a skilled and artistic floral designer
- Has either chaired or served as a member of an NGC flower show or symposium
- Has conducted a class or demonstrated floral design for an NGC Garden Club. No recipient may win the award more than once.

The Siskiyou Judges Council will administer the award.

Please send to Shirley Schmidt by **April 15, 2026**.

shirleyschmidt@yahoo.com
1630 Williams Hwy PMB 145 Grants Pass, OR 97527-5660

Digital Photography Contest

There are no entry fees for this statewide virtual photography contest. Digital photos can be in JPG or TIFF format and should not be enhanced by any computer program. Photo files must be at least 70KG.

Categories: (color and black & white)

1. Scenery
2. Floral Blooms
3. Animals
4. Gardens
5. Birds
6. Insects/Butterflies
7. President's Project: "Give them a drink"

Photos must have been taken by a current OSFGC member in good standing. Photos may have been taken at any time.

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Only one photo entry may be submitted for each category, in color or black & white, for a total of 14 entries per member. A release form for any person (or the parent of any child) recognizable in the submitted photo must be emailed along with the photo and entry form.

An entry form must be emailed for each photo. Photos and entry forms should be emailed together to OSFGC President Becky Cook at seastudio06@yahoo.com on or before **April 30, 2026**.

Claire Belsher Historic Preservation Award

Historic preservation is the restoration of a park, a building and/or garden of importance to local, state or national heritage. Does your Club or District maintain a garden site adjacent to a historical building? If you do, you could receive this award for your Club or District! More information in the OSFGC Directory on page 46.

Entries due to Peggy Olin by May 1, 2026 peggyolin@gmail.com or call 503 975-7782 for details.

Gardener of the Year Award

Individuals and/or clubs may make nominations. The first place winner will receive a Gardener of the Year flag and a certificate. Second and third place winners will be awarded certificates. Please submit a detailed portfolio as follows:

- Limit of 3 pages (just a paragraph or two) telling why the person is nominated, and 3-5 pictures of the garden's development or maintenance.
- Materials should be contained in a folder with a cover and include the reason for the nomination of the member of OSFGC.

Submit by mail to Nita Wood by **May 1, 2026**
1093 Chestnut Street, Independence, OR 97351-1549

CLUB NEWS

Beaverton Garden Club--Pioneer District

Fall is a busy time, and Beaverton Garden Club has had lots to do! The Veterans Memorial Park gardens have had several workdays, and the Elsie Stuhr Center garden has also gotten weeded, thinned out and tucked in for the winter.

Our outreach has expanded to include bringing in laundry detergent pods to donate to the Beaverton School District, which puts five pods and some quarters in a bag to distribute to houseless students who have no other way to do laundry.

We had a Friendsgiving lunch at member Sheila Scott's home, and it was wonderful! Almost 40 people attended, and she even sent many members home with a to-go box!



Beaverton and Cedar Mill Garden Clubs joined forces to host the Pioneer District's Fall Luncheon on Thursday, October 16th. The theme was "Autumn in Provence", and Judy Alleruzzo of Al's Garden & Homes, and the past host of "Garden Time TV" was the speaker, and she had some great ideas about incorporating the colors of lavender, gold and deep blue into fall plantings and arrangements.

100 people attended the District meeting, including President Becky Cook, who drove all the way in from Lincoln City with her sister, Ginny Timmerman. We crafted dozens of beautiful holiday mugs at our December meeting for distribution at two local memory care facilities, and enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch afterwards.

Bernadette Sterry
President

Capitol Arrangers Guild--Capitol District

The Capitol Arrangers Guild of Salem, Oregon, was busy and had lots of fun in 2025. The 11 members studied a variety of design types: Transparency, Reflective, Cascade, Multi-Rhythmic, Stretch, and Still Life. We also started to study the Principles of Design. Our Guild has two members who are accredited NGC Judges: Nita Wood and Char Mutschler. We also have a new Student Judge: Anne Juurma.

In May 2025, the Guild presented a Mini Flower Show “Currents of Change” during the League of Women Voters of Oregon Convention. This was held in Salem on Saturday, May 3rd, with three design classes: “The Beauty of Weathered Wood” (Creative Horizontal Line Design), “Ocean/River Reflections” (Reflective Design), and “Forest Wonders” (Illuminary Design). The Award of Design Excellence winner was Christy Levin for her “Forest Wonders” design. The People’s Choice Award winner was DeAnn David for her “The Beauty of Weathered Wood” design.

The Guild’s annual picnic in August featured the opportunity for designs to be professionally photographed for submission to the NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar contest. The designers who participated are looking forward to doing it again next year. Members traditionally bring Petite Designs to this fun picnic which are then judged and awarded prizes.



Guild Members also participated in the Portland Judges Council Standard Flower Show on August 16th, which was held locally in Keizer. The People’s Choice Award winner was Gretchen McKane for her Cascade Design.

The Guild also shared a table with other local clubs at the Oregon State Fair in the Floral Building on August 23rd. Anne Juurma represented our Guild at this fun public event and handed out flyers featuring photos of actual designs created by Guild Members.

A beautiful photo album was created and presented to the Guild by Sharon Glazebrook and DeAnn David. Our photographer, Gaye Stewart, has started to document the designs presented each month by including them in this album.



Illuminary
Design by
Christy Level
received
The Award of
Design
Excellence

Our Guild was also invited by the Grow and Show Garden Club to provide designs for their annual Christmas potluck on December 1st. Illuminary Designs were presented by Gaye Stewart, Christy Levin, and Gretchen McKane. The designs really stood out when the lights in the meeting room were turned down low.

The Capitol Arrangers Guild is looking forward to two new Members joining at our first meeting in 2026 on February 19th. The design we will be studying for February is Armature along with studying the Principal of Design “Contrast”.

Gretchen McKane
President

Cedar Mill Garden Club--Pioneer District

Cedar Mill Garden Club decided we wanted to plant a pollinator garden somewhere in Cedar Mill. After discussing possible locations, we contacted Leedy Grange at 835 NW Saltzman Rd., Portland, OR. The Grange Board was thrilled with our offer. However, there were a few delays, and it was already early July before we were ready to start.

We then set out to clear the 5 x 30-foot plot which was already rock hard due to the hot, dry spring. The weeds were tall and abundant. We had a couple of work "parties" and before long, the plot was ready to plant.



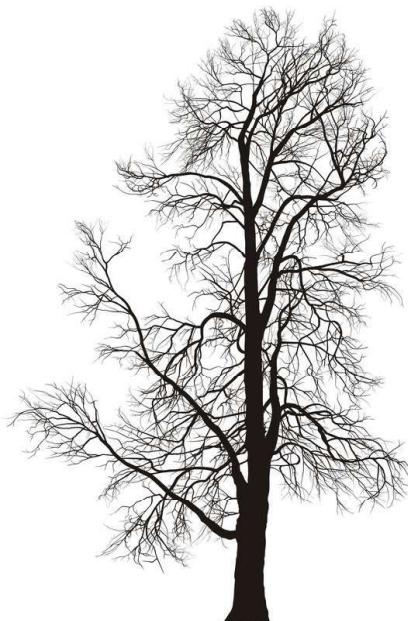
Our Vice President, Deb Grier, did an amazing job of gathering donated perennials and annuals from nearby merchants (Fred Meyer, Home Depot, Al's Garden Center, Cornell Farm & Market of Choice). Cedar Mill Landscape Supply gave us a generous discount on the hemlock mulch. Based on members' suggestions, we planted pink carpet roses, lavender, yarrow and coreopsis. Donated annuals such as dahlia and petunias filled in the blanks.

Member, Penny Hammer donated soaker hoses, a timer and a blanket flower/coreopsis. We had made sure there would be a faucet available. However, it turned out that the faucet leaked badly, making the timer and soaker hoses useless. That meant hand watering and to do that, we had to navigate the slippery slope that led down to the faucet. This was not feasible for some of our members.



However, other members stepped-up, so to speak, and with diligent watering and weeding by so many of our gardeners, the flowers became established and thrived. It was truly a group effort that paid off in transforming an eyesore into something nice to look at, while benefiting the pollinators in the area.

Cathy Ramsey
President



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Dallas Garden Club 10-Year Anniversary --Capitol District

The Dallas Garden Club was founded in February of 2016, with 16 charter members dedicated to beautifying and supporting the local community. Now, as we approach a significant milestone, we are excited to announce our 10-Year Anniversary Celebration. This event will be held during our regular Club meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Evangelical Bible Church Youth Center, located at 1175 SE Howe Street in Dallas.

Throughout the past decade, the Dallas Garden Club's community involvement included:

- The adoption of the Dallas Post Office as a site for both a Pollinator Garden and a Blue Star Memorial Marker.
- The installation of a Gold Star Memorial Marker near the entrance to the City Park.
- Funding for the Torii Gates at the newly redeveloped Japanese Garden within the City Park.
- Support for the 4-H Summer Day Camp and providing student awards at the Polk County Fair.
- Support for the Kindness Club, a local non-profit organization that offers weekend meal service and clothing assistance to 220 students in the Dallas/ Falls City area.

We take our motto, "Making a difference where we live!" seriously. Over the years, we have formed lasting friendships and have enjoyed working together to improve the community while also having fun.

We invite you to attend our anniversary celebration or join us for any of our other activities when you are in the area. For more information, contact Gaye Stewart, President (503.510.4370 or rosesremembered@aol.com).

Gaye Stewart
President

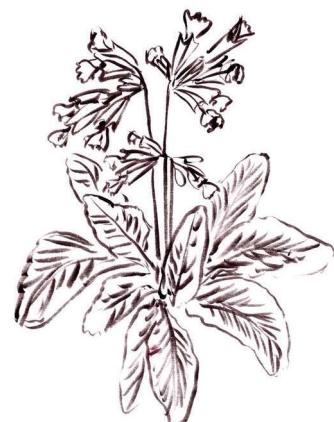
Evening Primrose Garden Club-- Klamath District



Evening Primrose Garden Club found that cleaning up a desolate and forgotten traffic triangle could be nurtured with soil, plants, and water to bloom into a magnificent native plant garden that the club and community could be proud of. These types of projects are what our club enjoys doing for the community. This and a little publicity brought new members to our club so we can do more of this kind of giving back.

This December meeting we had a great time sitting down and really getting acquainted with our new members and planning for the new gardening year!

Vickie Liskie
President



Illinois Valley Garden Club--Siskiyou District



The Illinois Valley Garden Club stepped up in a big way to help cook for the annual Thanksgiving feast in Jubilee Park, Cave Junction, 11/27/25. Turkeys, hams, pies and much more were delivered by members. The event was organized by Journey Home with support from not only our garden club but also Illinois Valley Living Solutions and many other local businesses. 350 visitors were served and many meals were delivered to anyone unable to attend. The club spent December planning their Christmas party and annual toy drive for the community, as well. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Patti Pogoreic
President

Lake Grove Garden Club--Clackamas District



We are grateful for the wonderful year we had in 2025! The pollinator garden at Luscher Farm and the rose garden at the Heritage House flourished, our 99th annual plant sale was a great success, we formed a partnership with the Lettuce Grow program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, we welcomed eight new members, and our field trips to a lovely historic garden in May and to fields of dahlias in September deepened our friendships and our love of plants!



Colleen Keyes
Lake Grove Garden Club
Publicity Chair



Lebanon Garden Club--Santiam District

The Lebanon Garden Club spent two Saturday mornings, in the rain, planting cuttings from native shrubs and trees to stabilize the eroding bank at Riverview Park. We spent another Saturday morning planting three tall potted trees, each by a bench in the park to provide shade when someone stops to rest.

We plan to hold another work party at Riverview in February. These efforts are part of our new Community Projects Committee, which is working with other local organizations to improve the park.

Linda Ziedrich
Community Projects Committee



Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club--Mt. Hood District



Medy Gantz and Kathi Ringo wrap presents for the Canyon Rim Assisted Living Center.

Maupin Dig and Hoe is a treasured part of the community. They contribute time and help with fundraising for important activities. This December they helped fundraise to purchase gifts for Canyon Rim Assisted Care and participated in the fun part, wrapping them all up. Every spring they help Canyon Rim with their own facility garden club, purchasing soil, seed, and plants for the raised beds. Canyon Rim Assisted Care is very proud of the flowers and vegetables they grow. In the spring Maupin Dig and Hoe with the local extension service puts on a seed exchange. Many people come for seeds and gardening advice. In May the club sets up tables during Maupin Daze to sell vegetable and flower starts along with crafts, baked goods, and what we have designated, "What Brings You Joy."

Kathy Kelsay
President

Northside Garden Club--Klamath District

Northside Garden Club has the Community Advocacy Center that we help with keeping their garden looking beautiful so the center enjoys peace and healing. We support the Senior Center Bazaar with wreaths and plants. Our members helped a bunch, thank you!

The club collected donations and food for our local Food Bank this year and cleaned up the area around the Blue Star Marker in Veterans Park. At our club meetings we invite the community to hear our guest speakers.

Bernie Wood
President



Odell Garden Club --Mt. Hood District



Front row: Marlise Sharie, Chris Neilson, Norma Curtis, Lee Caryl, Bobbi Casey, Terry Phillips, Kay Lincoln. Back Row: Pam Regentin, Jill McBee, Joann Gage, Linda Bloom, Lynda Murray, Trish Paige, Jackie Shaw.

This past November 10, the Odell Garden Club held a Swag Workshop at Lee and Diane Caryl's tree farm. This has been an annual club tradition for more than 23 years. The swags are made for Odell businesses, family, friends and shut-ins.

Norma Curtis
President

Parkdale Garden Club--Mt. Hood District



Nancy and TJ Slagle working in the Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden this fall

The Parkdale Garden Club is fundraising to replace the 60-year-old irrigation system for the Bicentennial Memorial Garden. Recently we had an indoor yard sale and sent letters out to community members notifying them of our financial need. The generosity in our community has been overwhelming! Not only will we be able to replace the system, but fund other needed Memorial Garden projects. We also had a fun December cookie exchange and sent out Christmas cards to local businesses.

Kathy Smith
President

Scappoose Garden Club-Pioneer District



President Michelle Berg oversaw the floral entries and managed the floral building throughout the Columbia County Fair. Members staffed the floral building during Fair hours. The Scappoose Garden Club was awarded the Best Overall Floral Entry in the Garden Club category. The [Columbia County Spotlight](#) newspaper featured Michelle in an article shortly after the Fair.

Michelle Berg
President



Tigard Garden Club--Pioneer District

The Tigard Garden Club, led by President Stacey Nielsen and Vice President Bobbi Marling, stays busy gardening and giving back to our community. Our members regularly volunteer by weeding the native garden bed at the Tigard Library, a project coordinated by Marcia Edwards. We also recently made cash and item donations to two local food banks and a local family homeless shelter.

This past year has been a difficult one, as many of our members have lost loved ones. We were especially saddened by the passing of Carol Williams (at left), a member of the Tigard Garden Club since 1988. She will be truly missed.

Stacey Nielsen
President



Tree League Garden Club--Klamath District



Klamath Tree League Garden Club planted trees at a school with the students and the mayor and gave homeschooled students a chance to be at the Community Aboretum learning about trees and parts of trees.

Stephanie Pickern
President

Villa Garden Club - Portland District

Villa Garden Club is often very serious about participating and learning about gardening. But we're also known for having fun during our meetings. We like to dress up for Halloween and to be a "little goofy". During one of our "hort" sessions, we had members Geri Grieve dressed as a flapper and Lyn Farris as a skeleton.

We also have a holiday charitable project and donated 12 boxes of food to PACS, one of our local food banks. We also enjoyed making ourselves holiday swags or centerpieces with greenery and dried flowers from our yards! Great friendships!

We're looking forward to an even better, more fun, year next year!

Susie Ceglie
President



Geri Grieve and Lyn Farris

West Linn Garden Club - Clackamas District



A July visit to Diane Awalt's lush garden in Old Willamette, a West Linn neighborhood.

This summer, the West Linn Garden Club experimented with a new program, the Summer Happy Garden Hour. Each week from the second week in June until the last week in August, members spent 90 minutes at a member's home garden or a local specialty nursery. Not only did it fill the summer with 10 weeks of programs, but it strengthened the sense of community among members, who rarely get to see WLGC member gardens during the year.

Marcia Prinz
Summer Happy Garden Hour Coordinator