

The Mahonia

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Holiday 2017



Member National Garden Clubs, Inc., Pacific Region

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From the President's Desk

Gaye Stewart, OSFGC President 2017-2019 503-510-4370 rosesremembered@aol.com

“Plant a Seed, Reap a Harvest”



Dear Friends,

Season's Greetings to all of you. We just had our first hard frost last night and all those perky plants in the garden now look sad as they prepare to sleep for winter. Their timing is perfect as winter officially begins December 21!

Much has happened since we met in Dallas on October 8th and 9th for our Fall Board meeting:

- 1) Contracts have been negotiated and signed for both the 2018 and 2019 Conventions. Both sites are unique and extraordinarily beautiful. The 2018 Convention will be at the Boulder Falls Inn in Lebanon with its beautiful Japanese Garden and the 2019 Convention will be at the Running Y Ranch Resort in Klamath Falls with its magnificent views. You will soon be able to make your room reservations, but for now, save these dates on your calendar: Convention 2018, June 10-13 and Convention 2019, June 9-12.
- 2) The Spring Board meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Eugene, just off I-5, on March 4th and 5th, 2018.
- 3) At the Fall Board meeting the Board approved our checking on the possibility of hosting a Fall Festival in September 2018, at The Oregon Garden. A Concept Proposal was written and personally presented by Peggy Olin, Marcia Kay Whitelock and your President, Gaye Stewart to 3 people representing The Oregon Garden. It was well-received and, following further review by their Director, we have been approved. This is an exciting opportunity for OSFGC to plan, develop, organize and implement this “signature event” that will allow us to share our mission, knowledge and skills in a highly-appropriate public garden. We will know more after the holidays when we meet with staff at The Oregon Garden. We will keep in touch with you.
- 4) The OSFGC website is being “remodeled” with revised information, new information, user-friendly access to the information you need and an attractive format. Karen Varty, our Website Editor, has spent many hours working on the website and she is in regular communication with Rod Lloyd, Webmaster, and with me. Our goal is to make it a great, informative and accurate website reference for you. Look at www.oregonardenclubs.org. There's much to see, including the Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs awards information.

That's a quick look at what's happening in support and continued development of this wonderful organization. Thank you all for your contributions and participation to make us strong. I am proud of you!

Happy Holidays,

Gaye Stewart, President

*Let's enjoy this Beautiful Season,
The Love of our Family,
The Happiness of the little Ones,
The Kindness of our Friends*



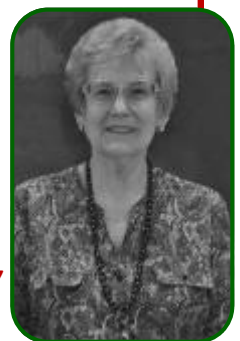
And take this warm feeling into a Happy New Year

That is what I wrote on my Christmas cards this year and I am extending these wishes to all my Garden Club friends.

As Mahonia editor, I really wanted to highlight the wonderful holiday events so many Garden Clubs plan each year. You organize tea parties, bazaars and many of you make beautiful wreaths. You visit nursing homes and homebound people to spread Holiday Cheer. And starting in Fall you have fun with pumpkins and honor our Veterans in many ways. Non-Garden Club friends always assume that this is the quiet time of year for us. That couldn't be farther from the truth. I know my District is very busy in December.

So enjoy all the pictures of what other clubs are doing and perhaps you'll get some ideas of what your Club or District could do next Holiday Season!

*Much Love, from Tanja Swanson
Membership, Mahonia Editor*



"To my wonderful friends of OSFGC - God gave us unique people to cherish, many joys to celebrate, and wonderful memories to treasure. This Christmas may you know his love and kindness."

*Cheryl Drumheller
2nd vice president*

Planting Pollinator Gardens in Public Places

This seems like the wrong time of year to be talking about planting pollinator gardens, but actually it is a great time. You will recall that President Gaye has challenged us to plant 86 pollinator gardens in each of the next two years and our first year is almost half over. It is true that we won't get much planting done until spring, but it is not too early to get started.

I am proposing a **5 Step Plan** to get us started. The first step is to **"Look."** Let's check our communities and identify several public locations that could benefit from some floral beauty as well as serve as much-needed feeding grounds for our pollinator friends. These might be new locations, or they might be current locations that simply have been underserved, or worse, allowed to slip into a state of neglect.

The second step is to **"Seek."** Because we are most likely dealing with public property, we will need to seek permission from the governing body for these properties to access their property and make the improvements we have in mind. This will take some thought on our part and maybe even a written proposal. This doesn't have to be a complicated process, just be concise and speak to the concern we have for our pollinators and our willingness to help.

The third step is to **"Plan."** Once you have a location in mind, do the research necessary to select plants, shrubs and trees that will attract our pollinator friends and be easy to maintain. Selecting native and drought-tolerant plants will be important if you have a limited water supply. Part of our project is education, so be sure to add labels to the plantings that might not be familiar to those who walk by your garden.

The fourth step is to **"Enlist."** You don't have to do this project all by yourself. If you have a limited budget or only a few active Club members, consider seeking donations from an area nursery and/or partner with an adjoining Garden Club. If you need help to plant or maintain the garden, check with other service clubs in your area. You might also wish to seek community involvement and just periodically declare a public "Workday in the Garden." Give plenty of advance notice and follow it with lots of praise to those who show up to work for their community. Oh, and refreshments are always appreciated.

Finally, the fifth step is to **"Enjoy."** There is nothing quite like a beautiful garden filled with blooming plants and a multitude of happy pollinators. Life really does begin in the garden.

If there were to be a sixth step, it would be to **"Document"** your project with "before and after" pictures and a written narrative of the high points and perhaps even the challenges you encountered along the way. We are, after all, creating a road map for others to follow.

See you in the garden...and please don't "bee" late!

Mike Stewart
Pollinator Gardens Chair

Nan Jean Roller's 90th Birthday



*Dear Members,
Thank you for the "shower" of cards sent to
Nan Jean for her 90th birthday. AWESOME!!!!
Her apartment walls are decorated with your
Birthday wishes and notes.*

*She sends her thoughts for a Merry Christmas
And a Happy and Healthy 2018.
She is looking forward to two new great grandchildren-
One in December and one in June.*

*Remember to mark your Directory handbook with her new
Apartment Number - T356.
Other information remains the same.*

Marcia Kay (You are the best members ever!!!)

*Thank you for all the Birthday Wishes. I had a wonderful 90th Birthday Celebration.
All of the Cards and Wishes I received are up in my room and I have enjoyed reading each and every one.
Thanks again
Nan Jean*



A few days before Halloween Eugene Garden Club helped 11 seniors (Garden Therapy) at their retirement living facility decorate pumpkins.

We did this the past 2 years also as well as doing another floral arranging activity in the spring.

We usually have about a dozen ladies.

They so enjoy it!

We bring plant material from our yards, and their facility buys the pumpkins. Some need more help than others, and one lady does it all on her own!

Submitted by Sherry Cossey

Debi Luidhardt, Sharon Wilson, Ginger Budington,
Jennifer Ellis, Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar

Adorable!



Clackamas District - Carolyn Olley, Director

Sara Petersen, President of Sunny Hills Garden Club in the Clackamas District, and Carolyn Olley, Clackamas District Director, made table decorations for the annual Hull Foundation event that was held in October.



Santiam District - Joli Root, Director



Lebanon Garden Club on their Fall tour to Gathering Together Farmstand Restaurant in Philomath and then on to Greengable pumpkin patch down the road where they found the "Great Pumpkin."

Klamath District - Lavon Ostrick, Jaye Weiss, Co-Directors

80th Klamath Basin Potato Festival in Merrill Oregon



Flower show judges Edith Martin and Bev Hicks from the Siskiyou Judges council with Bernie Wood.

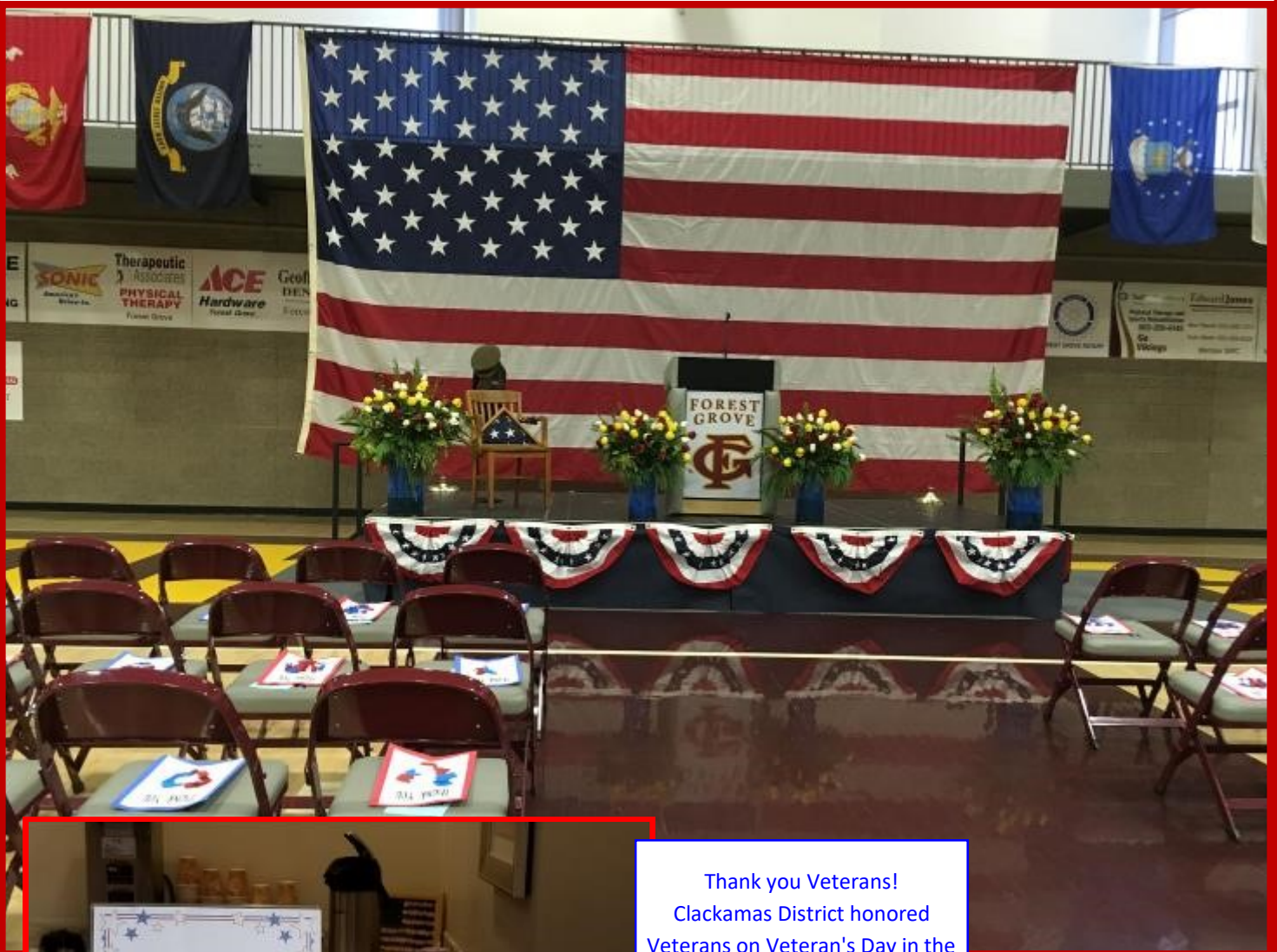


Autumn Joy Design

Pioneer District - Cathy Weber, Director

For the 3rd year the Five Oaks Garden Club has had the privilege of decorating the stage for the Veteran's Assembly at Forest Grove High School. The ceremony, now in it's 60th year, is a wonderful tribute to those who have served and is well attended by our local veterans. Kudos to this school and its students for this yearly event. I think you will agree Club members Beverly Seibel, Chris Klotz, Sherrie Kirchem, Nancy Biehn, Jean Anne Zimmerly and Janette Pero did a fantastic job with the stage this year!

Submitted by Kim Saville - The Five Oaks Garden Club President



Thank you Veterans!
Clackamas District honored
Veterans on Veteran's Day in the
Veterans Clinic.





At OSFGC Portland Judges' Council's annual Christmas party at the home of Mary Clinton Marcia Kay Whitelock presented Sally Thompson with a beautifully framed Emeritus Judge Certificate. There were tears and congratulations for Sally.

We have two new Judges: Sharon Wilson, Springfield - Willamette Judges' Council and Kathleen (Kathie) Henderson, Tigard - Portland Judges' Council

Congratulations to both of you.

Submitted by Garnet Ascher



Michele DeWitz reports that the Judges' Council Flower Show "Autumn Memories" in October at The Rose Villa Performing Arts Center in Milwaukie had a great turnout. Around 250 people came through to look at the entries and attend the program.



There were 3 divisions: Horticulture, Design and Special Exhibits. Sally Thompson gave a demonstration and talk on bromeliad tillandsia (air plants) and the Judges came from Washington State.

Umatilla-Hermiston Garden Club Christmas Luncheon.



Condon Garden Club
Christmas Luncheon for the Yard of the Month Recipients.



Looks like Fun!

Blue Mountain District - Cece Delfs, Director



Milton Freewater Garden Club also decorated their Community Building, but no pictures.



Umatilla - Hermiston Garden Club took cups and supplies and helped the residents of the Brookdale Assisted Living make a bit of Christmas cheer for their rooms.



Happy Holidays from members of the Clackamas District!

To all of our Garden Club "sisters and brothers" throughout Oregon:
Happy Holidays to you and your families!
From all of your "sister and brother" gardeners in the ten Clubs that make up the
Clackamas District.



Santiam District - Joli Root, Director



Lebanon Garden Club members and friends gathered at Trudie Bason's for a greens party to make our Christmas wreaths.

Klamath District - Lavon Ostrick, Jaye Weiss, Co-Directors

Northside Garden Club - Wanda Baker President
Gathering boughs and making wreaths and
for sale at our December Bazaar



Bernie Wood, Andy
Swanson, Donna
Rose, Wanda Baker,
Michelle and Tanja



Donna, Jana French and Jaye Weiss



Bernie's light-up wreaths



The District uses the leftovers from the Northside wreaths and flower donations to make Christmas cups. Every December we visit about 40 home-bound library patrons with Cami Nielsen the Library Outreach Coordinator.



Lois Gray, Jana French
Tanja Swanson and Donna Rose



The other leftovers went to decorate the Down-town planters in Klamath Falls.

Mt. Hood District - Diana Caryl, Director



16 Odell Garden Club members gathered to make swags for Odell Businesses, shut-ins and for ourselves. Good potluck food and lovely table decorations and arrangements made by Naomi Frisbie out of her garden and Margaret Taylor's. Thank you ladies for coming together and enjoying each other's company.

Submitted by Norma Curtis



Parkdale Garden Club
Community swag making party



Annual Joyous Sharing Time St. Helens Garden Club

Every year the St. Helens Garden Club has two special gatherings for all members. In July, we have a picnic/potluck at one member's home with the sharing of laughter and fellowship. The other happens in December for the Holidays.

What makes the Holiday gathering different, is that it happens over two days. The day before our Holiday party, members travel to **Ida's Wreath Shop** to create both the decorations for the party the next day, and, also to create wreaths to share with others in our lives. The centerpieces are simple and have some indication as to what to expect as a theme for the Party. Ida Mae Larson is a member of our club whose wreaths and swags are shipped world-wide.

Last year we decorated around "The Nutcracker Suite", with a small nutcracker in each centerpiece. Other decorations included a life-sized nutcracker and several nutcrackers belonging to members of the planning committee. Even the individual favors were nutcrackers. The centerpieces were placed on Christmas greens connected with strings of fairy lights and several individual ceramic birds. Every year the Holiday party includes the donation of non-perishable food for Holiday Hope, the local food basket program. A very short meeting is conducted, followed by the always fun gift exchange.

2016's party was well attended, even with the impending threat of snow. After getting the weather forecast and timing for the snow, it was decided to go ahead with the party. It helps to have connections with the Road Department who made sure that the hill from the party location was sanded before 2:00 p.m. when the snow was to begin and the party end. The timing was spot on, and everyone made it safely home. But, oh, what a mess the next few days.

Here's hoping we don't have a repeat this year!.

Wishing you all a fantastic Holiday this year!

Submitted by Lynn Chiotti



Multnomah Garden Club members, family and friends gathered on Saturday, December 2nd for an afternoon fundraiser of "Tea and Treasures". Beautiful quilts crafted by members and friends surrounded the participants as they shopped the holiday treasures boutique, purchased poinsettias and competed for raffle items including baskets filled with holiday treats. A scrumptious menu of savory and sweet items accompanied by an assortment of teas rounded out the festive event.

Submitted by Julie Missal - Multnomah Garden Club President



Many wonderful, lasting friendships have "bloomed" over the years at **Villa Garden Club**. Former Villa Presidents Mary Cranston and Dorothy Drews, pictured here at the November meeting, can attest to that!

Villa Garden Club activity - Chris McClure

For the past several years, **Villa Garden Club** members have enjoyed creating their own winter hanging baskets. Initiated by former Villa President Jeanette Dimick, the beautiful baskets last several months outdoors with no additional watering or special care. Jeanette and Gretchen Krueger, among others, bring in armloads of cedar, pine, fir and spruce branches.

For the design, we take a container or hanging basket and place a soaked oasis block inside. It is best if the oasis is higher than the container by several inches. If your basket is large, put an object under the oasis to elevate it. The soaked oasis is wrapped in light plastic to keep moisture in. We start at the bottom, poking longer branches in horizontally that droop down and cover the basket. Then we build up from that, poking branches through the plastic into the oasis. Sometimes we stuff newspaper around the oasis to keep it centered. Accents of dried foliage or holly add interest. You are free to create whatever arrangement you like, from a small accent piece to a grand statement. It's a wonderful way to start the season!

Our members have lots of fun making them. Best of all, you can get the greenery right out of your yard or from a friend's tree! Nurseries usually sell loose branches too. Place it outside, and it looks beautiful throughout the entire winter!

Happy Holidays! Chris McClure



Eugene Garden Club's famous wreaths

More than 50 Eugene Garden Club members and family helped procure materials and produce wonderful products for the annual "GREENS SALE" which was held 9:00 a.m. December 2 at the clubhouse. Many pickup loads of various firs and other forest greens along with oodles of beautiful plant Materials - like boulevard cypress, magnolia, camellia, cryptomeria, colorful nandina and holly - from our own properties are brought to the clubhouse after Thanksgiving and production begins with clipping for bundles that weekend, followed by 5 days of intense work before the sale. We even have a trailer to throw stuff away and it gets very full during the week.

Members created 142 beautiful wreaths, 32 holiday floral arrangements & 10 Christmas mugs, 13 swags, 16 door blessings, 20 little decorated Christmas trees, 15 Yule logs using birch, 1 cone tree, 8 cone baskets; we sold all except the cone baskets. We also buy about 90 poinsettias from a local nursery to sell as well.

We sold out mostly within 3 hours, so we put a sold out sign on the door. cleaned up and went home by 1:30 p.m.! After the sale is over, we come in to make our own wreaths.

Since we own our own building, this is a very important fund raising event for us to keep up with repairs, etc. - even more so than our Plant Sale in the spring! And we have lots of time to visit as we work, eat lunch together, compare ideas, and greet the public during the sale. People sign up ahead of time for working on various aspects of the event, as well as preparing soup for each day's lunch. On sale day we have "Dump Soup" that everybody brings something to add, and it was delicious also!

Submitted by Sherry Cossey



Eugene Garden Club's famous wreaths



Sherry Cossey with
her person-size
wreath

Absolutely gorgeous!

Wreath on title page
is from Eugene also

SAVE THE DATE – June 11-13, 2018

COME TAKE A WALK IN OUR GARDEN



91st OSFGC Convention

Hosted by Santiam District

Best Western Premier

Boulder Falls Inn & Convention Center

And one acre Japanese Garden & Koi Pond

Lebanon, Oregon

Special Keynote speaker Hoichi Kurisu

Kurusu International

Invite your friends to come with you and meet this amazing world renowned, Japanese Landscape Architect Hoichi Kurisu. He not only built the one acre Koi Pond at Boulder Falls, but also built the Healing Garden at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital. In 2010, Hoichi worked with the cities of Albany and Millersburg who joined with metals manufacturer ATI to create an engineered water treatment wetland called Talking Water Gardens. Inspired by the environment, the wetland cells mimic the cleansing and cooling processes that occur in nature, returning treated water safely back to the Willamette River. Hoichi also designed the Japanese Garden in Portland, Oregon, as well as many throughout Oregon and the world. Don't miss the chance to meet this wonderful speaker who has ties to Lebanon. (*We'll tell you about that at the banquet.*) kurusu.com

The YOUTH CLUB PROGRAM ENRICHMENT GRANT APPLICATION form is now on-line and ready for you to use. If you have a registered Youth Club, and could use a little help with materials that would enrich your program, please apply for a grant. All of the information you'll need to apply is included. You can find the application form on the OSFGC website under OSFGC Downloadable Forms. *Look near the bottom of the list.* It is titled "Youth Club Program Enrichment Grant Application."

Sending you Peace, Good Will, and Joy this Holiday Season. And all Good Wishes for 2018.

Carolyn Olley
OSFGC Youth Chairman

Calendar of Events

OSFGC Spring Board Meeting: March 4-5, 2018 Willamette District

I hope you have enjoyed this Holiday Issue!
Next year I hope to hear and see pictures from all the other Districts.

Please keep sending your articles and pictures of all that is important to you for publication in the Mahonia!

The next regular issue deadline will be **January 31st, 2018!**

Thank you!

Tanja Swanson, Mahonia Editor
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