



# The Mahonia

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

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

OCTOBER 2023

From the President's Desk.....1  
 Bits & Pieces Page .....2  
 Plant America Feed American.....3  
 Conservation Committee.....4  
 BBlue & Gold Star Updates.....5  
 New Column News.....6  
 What We've Been Up To.....7-8  
 Specialist Bees.....9  
 Regenerative Gardening.....10  
 Mahonia Due Dates.....11

## SEND ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO:

Charmane Mitchell, Co-Editor  
(article/photo collection & editing)  
cmainie@gmail.com

Leanna Woodall, Co-Editor  
(newsletter layout & publication)  
lwoodallor@comcast.net

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

DECEMBER 30, 2023

FALL ISSUE



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Well, almost anyway. The Holidays are fast approaching and Autumn is here for sure. Many of our members might be alone during the holidays, some maybe for the first time. Do take care of each other, it only takes a few minutes of your time. It will brighten YOUR day, too.

Many people start thinking about their annual charitable giving this time of year. Consider OSFGC's many giving opportunities: Life Memberships (the money goes into the Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund); the President's "Wheelchair Project" to buy a manual beach-accessible wheelchair; Compton Fellowship (the money goes to OSU Graduate Students majoring in Small Fruits and Berries); Penny Pines; Blue & Gold Star Memorial Markers; Promise Trees; Leach Botanical Gardens; Gardens of Enchantment; and the Book of Friendship.

If you are asked what you'd like for a present, consider one of these opportunities instead of another fancy pillow for the couch. Checks for any of these giving opportunities should be made out to OSFGC, with a note on the memo line of the check as to what it's for, and then sent to OSFGC Treasurer, Karen Brown at 5211 Salmon River Hwy, Otis, OR 97368-9780.

As we put our gardens to bed for the winter, and start thinking about what did well in your garden, and what didn't(!), do take a few minutes to reflect on how lucky we are to live in Oregon where we can grow so many different things. Next year you may want to try a new plant. You may also want to plant an extra row in your vegetable garden so you can share the produce with a food bank or food pantry. NGC President Brenda's project "Plant America-Feed America" fits right into that, so be sure to fill out the NGC form and let them know people in Oregon are doing our part. The form is on the NGC website.

I'm thinking ahead to possible New Year's resolutions. "Learn something new about our beautiful State."\* "Share my knowledge with all of you." "Grow so mething new." Have a great Fall y'all...and beyond.



Carolyn  
OSFGC President  
molley1755@comcast.net



# THE BITS & PIECES PAGE

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED

There are still a few more Committee Chairpersons needed for the 2023-2025 Crew. They are: Horticulture Award; Invasive and Poisonous Plants; Leach Botanical Garden; National Garden Week; and Treasure Chest (for Convention). If you are interested in any of these, please contact President Carolyn at molley1755@comcast.net, or give her a call at 503.698.5305.

## CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Is your club about to have an important anniversary? Bruna McBride is the Chairperson you need to get in touch with. She will see to it that your club receives an Anniversary Certificate of Merit. You can email her with the details at mcbridebruna@gmail.com.

## MAHONIA DUE DATES

Be sure to check the Mahonia Due Dates for submitting your next articles and photos. We hope to see lots of pictures of members having fun and articles from clubs about their Holiday activities.

## MEET OUR PRESIDENT & HER CREW

Carolyn, your OSFGC President, has been invited to several FALL District Meetings. She will be bringing a basket to auction off with all proceeds going to her "Wheelchair Project." She and the OSFGC Crew, are happy to attend your meetings if they are invited and their schedules allow. An email invitation will suffice. Give as much advance notice as you can, it is appreciated.

## WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

We can use more people on the President's Wheelchair Project Committee, especially from clubs along the Oregon Coast. Contact OSFGC Chaplin, Lauree Winfield at billnree@gmail.com or Peggy Olin at peggyolin@gmail.com.

## SCAM ALERT

It has been brought to the attention of your State President that emails have been sent to various members asking for help in obtaining gift cards. **THAT IS A SCAM!! DELETE THOSE EMAILS.** None of your officers would ever do that.

## 2023-2025 DIRECTORIES

The new 2023-2025 Directories have been printed and will be distributed to the District Directors. You can arrange to pick up your copy. There's always a question about "extra copies." We don't have many this year and we'll have to wait for an exact number until clubs, Pacific Region, and National Officers have all received their copies.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Tiffany Olley is the OSFGC Corresponding Secretary. If you receive an email from her, be sure to open it and see what information she's been asked to pass along. Her email address is tiffanyolley@outlook.com.

## PHOTO CONTEST

Sure, it's early, but be on the lookout for good photos you might want to enter in the OSFGC or Pacific Region contests next year. Prime picture-taking weather and opportunities are always on the horizon.

## SHARING GUESTS SPEAKERS

Do you have a great speaker scheduled to give a presentation? Do you have a meeting place that might hold more people than are in your club? Have you ever thought about inviting **ANOTHER CLUB TO JOIN YOU?** We all enjoy a good speaker, and sometimes they can be hard to get scheduled. Consider "sharing" the experience.



# PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NGC 2023-2025 THEME GO GREEN-PLANT AMERICA

### NGC PRESIDENT BRENDA MOORE'S PROJECT IS PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA

Suzanne Bushnell  
Project Chair

President Brenda's project will encourage every NGC member to participate in one of several ways to help fight food insecurity. Fighting chronic hunger in America is an ongoing problem.

How can you help? If you grow your own vegetable garden, fruit, or other food items, we encourage you to donate some of it to a local food bank or any other organization that helps fight food insecurity.

If you don't have your own garden, then how about volunteering at a local community garden where food is donated? It could be a town-sponsored garden, a school garden, a church garden, or any garden that supports feeding the hungry.

If you aren't able to work in a garden, then how about contributing financial support to groups who do the actual work of providing fresh meals. Not only will you feel better about being part of the solution of fighting food insecurity, but it's a chance to promote gardening to those around you.

During the 2023-2025 term, we will be keeping a running total of how much fresh fruit, herbs, produce, etc. is being donated by our members.

continued

## PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA

Fill out the PLANT AMERICA-FEED AMERICA DONATION FORM

It can be found on the NGC website, and submit it electronically. Some members may donate on a more frequent basis, while others only once or twice a season. Every donation counts!

If you have any questions, contact Project Chairperson Suzanne Bushnell, [smbushnell@comcast.net](mailto:smbushnell@comcast.net).

"A fallen leaf is nothing  
more than a summer's wave  
goodbye."

Unknown

*Autumn,  
a time when  
pie is a food group  
and  
living in sweatpants  
is acceptable.*

Unknown

continued



## Conservation and Environment Awareness Chairman's Report Stan Chiotti

"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife."

We say this at all of our club, district, and state meetings. But what does this really mean and how is it all tied together?

Over the next few years, I plan on talking in greater detail about each of the five topics, air, water, forest, land, and wildlife. However, today I will discuss what one natural disaster that affects all five at once...WILDFIRES.

When I agreed to do this job as Environment Awareness Chairman, I said it would not involve rocket science. However, It does require a little knowledge of math, multiplication, and measurements.

For example, one acre of land is a little over 200 feet times 200 feet. One square mile of land contains 640 acres. In Oregon, the Department of Forestry plants about 400 trees per acre.

Canada is experiencing devastating wildfires today. As of September 2023, there are over 1000 fires burning in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. Over half of these fires are uncontrolled.

So far, over 40,000,000 acres have been engulfed. That is over 16 BILLION (16,000,000,000) trees lost. Just three months ago, when I first started researching this report, the number was 8 billion trees. So much for forests.



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## Conservation and Environment Awareness

Canada has burned about 62,500 square miles of their land. Take a drive sometime and go straight for 250 miles, take a right or left turn, and drive straight for another 250 miles. You have now done two of the four sides of 62,500 square miles. Hard to get a grasp of the size of the destruction. That is a lot of flora.

Now think about wildlife. How many animals, birds, bugs, etc. have been lost? The effects on the habitat of those that survived is mind boggling. It will be decades before some species return to normal.

Fortunately, Mother Nature does not own a watch, so the fauna will come back as she sees fit. Remember what the Mt. Saint Helen area looked like 40 years ago?

Streams and lakes in the fire zone will be contaminated and altered by ash and mudslide runoff now that the vegetation has been destroyed. Water temperatures will increase due to the lack of shade trees. All of this will put undo stress on the fish and aquatic life.

Air quality over large parts of the eastern United States was in the very hazardous classification due to the smoke and ash coming from the fires. New York's skyline, or lack of it, made major news coverage. The amount of carbon released by the fires is staggering. Without the trees that were lost, and the time it will take to replace them, carbon absorption will be delayed for some time.

Things we can do. Support the Penny Pines program, have wildfire prevention topics at your club or district meetings, encourage youth to get involved with Smokey Bear poster contests, plant a tree.

## **St. Helens Garden Club Gold Star Memorial Marker Project Submitted by Lynn Chiotti, Publicity Chair**

As a compliment to the Gold Star Marker Highway in Oregon, the St. Helens Garden Club is in preliminary stages of not only supporting the OSFGC Inc. State Project but honoring the Gold Star Families in Columbia County. As envisioned, this marker would be placed at the Veteran's Park in Columbia City, overlooking Highway 30, the Gold Star Memorial Highway in Oregon. The marker is a project approved by the Columbia City Council recently and will be funded through not only club donations, but through donations from private citizens and local corporations.



**St. Helens Garden Club  
Blue Star & Gold Star Project**

The marker is to be placed just above the flowers and before the flagpole. The Veteran's Park is an ongoing project honoring all the branches of the military service and their families. This location will be landscaped by members of the garden club once the marker is installed. This Park is a cherished location and a place of peace for everyone.

Donations are already being received from Veterans and local organizations. Recently, local Veterans were invited to attend the September meeting of the St. Helens Garden Club to hear Jane Sercombe speak about the State project. Nine local Veterans came, including four members of the garden club.

Our excitement is building, and we hope to have our Gold Star Memorial Marker dedicated prior to the Dedication of the Gold Star Memorial Highway in Astoria, the terminus of the National Gold Star Highway. The Oregon portion of the Dedicated highway begins in Ontario, Oregon.

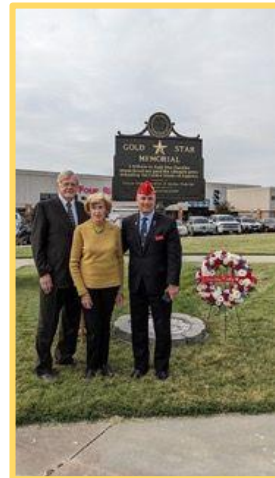
## **Jefferson County Dedication Blue Star and Gold Star Markers Jane Sercombe**

Madras Mayor Mike Lepin led the ceremony Sunday, Sept. 24, at the Jefferson County Veterans Healing Memorial, dedicating a new memorial to Gold and Blue Star families. Gold Star families are those who have lost a loved one during a war. Blue Star families currently have a family member serving during a war. The Veterans Healing Memorial is open to everyone: veterans, their families, and non-veterans.

Mike Williams, American Legion Commander at Madras, arranged for the Dedication of Blue Star Memorial Marker #96 and Gold Star Memorial Marker #97

This is Gold Star Marker #8.  
Location:: 860 SW Madison St., Madras, OR.

Darby Walker, OSFGC Officer, represented OSFGC with floral arrangements and wreaths.



*Success isn't just about  
what you accomplish in your life  
It's about what you  
inspire others to do.  
Author unknown*

# NEW COLUMN "WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO"



WHAT'S UP IN YOUR DISTRICT?

WANT TO SEE YOUR CLUB'S PROJECT IN THE MAHONIA?

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Leanna Woodall  
Mahonia, Co-Editor

Did you know that the OFSGC has 13 Districts, 67 Clubs and over 2090 members?

We would love to hear about what's happening in each district and every club.

I'd like to challenge each District Director and each Club President to send in articles on what's happening in their area.

However, we also understand how busy everyone gets and writing an article may be too much for you to take on right now.

So, we're starting a new column called "WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO" – a page for snippets of information on your District or Club. Just a line or two and a photo or two. Or just a photo with a short by-line of what's happening where you are.

### Possible Topics

- Updates and photos of District Luncheons or Meetings.
- A project or event at a Blue or Gold Star Memorial.
- A work project at a garden your District OR Club supports
- How your District or Club is raising funds the State President's Wheelchair Project.
- How your District or Club is supporting our National President's project of Plant America – Feed America.
- Guest speakers you've enjoyed at your meetings.
- On-going projects supporting your local community.

SEND PHOTOS!

WHAT'S UP?

WHAT'S UP IN YOUR CLUB?

WHAT'S UP IN FUND-RAISING?

SEND PHOTOS!

WHAT'S UP IN YOUR COUNTY?

WHAT'S UP AT YOUR DISTRICT MEETINGS?

# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## National Dahlia Society Show Julie Moore Pacific District Director

Julie Moore, the Pacific District Director, is also an Accredited Dahlia Judge.

She won several awards at the recent National Dahlia Society Show.



Julie's granddaughter, Tai Huynh, also won several awards for her dahlias.\*



Outgoing State President, Cheryl Drumheller and the newly installed State President, Carolyn Olley celebrating on 6/14/23 at the Wilsonville, OR Holiday Inn banquet room of the June 2023, OSFGC, Inc. Convention.

\* Approval for publication is on file.

## OSFGC Photo of Design from Hood River County Fair



Submitted for judging; design by Margaret Taylor, Odell Garden Club.

The Grants Pass Garden Club (Siskiyou District) meets monthly at the Fruitdale Grange on the corner of Rogue River Highway and Parkdale Drive. These photos are of the Grange Garden. The garden is a civic beautification project maintained by Club volunteers. The garden also contains a certified Monarch Way Station.



Photos taken & submitted by Donna Rewick, Siskiyou District Director



# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## Clackamas District Happy Valley Garden Club

Jennifer Buss, President

We also have been making collages from all the good photos taken at each event or trip that we use when emailing our members to follow-up with a trip for those who may not have been able to attend.



*"Every leaf means  
bliss to me, fluttering  
from the autumn tree."  
Emily Bronte*



## Coos Bay Garden Club



*"Life starts all  
over again when it  
gets crisp in the  
fall."  
F. Scott Fitzgerald*





## VERY SPECIAL(IST) BEES AND THE FLOWERS THEY LOVE: LEARNING ABOUT “-LECTY”

David Kollen

In the Summer Mahonia I wrote about plant diversity and bees. There is another aspect to that topic that we will cover today and that has to do with bees that are finicky eaters.

Those who study bees have a number of terms that describe how picky bees are with regard to flowers from which they gather pollen.

At one end of the spectrum we have the generalist (or polylectic) bees, including honey bees and bumble bees. They are happy gathering pollen from a wide variety of flowers.

At the other end are those that use a limited number of flowers. These bees are referred to as specialists (or oligolectic bees).

And then there are those very rare bees that will only use pollen from one type of flowering plant - the monolectic bees. A common element in the scientific names for these categories of bees is “lectic.” That part comes from a Greek word meaning “to choose or gather.” The scientific terms then translate to gather from many, a few, or one.

It might seem that specialists would be at a distinct disadvantage living this kind of lifestyle. After all, they would have a much more limited choice of flowers from which to gather pollen for their babies. The question is, is that a good thing or a bad thing? It depends.



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What if those special flowers happen to be unappealing to generalists? Maybe they have pollen that is slightly toxic to many bees. If a specialist has evolved the ability to deal with the toxins, then it has access to any of those special flowers and doesn't have to worry about competitors - no pesky honey bees or bumble bees to push them aside.

On the other hand, what if your yard, or neighborhood, or city doesn't have any of the special flowers? Well, that is obviously going to be a serious problem, one which results in reduced habitat for the specialist bees.

As we know, life is complicated and there are many trade-offs. If you wish to learn more about plants for specialist bees, follow this link to the Xerces guide to Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Maritime Northwest (<https://xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-maritime-northwest>) and look for this symbol: 🐝

A specialist bee (*Andrena astragali* by USGS BIML) and its special flower (Death Camas by Sharin).



## Regenerative Farming: A Sustainable Approach to Agriculture

Elaine Cramer  
Rogue Valley District  
Vice President, Coos Bay Garden Club

Regenerative farming is a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems.

It focuses on topsoil regeneration, increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing ecosystem services, supporting biosequestration, increasing resilience to climate change and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil. This approach is not a specific practice itself.

Rather, proponents of regenerative agriculture use a variety of sustainable agriculture techniques in combination. As a kind of ecosystem service, the many and varied benefits to humans are provided by the natural environment and healthy ecosystems. Such ecosystems include, for example, groecosystems, forest ecosystem, grassland ecosystems and aquatic ecosystems.

These ecosystems, functioning in healthy relationships, offer such things as natural pollination of crops, clean air, extreme weather mitigation and human mental and physical well-being. I believe this perfectly aligns with OSFGC's conservation pledge, and we can surely see how integral Regenerative Farming is to the provisioning of food and clean drinking water, the decomposition of wastes, and the resilience and productivity of food ecosystems.

Deck Family Farm is a 320-acre organic farm located in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The farm raises cows, sheep, pigs, chickens and turkeys on pastures rich in grass, herbs, and clover.

This provides a natural habitat that mimics what their wild ancestors lived in. The farm does not use herbicides, pesticides, hormones, antibiotics or synthetic nitrogen fertilizers.

Instead, they generate soil fertility through the natural cycles of composting, grazing management and

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## Regenerative Farming

seeding a variety of grasses. Their yield is provided to us by many stores in Portland, Eugene and elsewhere in Oregon. Here in Coos Bay, you can purchase through the Coos Head Co-Op.

Wild Pastures is a meat delivery service that delivers meat from regenerative American family farms to your doorstep. [www.wildpastures.com](http://www.wildpastures.com) They source from family farmers in the USA using rotational grazing practices to raise the healthiest and happiest animals on open grass pastures.

Their mission is to help transform the meat industry by making the highest quality, truly pasture-raised meat available to everyone at the lowest prices.

Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agroecology. The program is developed by Maria Farinacci, an Assistant Professor at SWOCC who is a graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelor's of Science in Plant Biology, with a focus on soil science and a minor in Anthropology.

The Agroecology program at SWOCC provides students with hands-on experience in sustainable farming practices. Students use the campus Instructional Garden and visit local farms for field-based experience. I hope to be able to get Ms. Farinacci to speak at one of our meetings. Regenerative farming is an innovative approach to agriculture that focuses on sustainability and ecological balance. It's being practiced by farms like Deck Family Farm and promoted by companies like Wild Pastures. Educational institutions like SWOCC are also playing a crucial role in promoting regenerative farming through their Agroecology courses. As we face increasing environmental challenges, regenerative farming offers a promising path towards sustainable agriculture.\*\*

\*\*references provided upon request



# MAHONIA PUBLICATION INFORMATION

## Mahonia Publication Information

- The Mahonia is published quarterly each year.
- Currently there are two co-editors. Each co-editor has specific roles in the publication of our newsletter.
- The first co-editor is Charmane Mitchell, [cmainie@gmail.com](mailto:cmainie@gmail.com). Charmane's duties include collecting all articles, editing and proofing them and forwarding them to the other co-editor for inclusion in the newsletter.
- The second co-editor is Leanna Woodall, [lwoodallor@comcast.net](mailto:lwoodallor@comcast.net). Her duties include collecting all article and photo submissions from Charmane and formatting them into the newsletter for publication.

## ORDER OF PUBLICATION

- 1) Articles are due to Co-Editor, Charmane Mitchell, [cmainie@gmail.com](mailto:cmainie@gmail.com), no later than the dates listed here. No articles will be accepted after the published due date without prior approval from our OSFGC president.
- 2) Charmane will proof all articles and forward them to Leanna Woodall, Co-Editor, [lwoodallor@comcast.net](mailto:lwoodallor@comcast.net), for inclusion in the newsletter.
- 3) Leanna will format each article, and any accompanying photos into the newsletter. After additional proofing and editing by Leanna, Charmane and our President, Carolyn Olley, the Mahonia will be posted on the OSFGC website and distributed to the district directors, club presidents and others for distribution.

## Publication Requirements

- All Mahonia articles are to be submitted in a Word document, Reference: OSFGC Directory 2023-2025, under OREGON NEWSLETTER (The Mahonia).
- Any article submitted in a different format will be returned to the sender for re-submission in a Word document.
- Photos should be submitted separately in a .JPG format only.
- Any photos containing minors (those under 18 years of age) must be accompanied by a "Youth Release for Publication" Form. This can be found at [OSFGC.org](http://OSFGC.org) under FORMS, YOUTH.
- Acceptable articles must also follow correct procedures to avoid plagiarism. We cannot publish articles, or portions of articles, that have been published in other newsletters, magazines, books, etc. without proper referencing or approvals.
- In addition, any references or quotes within a submitted article that refers to other publications must use the proper references (publication name, date, volume, author, title, etc.).
- If you have any questions, please email the Co-Editors:  
Charmane Mitchell, [cmainie@gmail.com](mailto:cmainie@gmail.com) or  
Leanna Woodall, [lwoodallor@comcast.net](mailto:lwoodallor@comcast.net)



## MAHONIA DUE DATES

### Articles Due

December 30, 2023  
March 30, 2024  
June 30, 2024  
September 30, 2024

### Publication Dates

January 8, 2024  
April 8, 2024  
July 8, 2024  
October 8, 2024