



The Mahonia

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

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

JANUARY 2024

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SEND ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO:

Leanna Woodall, Editor
lwoodallor@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

MARCH 30. 2024

WINTER ISSUE



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's the start of a new year and most of us have made at least one resolution we hope to keep in 2024. This year I have tried to keep it something I can actually accomplish, not something I only dream of...no, I can't be Barbie (ha, ha, ha!).

With the new year comes opportunities to make a difference in our clubs and communities. I hope you will consider leadership roles that may present themselves this year and opportunities to make a difference in your community.

There are several possibilities you and your club can investigate offered by National Garden Clubs as well as our own state donation and volunteer ideas.

We've also just received information regarding the NGC Gardening School Courses 1-4 that will be offered in Washington State. The whole series (Courses 1-4) will be offered starting in April of 2024 and ending in October 2025. More information about them can be found elsewhere in this Mahonia.

Take every opportunity to LEARN something new, SHARE your unique knowledge and GROW as a person (and grow a new plant!).

I hope to see you at your Spring District Meetings. Take care of yourselves and each other.



Carolyn Olley
OSFGC President
molley1755@comcast.net



Let's Get Down and Dirty
with



Gardening School

Courses 1-4

GARDENING SCHOOL COURSE CONTENT

Course 1 – Botany, Soils, Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers, Plant Propagation

Course 2 – Plant Diseases, Garden Pests, Irrigation and Water, Lawn Alternatives and Growing Grass, Growing Fruits, and Growing Vegetables

Course 3 – Factors that influence Plant Growth, New Plant Development and Evaluation, Container Gardening Outdoors, Houseplant Basics, Native Trees and Shrubs

Course 4 – Plant Classification and Nomenclature, Outdoor Identification of Plants, Specialized Garden Styles, Techniques of Growing Woody Ornaments and Pruning

SAVE THE DATES!

April 29 - 30 & October 28 – 29, 2024

April 28 – 29 & October 29 – 30, 2025

Contact
Kathy Johnson
kathyj16@msn.com



Sponsored by
Hill & Dale District
Tacoma, Washington



INTRODUCING THE NGC PATH OF SUCCESS

The permanent home and endowment trustees of NGC have approved the addition of a walking path to the NGC grounds: The NGC Path of Success. Roughly 1/4 mile long, the Path of Success will be a walking path located on the grounds of NGC's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri and will link to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, spreading more awareness of NGC than ever before.

This project will also serve as an educational platform, showing the rich history and mission of NGC. As there will be many participants from each state, the states are encouraged to purchase a large paver for their state to be a focal point for each state federation's section of the path.

NGC only offers two sizes, and the large size can only be purchased by the State Federations. Oregon will be voting on buying a State Paver at the upcoming Spring State Board Meeting in March.

If local clubs or Districts want to buy a paver, information on cost, and an order form, can be found on the NGC website.

There will be a dedication at the next (National Garden Club) Fall Board Meeting in September 2024. The end of the program will be on November 26, 2024.



Protocol Suggestion

When you call or email someone from the Executive Committee, the State Board or even from your District (if you are part of a big District), please inform them which Club and which District you belong to. We don't know each and everyone in our State!

Thank you!
Tanja Swanson
OSFGC 2nd-Vice President



LEADERSHIP TIP

**"To handle yourself,
use your head;
To handle others,
use your heart."**

Eleanor Roosevelt

NGC/DISTRICT NEWS

BLUE STAR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MARKERS

PRICE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

Hello All,

Recently I received an email from Candace Wells, the National Garden Clubs' Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairperson.

Candace included the current prices for the manufacture of our Memorial Markers. Some of the reasons given for the increases were rising material and shipping costs. Sewah Studios craft our markers and they are the ones making the price changes.

Please note the prices listed in the box (upper right) and budget accordingly.

Carolyn
OSFGC President
molley1755@comcast.net



Sewah Studios Price Increase Effective Date January, 2024

BLUE STAR-GOLD STAR 2024 MARKER W/7' POST	\$2350
MARKER (no post)	\$2225
MARKER W/10' POST.....	\$2460
BY-WAY.....	\$750
REPLACEMENT 7' POST.....	\$375
REPLACEMENT 10' POST.....	\$475
REFURBISHMENT.....	\$1200
REFURBISHMENT/CAP REPAIR.....	\$1450
SHIPPING WESTERN STATES.....	\$300



SAVE THE DATE**

Pioneer District Spring Luncheon

Hosted by Tigard and Chehalem
Garden Clubs

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2024
TIME: 10:00 am
PLACE: Rise Church
10445 SW Canterbury Lane
Tigard, Oregon 97224

** watch your email for further updates

DISTRICT/CLUB UPDATES

Mt. Hood District Fall Board Meeting Kathy Kelsay, Director

Parkdale Garden Club Kathy Hannen-Smith, President

The Parkdale Garden Club was quite busy this fall! We hosted the Mt. Hood District fall board meeting, celebrated our 75th year as a garden club, dedicated a Gold Star Marker (all on Sat., Sept. 30, 2023) and finally, participated in the Gorge Fruit and Craft Show at the Hood River County fairgrounds.

The fall board meeting was held at The Grange in Parkdale, OR. Members from the Parkdale, Odell, Hood River Evening, Dufur and Maupin clubs were in attendance. From the State were Carolyn and Tiffany Olley, Becky Cook, Jane Sercombe and Mike and Gaye Stewart. We had a wonderful potluck lunch along with a 75th anniversary cake for dessert.

Kathy Kelsay (Mt. Hood District Director) led the meeting and Kathy Hannen-Smith (President of Parkdale Garden Club) gave a presentation on Parkdale's 75 years in existence as part of the OSFGC.

Following the lunch and meeting was the dedication of a Gold Star Marker at the Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden. It was a lovely fall afternoon for this event!



Gold Star dedication.



Gold Star dedication.



Gold Star Memorial.



Meeting Welcome.



Potluck Luncheon..



Celebration/Dedication Cake.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation Report January 2024 Stan Chiotti, Chair

Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink. This saying is becoming alarmingly true. 97% of the Earth's water is salt water, 3% is fresh water. However, two-thirds of the fresh water is tied-up in ice-caps and glaciers, making it inaccessible. With our ever-increasing world population, there is a greater demand for the less than 1% of the Earth's water that is usable.

However, all is not lost. Corporate industries, educators, political leaders and scientists are working on solutions. Desalination plants remove salt and minerals from water. 300 million people get their drinking water from this method.

Reclaimed water from sewage plants is being used for irrigation or to recharge groundwater aquifers. Large scale drip irrigation is being used in commercial agriculture, as well as back yard gardening, to cut down on water usage. Rain water harvesting is a cost-efficient system of collecting rain water from roofs or parking areas. Barrels or bioswales allow the water to be stored and used later to water lawns or plants, also reducing the strain on storm water systems during heavy downpours.

What can individuals do to reduce water usage, while saving money at the same time? Install water flow restrictors in showers and sink faucets. Wait until you have a full load of clothes or dishes before you start the machine. Think of the amount of water that is used for fill and rinse cycles every load. Take shorter showers. Water lawns 1 inch once a week, or not at all during the summer. The grass will green back up with the fall rains.

If every person on Earth could save at least one gallon of water a day, that would add up to three trillion (3,000,000,000,000) gallons of fresh water a year. Do your part. Our future depends on it.

Conservation and Environment Awareness Statistics Change from 1980-2022 Stan Chiotti, Chair

This report has a lot of statistics, so I hope you like numbers. I will start with how things have changed in the USA between 1980 to 2022:

Gross domestic products increased 196%
Vehicle miles traveled increased 108%
USA population increased 47%
Energy consumption increased 29%
Total emissions of the principal air pollutants (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, etc.) **decreased 73%**

This last item is cause for your lungs to celebrate. Things will continue to get better, but it will still take some time.

Power generation in the USA for 2022 was **4,200,000 Megawatts. A breakdown by types:**

Natural gas	39% 1,600,000 MW	Coal	20% 840,000 MW
Nuclear	20% 840,000 MW	Wind	10% 420,000 MW
Hydro	6% 240,000 MW	Solar	5% 210,000 MW

Wind and solar have a long way to go in order to replace the top two polluters. **There are 70,800 wind turbines in use today. We need 300,000 more.** That will be a huge loss of scenic beauty. Solar needs 10 acres/megawatt. Right now 2,000,000 acres of land is lost to solar panels. Isn't it amazing how some things that sound great have some nasty consequences.

Continued on Page 7



COMMITTEE UPDATE/IN MEMORY

Continued from Page 5

Conservation and Environment Awareness Statistics Change from 1980-2022

Stan Chiotti, Chair

29% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from cars and trucks.

- There are 250,000,000 cars and trucks in the USA.
- 7,400,000 run on diesel
- 320,000 electric cars were sold in the first quarter of 2023, a 60% increase from 2022.

As you can see by these numbers, it will be awhile before you no longer inhale engine exhaust.

The EPA can do only so much.

World population information:

- **Total population: Over 8,000,000,000**
- **India: 1,425,775,000**
- **China: 1,425,670,000**
- **USA: 334,000,000**
- **You: 1**

• **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

• **DO LITTLE THINGS:**

- Turn the thermostat down a few degrees and wear a sweater.
- Do full loads of dishes or laundry.
- Combine errands to save gas, carpool, use public transportation.
- Turn lights off in unused rooms.

• **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!**

• **DO BIGGER THINGS:**

- Write your Congressmen, call their offices.
- Support environmental legislation.
- March for our planet.

**All of us working together CAN
make a difference.**

*In Loving
Memory*

**IT IS WITH SADNESS THAT WE
ANNOUNCE. . .**

Linda Rettig passed away on October 28, 2023. She was a Master Flower Show Judge and enjoyed judging flower shows in Linn, Lane and Benton counties, including Rose shows in Corvallis.

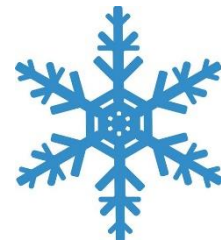
Linda loved volunteering and was working at the Heartland Humane Society Thrift Shop just days before she passed.

She continued to arrange flowers, meeting every other week with colleagues to discuss arrangements.

Flower shows, antiques and designing her yard gave her great joy that she shared with friends.

We will all miss her. Our thoughts are with her family.

Submitted by Beverly Seibel.



COMMITTEE REPORTS



GARDENS OF ENCHANTMENT

Submitted by Carolyn Olley, Chair

(Muriel Pagel, Chair)

The last few years have been very stressful for everyone. The Gardens of Enchantment at Hull Foundation and Learning Center in Sandy has proven to be a place of calm serenity for low vision and blind visitors as well as staff and members of the Clackamas and Multnomah Districts who routinely volunteer in the Gardens.

Thanks to the generosity of our OSFGC members and our clubs throughout the State, we have been able to select and buy plants to create a welcoming space for all. There have been enough funds to provide fertilizers and other necessary elements of care needed to keep the Gardens looking their best.

At this time, there are sufficient monies in both the Hull Dedicated Fund and OSFGC Dedicated Fund to provide necessary plants, etc., for next year as well.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to the success of the Gardens. If you are ever in Sandy, please stop by for a visit. Before you come, please call the Hull office at 503-668-6195 to make sure no one else has scheduled an event there.



Promise Trees Report

The Promise Trees Team is still meeting monthly mostly by Zoom. We are encouraged by the amount of vouchers that are being reimbursed, but it seems like a lot of home-owners aren't rebuilding or are not ready yet. In some places (like Douglas County) there is just no interest.

However, in Lincoln County, Judi Barkley, did a wonderful job working together with the "Landscaping with Love" organization. Most people who are rebuilding got and used their vouchers.

In Siskiyou District, Kathy Simmons, has been working together with an arborist and Hazard Mitigation Coordinator from the city of Talent; Mike Oxendine has been very helpful and is instrumental in getting the word out and handing out vouchers.

In Klamath County, Stephanie Pickern, has worked together with the Fire Department in Chiloquin and almost all the fire victims have used their vouchers. There have been requests from People from the 2021 Bootleg Fire for vouchers.

In Eugene, Pat Kramer, worked together with the city building Department. They had one person in their department, Marianne Nolte, take care of the vouchers. They have been very helpful but there are not too many people, as expected, who are rebuilding.

The OSFGC Board approved the request from The Promise Trees Team who asked to extend the deadline of the vouchers to December 2026 and to also hand out vouchers to homeowners who lost their homes in later fires.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

The OSFGC Book of Friendship Pat Kramer, Chair

Do you have someone in your club, district or life who goes above and beyond to volunteer or assist with a project or service to make it more beautiful or successful?

You can recognize that person for a Book of Friendship nomination and receive a certificate to present to them and have their name entered in the OSFGC Book of Friendship.

Forms are available at www.oregongardenclubs.org or contact the Chairperson to have one sent to you. Instructions are also on the website. A \$10 (or more) check is to be sent to the OSFGC Treasurer. The money is forwarded to the OSU Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund for horticulture students.

**For more information,
please contact Pat Kramer, Chair,
at retiredpat07@comcast.net
or call 541-688-1256.**

Leadership Tip

- *Critics Demoralize*
- *Leaders Encourage*



HELP WANTED! OSFGC Facebook Page

Facebook is a wonderful way to let the world know what we, the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, are up to.

The best way to do that is to show what each club is doing with pictures and stories. Please, send me flyers for plant sales and flower shows in jpeg format and I will put them on our Facebook page. That shouldn't be a task for one person, but it can only be done if lots of people participate. If you would like to help, please email me (tanjandy@gmail.com) and I will make you an administrator so you can add pictures and news from your neck of the woods.

We used to have a wonderful person: Pamela Crider, who added a new post every single day. Sadly, she passed away suddenly in 2020 and we have never found anyone to take her place. So, the best thing to do is to all work together and make ourselves known to the people from near and far what a fun organization we are and the wonderful programs and projects we do!

If you like Facebook think about joining our team and come and help!

Tanja Swanson
OSFGC 2nd Vice-President
tanjandy@gmail.com



OSFGC REQUEST

VOLUNTEER NEEDED Second Vice-President Position Submitted by Tanja Swanson

As most of you know I am 2nd Vice-President again. I am not planning to move up to 1st Vice-President or to President! I think it is sad that of our more than 2000 members no one is volunteering to become a leader in our organization.

There is talk about just getting rid of this position. No, I don't think so. I actually think that to become OSFGC president you need this experience to become acquainted with the workings of the executive committee.

If you want a voice in OSFGC you should stand up! Volunteer! Share your particular knowledge!

I know, there are so many circumstances that make it hard to become involved at State level and other people think that they aren't capable to be a leader...

Look at me ... If I can do it anyone can! The beauty of it is that it is a learning experience. And we are never too old to learn and grow!

So please step forward if you are interested to take over my job and be in line to becoming State President!

Becky Cook put a comprehensive outline together in a binder that explains all the tasks that a second -vice President has to do. It has samples of name cards and how to put together scripts for conventions.

And as usual in Garden Club, we are all here to help!

I guarantee it will be a very satisfying experience!



OSFGC REMINDERS

AWARDS & CONTESTS & SCHOLARSHIPS January – April 2024

Kathy Simmons – OSFGC Awards Chair
541-592-6009/bobkat97523@gmail.com

Hello garden club members. It's time to turn the page and welcome in 2024 with enthusiasm and thoughts of new ways to show appreciation to our many talented garden club members and others who go above and beyond our expectations.

Sometimes a small gesture is all it takes. Remember, appreciation awards can be given for many reasons and at any time. I look forward to hearing from you in the months to come.

Here are upcoming deadlines for 2024. Specific information regarding each award and contest can be found in the blue section of the state directory, PR and NGC websites.

All applications, forms and rules can be found on the following websites:

NGC: gardenclub.org

PACIFIC REGION: pacificregiongardenclubs.org

OSFGC: oregongardenclubs.org

January 10, 2024

- Smokey Bear Poster Contest, page 43
- NGC Youth Sculpture Contest, page 42

January 31, 2024

- Pacific Region Scholarship Program, page 44

February 15, 2024

- Garden of Distinction Award, page 47

March 1, 2024

- NGC Scholarship Program, page 44

April 15, 2024

- Ellen Ambuhl Conservation Award, page 47
- Horticulture Award, page 47
- Suzy Twist-Powell Designer of the Year Award, page 50
- OSFGC "HEART" Award, page 48



BLUE & GOLD STAR MARKERS

PLANNING AHEAD

2024 DEDICATIONS BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

Dedications planned for Memorial Day, Monday,
May 27, 2024

1. Lake Oswego Foothills Veterans Park, Blue Star Byway Memorial Marker, Country Gardens Garden Club with L.O. Veterans Memorial, will dedicate this marker and celebrate 75 years in 2024.
2. Lake Oswego Foothills Veterans Park, Gold Star Byway Memorial Marker, Lake Grove Garden Club with L.O. Veterans Memorial, will dedicate this marker and celebrate 100 years in 2024.
3. St Helens Garden Club, St. Helens Elks Lodge #1999, and American Legion Post 42 will dedicate a Gold Star Memorial Marker at Columbia City, OR.

Pending Dedications for 2024

1. Astoria Gold Star Highway Memorial Marker is now scheduled in Warrenton.
2. Dallas Garden Club will dedicate a Gold Star Memorial Marker.
3. Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee will dedicate a Blue Star and a Gold Star Byway Memorial Marker at the Douglas County War Memorial.
4. Scappoose Garden Club will dedicate a Blue Star Memorial Marker, Veterans Day 2025.

Many thanks to those clubs and members who honor our Veterans by placing flowers at your marker. More thanks to our members who Weed, clean and polish the markers.

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BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS

The Gold Star Highway Project began with the hope that each OSFGC member would donate \$2 to fund both markers.

Please contribute if your club has not yet donated. We want to honestly say that every club in OSFGC participated in this important project. Mail to OSFGC Treasurer Karen Brown.

In October we met with Governor Tina Kotek to officially name Hwy. 30 "Gold Star Families Highway."

It was a privilege to attend this ceremony in Salem.

Sincerely,

OSFGC Blue Star Gold Star Chairman,
Veterans Liaison
Jane Sercombe
jane.sercombe@gmail.com



Some Orchids and their Bees: A Tale of Sexual Swindle

© David Kollen

Orchids are the second largest plant family, and some of them force us to rethink our understanding of plant-pollinator interactions. This is especially so with the genus *Ophrys*, known as “Bee Orchids.”

The flowers of plants in this genus do not provide a nectar reward for pollinators. Additionally, the pollen they provide is contained in sticky packets called pollinia. In this form bees cannot use the pollen as larval food or eat it themselves. So why would bees have anything to do with these orchids? The short answer is, the overwhelming drive to reproduce.

In general, female bees are the dominant pollinators in most situations. When it comes to Bee Orchids though, female bees have little use for them for the reasons given above. Male bees on the other hand often find them alluring. This attraction is normally very specific. For instance, the Monstrous Mining Bee (*Andrena morio*), pictured below, is enticed by the orchid *Ophrys iricolor*. (In case you are wondering, Monstrous Mining Bees are not monsters in a bad way, just very large compared to other mining bees.)



Photo: Adrien Chateignier



Photo: Enrique Pelayo CC

Continued

Some Orchids and their Bees . . .

If you look at the accompanying orchid picture you will see that the dark labellum (the large central petal) kind of looks like a bee sitting on a yellowish flower. Kind of - if you had really bad vision. Adding to the illusion is the fact that this labellum has a fringe of hairs, which may make it seem even more bee-like. The fringe of hairs by the way gives the genus its name. In Greek, *Ophrys* means “eyebrow.” Is that all it takes, a little plant fuzz and a bee-colored petal? The answer is much more interesting. Through the process of coevolution, this orchid has developed a perfume (pheromone) that smells very similar to the female Monstrous Mining Bee.

Males typically patrol circuits in search of receptive females. If they don't find any females, they will often land on an enticing orchid. Males will actually attempt to copulate with the labellum, and are on the flower long enough to pick up some pollinia and carry it to another orchid. Darwin observed these male bee/orchid interactions and thought that the males were attacking the flowers. In a sense they were, but that isn't what Darwin had in mind.

The orchid's olfactory Siren's song is surprisingly effective. In some experiments, male bees actually seemed to prefer a flower's scent to the scent of their own species' females. That is a really deep fake!

This is only one example of a sexual-deception pollination system. It isn't only male bees that are fooled by flowers using sexual deception. Some flowers also attract certain wasps, beetles and flies. If we look closely enough, nature seems to be full of all kinds of surprises.

References: (1) Schiestl used the term “sexual swindle” in a 1999 paper. (2) *The Solitary Bees: Biology, Evolution, Conservation*, Danforth, Minckley and Neff (3) *What a Bee Knows*, Buchmann.

CLUB UPDATES

Canby Garden Club Katherine Leppke, President

The Canby Garden Club has had a very successful year. We joined the Federation in October and have been reaching out to nearby garden clubs for ideas. Recently we hosted a program about growing culinary mushrooms in home gardens. Brown Bottle Farm in Mulino led us on a how-to slide show and many members, including me, bought spores and fixed a spot outside. We are excited to see what comes up in May.

The city of Canby sponsors a Scarecrow contest every year to dress up downtown. Five members of our club came together to build "Goldie the Golden Damsel." Most of Goldie's outfit was made from natural material gathered from local gardens. We won 2nd place.

The Canby Garden club celebrated 75 years this past July and we made a big splash with a "High Tea and Garden Party." We served 64 guests. The \$2400 raised will go to providing two scholarships for Canby High School horticulture students.

*Join us.
We are growing.
Canbygardenclub.com*



**Goldie the Golden Damsel
2nd Place**



**75 Years
Canby Garden Club**



MAHONIA PUBLICATION NEWS

Mahonia Publication Information

- The Mahonia is published quarterly each year.
- Articles are due to the Editor, Leanna Woodall, lwoodallor@comcast.net, no later than the dates listed here. No articles will be accepted after the published due date without prior approval from our OSFGC president.
- Leanna will proof and format all articles and any accompanying photos and insert them into the Mahonia Newsletter.
- After additional proofing and editing by our President, Caroyne Olley, and Leanna Woodall, the Mahonia will be posted on the OSFGC website and distributed to the state 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 under FORMS, YOUTH.

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Publication Requirements

- Submitted 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 contact the Editor, Leanna Woodall, at lwoodallor@comcast.net or Cell #503-332-4740.

MAHONIA DUE DATES

Articles Due

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

Publication Dates

April 8, 2024
July 8, 2024
October 8, 2024
January 8, 2025

