



The Mahonia

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

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

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Send Articles & Photos
(Word document ONLY)
to: Leanna Woodall
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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR STATE PRESIDENT

Greetings OSFGC Members,

First of all, I would like you to join me in wishing our Mahonia Editor, Leanna Woodall, a speedy recovery from her recent gallbladder surgery.

Second, I want to give Tanja Swanson kudos for stepping up and putting together this Fall issue of the Mahonia. Tanja the members and I appreciate it.

Since the publishing of the last Mahonia, I have been travelling...a lot. In August I was able to attend the 2024 Pacific Region Convention in Anchorage, Alaska. While there, I reported that our own Tanja Swanson had been elected as the 2025-2027 Pacific Region Director at our 2024 OSFGC Convention. I was also able to bring back with me several pieces of information regarding Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contests, among other things. Those items were distributed to District Directors at our Fall State Board Meeting. Directors who were not able to join us at the meeting were mailed their packets.



From the President's Desk (continued)

While in Anchorage, my husband and I took a helicopter flight to see some glaciers (it was on his bucket list). He snapped a picture of me sitting in the helicopter daydreaming about how nice it would be to have one of them available to get to all the District Meetings 😊



Speaking of the Fall State Board Meeting, I would like to thank the Pioneer District for hosting it and for the program they shared with those in attendance. It was a beautiful room, great food (it always is at garden club meetings!), good friends, and lots of sharing of information and networking. We did have a quorum so business needing a vote was accomplished. The Spring State Board Meeting will be held March 29, 2025 via Zoom.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend, in person, the National Garden Clubs Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis, MO at our National Headquarters. I sent some pictures to Tanja to post on our Facebook page. If you have Facebook, take a look. The pictures show the building and grounds, and the Path of Success. I also took a picture of our Oregon paver that has been installed as part of the path. There is still some time left if your District or club is interested in purchasing a brick. They are still only \$250. The form to order one is on the NGC website.



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From the President's Desk (continued)



One of the things that was brought up at the NGC Fall Board Meeting was the number of awards and special recognitions that NGC offers and the fact that clubs and districts need to check the NGC website for the “applications are due by” dates and the requirements for each. There were some awards/recognitions that did not have any/many applications this year. Many of the awards also include a monetary award. Please check out the NGC website to see what you qualify for.

I have been privileged to be invited, and have attended, Fall District Meetings already this October. I have been invited and plan to attend several more. You know, I do like to come and visit you!

I want to mention the work that has been going on in preparation for the 2025 OSFGC Convention that will be held in Seaside. The committee is meeting monthly and working hard to secure speakers and interesting (and fun) things for us to do. Just a reminder that the Convention will be held June 10, 11, &12, 2025 at the Seaside Convention Center.

As I have been telling all of you, we had hoped to raise enough money to present a beach-accessible wheelchair to the (Seaside) Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District during the Convention. I am thrilled to announce that you have raised enough money (\$3,000) for a chair! And, we are on our way to raising enough money to buy them a second chair!! Thank you to all of you who have donated to my President's Project. But it is not over yet. If you have not donated, there is still time. We will probably be ordering the chairs (!!) in April so they can be assembled, shipped, and delivered in June. Let's make it two...woo hoo!

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From the President's Desk (continued)

There are some changes you need to be aware of regarding youth opportunities. NGC has reinstated the Essay Contest. Information is on the NGC website. The Woodsy Owl Poster Contest will be back for 2025 (it was suspended for 2024 to focus on Smokey's big birthday).

The NGC Convention will be held in North Charleston, South Carolina from May 18-22, 2025. More information will be published and sent out in the next few months. Watch for it!

The 2025 Pacific Region Convention will be held in Tempe, Arizona April 28-30, 2025. There is more information on the Pacific Region website. Online registration will open in January, 2025. I am asking all clubs and districts to help make Tanja's installation memorable. We are going to need "favors from Oregon" to have available to guests at the reception after her installation as Pacific Region Director. How many? It depends on how many of us go! The number that attended in Alaska was about 60. It would be nice to have "Oregon items," things associated with Oregon (hazelnuts, lavender sachets, cranberry sweets, something from Harry & David, etc.). An idea might be to have clubs and districts combine their efforts to provide something special. I am sure we will come up with some wonderful things. We have some very creative members.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon. If I do not see you before the Holidays, have a wonderful Season.

Carolyn Olley
President OSFGC
molley1755@comcast.net



Executive Committee

First-Vice President - Rebecca Cook Membership Chair

I would like to take a moment and talk about how important every one of you is. You are the lifeblood of this Federation and without you there would be no OSFGC. Gardeners gathered together make a club, clubs gathered together make districts and districts make a federation. But most of all it is you, the membership, that make this whole thing work. It has been a privilege to travel around the state of Oregon and meet you. What a wonderful community and family of gardeners we are. We don't all garden the same way and that makes us so diverse and wonderful in our ideas, passions and sharing of knowledge. You continually reach out to others in your communities offering them the wonderful experience of belonging to an organization that promotes fellowship, learning, and taking care of this wonderful place we call home. Thank you all for your membership in our great family of gardeners.

Second-Vice President - Tanja Swanson Volunteers needed!

For all kinds of positions...And soon Rebecca Cook, who is our incoming President will ask many of you if you want to take on one of the chairperson positions that are available.

Start thinking about what your interests and strengths are and don't wait to be asked, but volunteer!

I became second-vice President last year when there was talk about doing away with that position. (And nobody volunteered). Since then, our Executive Committee (me included) decided that the 2nd vice position is needed and important. It is a time to learn what is going on at State level and to get used to the proceedings.

Really it sounds like a long time to dedicate yourself to eventually become State President, but time flies. Also, it is fun to work together with members from all over the state. Think lasting friendships!

At the moment you have to have been a Club President or District Director. I am not going on to become first-vice President, so I would love to start working together with someone who is interested to do this rewarding job.

Let the nominating committee know if you are interested and they will provide you with the papers and give you more information if you have questions.

Nominating Committee

“We Want You!”

It is always good to be “wanted” or needed and our Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs organization is looking for new officer leadership for the 2025-2027 term. The Nominating Committee has been actively seeking candidates for First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The in-coming President will appoint the Corresponding Secretary and the Parliamentarian, and an Assistant Treasurer, if one is needed.

The Job Descriptions for each officer position are provided in the OSFGC Bylaws, Article VIII, Eligibility of Officers, and Article X for Elections information. The nomination form is on the OSFGC website (oregongardenclubs.org) and may be downloaded for completion. It is easy as a person may self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. Please send the nominations to Gaye Stewart, 761 SE Lynchet Lane, Dallas, OR 97338.

Now let me share my story. I decided I wanted to be a State Officer to help build and care for this organization I so enjoyed. I was elected Second Vice President in 2013-2015, First Vice President in 2015-2017, and became President in 2017-2019. During each of these terms I learned more about the OSFGC, its goals, purposes, and the benefits it provides to our varied Oregon communities. I pursued leadership opportunities when given opportunities to present at workshops and demonstrations so I could meet the people and develop working relationships.



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Nominating Committee (continued)

I learned early-on, it is all about the people and meeting their needs. I learned leaders listen, gather ideas, and then act. Being part of the Executive Committee with the other elected and appointed state officers is exciting as that is where club needs, idea-sharing, open discussion, and the business steps of the organization is to take place. An example of that is when I was First Vice President, we realized that some potential club members did not know much about the local garden club nor the larger Garden Club Organization and what it could do for them. A trifold entitled “**The Questions...The Answers**” **A Membership Brochure** was developed, reviewed by the Executive Committee, approved for distribution, and sent to Club Presidents to share with their club members. The National Garden Club Membership Committee later adopted this brochure, and it is still available on the OSFGC website under Forms, Membership & Dues, Membership Brochure.

You may also have and be delighted by travel opportunities within Oregon, Pacific Region and when State President, attend National Garden Club Conventions, which are great learning and networking opportunities with other state presidents.

I truly loved being Oregon’s State President and I encourage you to step up and begin a new, rewarding opportunity to make your positive difference for OSFGC, Oregon, and beyond!

I welcome your questions, and I will be looking for your application.

*Gaye Stewart, Chair
OSFGC Nominating Committee*



Committee Reports

OSFGC **REMEMBERS**

AWARDS, CONTESTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

November 2024 – January 2025

The following Contests and applications are due between November 1, 2024 through February 15, 2025. Please see the OSFGC 2023-2025 Directory for details or the OSFGC, Pacific Region, and NGC websites.

November 1 deadlines:	Yearbook and Yearbook Covers
December 1 deadlines:	Youth NGC High School Essay Youth NGC Poetry Contest
December 31 deadline:	Youth PR Sculpture Contest
January 10 deadline:	NGC Youth Sculpture Contest Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Posters
February 1 deadline:	NGC Scholarships

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

NGC: gardenclub.org, PACIFIC REGION: pacificregiongardenclubs.org

OSFGC: oregongardenclubs.org

Kathy Simmons – OSFGC Awards Chair
541-592-6009/bobkat97523@gmail.com
Feel free to contact me for help researching information

Committee Reports

Claire Belsher Historic Preservation Award

Your Club or District could receive this 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.

Looking forward to hearing from you by May 1, 2025.

Thank you,

Peggy Olin, chair.



Blue Star / Gold Star Markers

September 2024. Blue Star and Gold Star Summary:

Oregon has several new Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers at this time, as reported on these past months. Many thanks to those clubs and members who ordered markers, planned the dedication ceremonies, and now can celebrate this wonderful tribute to our military and veterans and Gold Star Families.

Recent Dedications:

Central Point GC, Gold Star Byway Marker, Dedication September 29, 2024

Dallas Garden Club, Gold Star Memorial Marker, Dedication September 28, 2024

Douglas County, Blue Star and Gold Star Byway Markers, Dedication Sept. 18, 2024

Odell GC, Blue Star and Gold Star Byway Markers, Dedication September 14, 2024.

Pending Dedications:

Scappoose GC, Blue Star Memorial Marker, Veterans Day November 11, 2024.

Central Point GC, Blue Star Byway Marker, December 7, 2024.

The National Garden Club requires these markers to be cared for in perpetuity: to watch over and supervise regular maintenance of the marker and the area, and to decorate for Veterans Day and Memorial Day in particular. Thanks to everyone for your support for these important memorials, as well as the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway Project.



Jane Sercombe.

OSFGC Blue Star Gold Star Chairman, Veterans Liaison.

On Memorial Day 2024, the Lake Grove Garden Club participated in the dedication of a Gold Star Marker in Foothills Park in Lake Oswego. The marker was a joint purchase by the club and the L.O. Veterans Memorial. The wreath for the marker was created by club member Betsy Deich. The 12 wreath greens were chosen for their symbolism, including Rosemary for remembrance, Cypress for mourning, and Peony for hope and honor.

Blue Star / Gold Star Markers (continued)

The Blue and Gold Star Markers at the Hood River County Fair Floral Building September 14, 2024

Military and Gold Star Families tribute: OSFGC Past president Gaye Stewart, Margaret Taylor, Trish Paige



Welcome by Odell Garden Club
President Norma Curtis



Presentation of Colors:
Cub Scout Pack #282

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Blue Star / Gold Star Markers

*The Blue and Gold Star Markers
at the Hood River County Fair Floral Building
September 14, 2024*



Dedication of Markers:

OSFGC Parliamentarian Mike Stewart and
Blue and Gold Marker Chairperson Jane Sercombe



A little history about the Hood River County Fair Floral Building.

Many years ago, one of Odell Garden Club members Emily Plog with the help of her husband Fred, helped design the building. Many events are held there. Odell Garden Club organizes two Flower Shows every year and the building is also used for many different events such as quilt shows.

Blue Star / Gold Star Markers

Gold Star Marker Dedication Sponsored by the Dallas Garden Club September 28, 2024

The Dallas Garden Club, in cooperation with the City of Dallas, dedicated the sixteenth National Garden Club Gold Star Memorial Marker in Oregon and the first in Polk County on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the entrance to the Dallas City Park.

Entrance of Dallas City Park



The event was well attended by Veterans, 3 Gold Star Family members, city officials, club members, and the public.

Dallas also has a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the local Post Office that was dedicated by the Club on Veterans Day in 2021.

Gold Star Families Memorial Highway

Hello all:

As initiator of the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway across Oregon on the 477 mile U.S. Hwy 30, I would like to thank all who made it possible - Oregon Legislature and Governor, those who testified with me in support of HB 2146, the 21 donors who funded the 8 highway signs, the managers of the Sept. 29 dedication ceremonies at Seaside, Portland, Pendleton, Baker City, and Ontario, the Gold Star Families who attended the dedication ceremonies, Reynolds High School Army JROTC Cadets, and Oregon DOT which proudly fabricated and installed 5 of 8 highway signs.

Signs have been installed along U.S. Hwy 30 near Astoria, Scappoose, Pendleton, Baker City, and Ontario. Three more signs will be installed by ODOT near Biggs Junction and Arlington (midpoint of the highway). Half of the signs will be seen by eastbound travelers and half by westbound travelers.

All of you contributed to honoring Oregon's 6,000 Gold Star Families (as many as 24,000 parents, siblings, spouses, sons, and daughters) and educating the traveling public on the sacrifices made by all Gold Star Families. They will never be forgotten in Oregon.

Special thanks to our guest speaker Joe Glover, Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, Representative Bentz, and Representative Bonamici for their grand letters honoring Oregon's Gold Star Families. I sent the letters and Governor Kotek's proclamation to all ceremony leaders and presented them to the 7 Gold Star Families attending our Portland ceremony. Thanks Eric Davis for reading Senator Wyden's letter.

Oregon Veterans Memorial Highways



It is my hope the national Presidents of the American Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives of America and others will use the Oregon example to designate more highways honoring 625,000 Gold Star Families (2.5 million individuals) across the USA on the coast to coast 3,072 mile U.S. Hwy 30 and or elsewhere.

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Gold Star Families Memorial Highway

Dedication of the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway completes my 15 year objective of honoring Oregon's nearly one-half million veterans who served during 5 major wars from WWI to the present and the 6,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars and campaigns leaving about 6,000 Gold Star Families to mourn their loss. The honors take the form of 9 border to border highways across Oregon and 101 highway signs installed along 3,447 miles of highways within Oregon.

The names of Oregon's 6,000 fallen veterans can be found on the Oregon Fallen War Heroes Memorial in Central Point, Oregon:

<https://www.centralpointoregon.gov/parksrec/page/oregon-fallen-war-heroes-memorial>



Attached are photos of 7 Gold Star Family members (2 WWII daughters, 3 Vietnam wives, 1 Global War on Terror wife, and 1 sister (Panama)) attending the Portland dedication ceremony and an Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway sign installed near Scappoose. Those 2 photos say it all.

I thank all of you who helped honor Gold Star Families with this well-deserved permanent and widespread public tribute to them.

Respectfully,

Dick Tobiason

LTC US Army, Retired

Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation

Project Manager, Oregon Veterans Highways and National Medal of Honor Highway



Blue Star Markers



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER DEDICATION

Monday, November 11, 2024

beginning at 12:00 noon

at the Veterans Memorial located at

Scappoose Heritage Park

52469 SE Second Street

Scappoose, Oregon 97056

Sponsored By:

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs

Scappoose Garden Club

VFW Post 4362

Scappoose Cub Scouts Pack 294

RSVP: brightstar2260@gmail.com



Blue Star Markers

Gold Star Marker at the Eagle Point National Cemetery September 29, 2024

The Central Point Garden Club is only eleven members strong and we were able to honor the families of our fallen military by placing and dedicating this Gold Star Memorial Marker in the Eagle Point National Cemetery on September 29th. We had four bagpipers who played patriotic songs at the beginning and closed the ceremony with Amazing Grace. The Old Guard Riders PNW-Inc for the Presentation of Colors, the Flag Salute, the Invocation and the Benediction. Amber Higgins was our Master of ceremonies and she spoke about the history of the Gold Star. Kathy Sell-Mayor of Eagle Point-welcomed everyone and spoke on behalf of Gold Star Mothers. Ronald Kohl gave a very moving presentation about the stages of grief a family must pass, the assistance needed and some of the resources available. He also spoke of the significance of the different coins placed on grave markers. Beverly Hicks spoke of the history of the Garden Clubs and why we do this. Noel LaLanne-Director of the Eagle Point National Cemetery-accepted the Gold Star Marker.

*Ida Pruitt
Blue/Gold Star Chair for Central Point Garden Club*



Old Guard Riders



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Blue Star Markers

Gold Star Marker at the Eagle Point National Cemetery (continued)



Aleta Dimick and Ida Pruitt with the bagpipers



Shirley Schmidt, Ida Pruitt in red and Beverly Hicks in-between.



Willamette National Cemetery

OSFGC continues to beautify the Willamette National Cemetery also known as the “Arlington of the West”. Since 1953 OSFGC started with landscaping projects, raising funds to purchase for the tower.

The Avenue of Flags was adopted by OSFGC in 1983. Garden Club members donated 400 casket flags and 350 flagpoles. As the flags wave in the breeze on Memorial Day they are a truly beautiful memorial to our departed veterans.

We have two Blue Star Markers in the cemetery. The Oregon War Memorial Marker located in the Rose Garden and one located by the Main Office parking lot. A few years ago we were asked to plant the twelve foot star at the entrance of the cemetery. In preparation of Memorial Day 300 red, white and blue million bells petunias were planted.

We helped sponsor the National WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY.

Quote: “Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out coordinating wreath-laying at Willamette National Cemetery as well as at more than 3700 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.”

Thank you for your donations to the Dedicated Funds for the Willamette National Cemetery, so we can continue what OSFGC started in 1953.

*Peggy Olin
Willamette National Cemetery chair*



Star at the entrance of Willamette National Cemetery

District/Club News

Portland District Garden Tour and Tea *June 22, 2024*

Portland District held a very enjoyable, successful fundraiser this past June when we toured four gardens and finished with a wonderful garden tea at Lanny and Peggy Olin's.

The first stop was Pat and Tom Allabastro's beautifully landscaped yard. Transplanted from Chicago, Pat enjoys growing various plants that they had in Illinois, noting that many actually grow better here. And she's having great fun finding new plants that flourish in Portland, recently designated as Zone 8. Her favorite is a stunning yellow shrub rose, "Georgiana Pittock."

Two historic homes were featured on the tour. Visiting the grounds at Heslin House in Fairview is like stepping back in time. The landscaping includes plants that were commonly grown in gardens of the early 20th century. Maintaining Zimmerman House gardens is an ongoing project shared by Multnomah and Villa garden clubs. Under the direction of Marie Voss and her first-rate crew, the Butterfly Garden has been completely renovated.

As is her custom, Peggy Olin completely outdid herself on the outdoor tea served at the end of the tour. With the help of her family, several tables were set up covered in white tablecloths, along with covered chairbacks. That was in addition to the patio and deck tables that were already there. The yard features a covered teahouse, as well as a number of striking container plants.

Chris McClure,



District/Club News

Villa Garden Club, Portland District

Villa GC has had a jam-packed year! We celebrated our 76th Anniversary as a club in March 2024.

April and May found us hard at work on our annual Plant Sale. Our sale, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, raised thousands of dollars from plants our members propagate. We use part of this money to fund our charitable organizations. Our club really throws themselves into their work and comes together as a great team!

In June we toured the beautiful Peninsula Park Rose Garden in North Portland. Its Rose Garden is from 1909 and predates the more famous International Rose Test Garden at Portland's Washington Park.

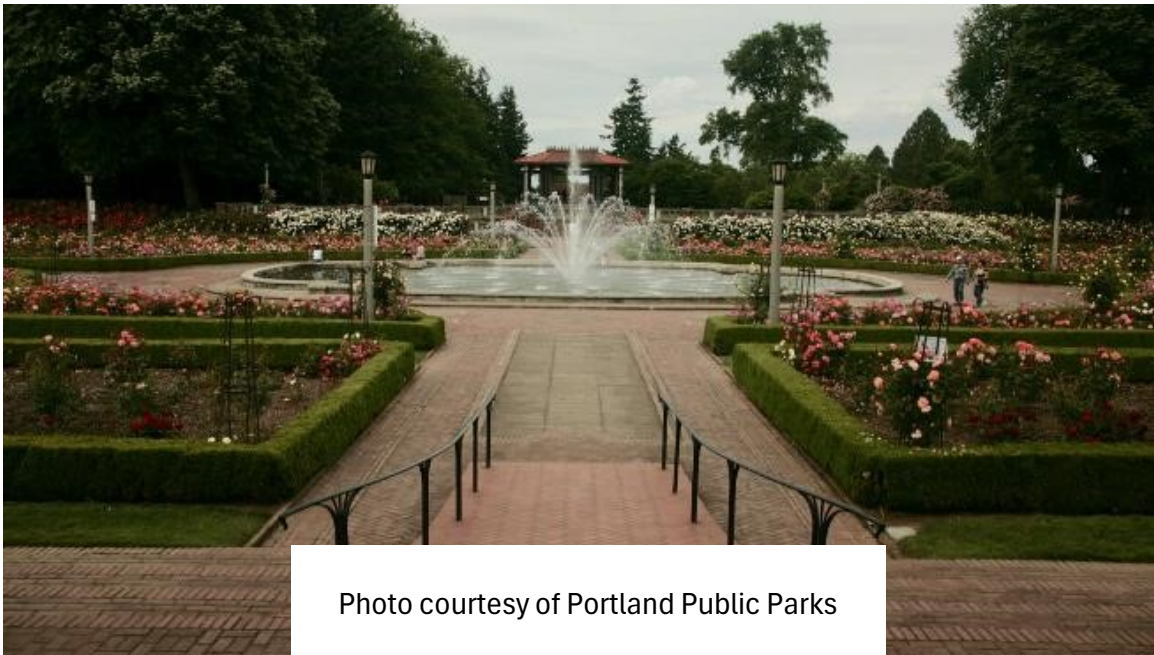


Photo courtesy of Portland Public Parks

For our June meeting program, we toured the yard of our member, Mitzi Cannady. Mitzi maintains her own yard and has an English garden style of planting. She had an amazing variety of mature flowers, hostas, beautiful trees and a vegetable garden. She also participates in working at the Zimmerman House Garden as a part of Villa's promise to maintain a butterfly garden.

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District/Club News

Villa Garden Club, (continued)

Our club is working on improving our Conservation efforts led by our Club and District Conservation leader, Alana Eckert. Alana has given multiple presentations on conservation and fire safety. She also heads Villa's effort to repurpose prescription pill bottles. Our members take the labels off and carefully wash and dry the bottles, then bring them to meetings. Alana mails them to a Ministry who forwards them to medical staff in third world countries to be refilled with medications. Our members have made the commitment to pay for the mailing costs. The entire club has also dedicated itself to using our own re-washable cups, plates and utensils if possible.

Our annual July picnic was held at Gresham Main City Park. We had a potluck, then had an Ugly Hat Contest! We took independent tours of Gresham's lovely Tsuru Japanese Garden, right at the park. We recommend you check this Garden out as it has recently had a new Pavilion added and is very quiet and peaceful. It's just off of Powell Boulevard in Gresham.

Ugly Garden Hat contest, left to right Chris McClure, Linda Kenney, Pat Allabastro, Sue Ceglie, Mary Ann Rogers (winner)

*Sue Ceglie,
Villa Garden Club President*



District/Club News

Seaside Sou'Wester Garden Club, North Coast District



We started our year with a field trip. Our trip started at 9:10 am to the Oregon Garden in Silverton. We have not had a field trip by Bus in over 6 years so this was exciting. We invited the Garden Club members from Cannon Beach and Nehalem to go with us, we had plenty of room to share.

The Garden has a Mission statement, stating that they strive to educate and inspire gardeners of all skill levels and ages and they truly did just that. We were each given a map and we were on our way, drizzle and all we didn't care. There were a few members that had been there years ago and they were very impressed with how it has filled in and grown to be even more beautiful. They loved the addition of the Children's Garden and other art work throughout the Garden.

Things we learned! We learned by listening to the 4th grade class learning about tropical plants and the special features that each plant has to keep critters from eating them, like, being Fuzzy or Prickly. We were surprised by the use of horsetail in the fancy gardens to keep the slugs off the plants, and it was a beautiful filler. We were amazed by the giant sizes of some plants we thought were normally much smaller. The Conifer Garden didn't sound all that interesting, but it was Amazing, so many shades of green full and lush and tall and with such character. Cones, like pine cones on a Monkey puzzle tree? I never knew and I have one in my garden. There was a beautiful rose Garden, an Aromatic Garden, a healing Garden, with plants used for medicinal purposes.

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District/Club News

Seaside Sou'Wester Garden Club (continued)

We also learned how to fire safety proof our homes by keeping our trees pruned up off the ground and the many types of fire retardant materials you can use to protect your home. The Garden is maintained by Volunteers just like our Butterfield Garden. If there was a negative thing it would be the signage. It was faded or non existent in a lot of places. It gave us a better understanding of the need of signage in our Butterfield Garden. We have waited a long time for this trip and it was FUN and well worth it. We Hope we get to do it again. A well earned reward for the time, and plants, we give to our Plant Sale every year.

Cherita Potter

Seaside Sou'Wester Garden Club President



District/Club News

Illinois Valley Garden Club, Siskiyou District

Going into Fall can be a slower time of year for some garden clubs. Not so for the Illinois Valley Garden Club. Late September ushers in the preparation for the Fall Plant Sale. It also ushers in the opportunity to help members in need. One member could no longer maintain her greenhouse which housed over 125 various succulents. Edith Martin has been a member, a president and a mentor for many, many years with the IVGC. Advancing years have necessitated the reduction of her famous succulent greenhouse garden.

The succulents removed were donated to the club for the recent Fall Plant Sale.

Thank you Edith!



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District/Club News

Illinois Valley Garden Club (continued)

These succulents had been neglected for quite a while, hence another “we need help” went out. A crew was formed and descended upon the multitude of succulents: trimming, repotting, shaping and preparing them for sale. Six hours later we had a trailer loaded and ready to go after each plant was identified and priced. The ones we could not get ready in time, the ones that needed additional greenhouse time were housed in a greenhouse donated by longtime member Amelia Benson.

Our theme this year is “Pollinizing Friendships”. Developing friendships while learning to grow tomatoes. Preparing for this plant sale brought many members together helping the club, helping individual members in need and spreading “friendship pollen” on each other. Remember it’s your club-GET INVOLVED AND GET POLLINATED.

Ron Morse

Illinois Valley Garden Club President



District/Club News

Lake Grove Garden Club, Clackamas District

This month we installed our new officers for 2024-26! Left to right: Kay (Recording Secretary), Gina (Treasurer), Marleen (President), Betsy & Nanne (co-Vice Presidents), and Lorrie (Corresponding Secretary). We look forward to a fantastic year under their leadership.

Our September 19 meeting featured a fun speaker, a fantastic feast, and fall blooms galore! We kicked off the 2024/25 club year with a lively presentation from Lorena who shared her experience of raising Painted Lady butterflies from egg to adult. Her great-granddaughter was the inspiration for this endeavor and they enjoy watching their butterflies together! Lorena brought several potted borage plants with eggs on the leaves for members to take home.

The September hospitality team outdid themselves by creating lovely centerpieces with autumn flowers gathered from members' gardens. The luncheon included a tasty selection of autumn salads and a charcuterie platter.



District/Club News

McMinnville Garden Club, Pioneer District

Conservation and Sustainability

The McMinnville Garden Club has partnered with Zero Waste McMinnville and is collecting and recycling plastic items that Recology doesn't take! It has definitely been a group effort, with thirteen members on the committee to collect, clean, sort and deliver the items to the collection events three times a year. And one of our members is storing all the plastic at her house - thank you Lisa! At the June Zero Waste collection event, the club turned in over 25 full grocery bags of plastic.

Good news for all of us in Oregon! There are three new Oregon laws that will help with recycling. SB545, effective July 1, 2024, allows food establishments to use a customer's own containers to package prepared foods. Restaurants are also permitted to provide their own reusable containers for take-out, which are then returned by the customer, sanitized and reused again and again. We may also use our own containers to purchase bulk items at grocery stores and at deli counters.

Future good news! SB543 takes effect January 1, 2025, and will ban Styrofoam food ware, including #6 polystyrene used in a lot of food service products! The Recycling Modernization Act will begin on July 1, 2025, and will standardize recycling for the whole state. No matter where you live, everyone will be able to recycle exactly the same in all communities.

The McMinnville Garden Club will continue to educate and motivate our members on how to recycle, reuse, reduce, refuse and rethink all plastics. If you are recycling plastics, THANK YOU! It is good for our community, state and the world.

Beth Frischmuth and Adele O'Neal
Co-chairs of the Conservation and Sustainability Committee
McMinnville Garden Club



District/Club News

Country Gardens Club, Clackamas District

Country Garden Club of Lake Oswego Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The 98-degree temperature didn't detour the Country Gardens Club from celebrating their 75th anniversary on August 1st. An organization founded by two remarkable women in 1949 has grown to 45 active members. The anniversary festivities were held in the garden of Gail Gombos who provided large red patio umbrellas and plenty of shade. Refreshing iced tea, and other featured beverages helped keep us hydrated. After a short business meeting by incoming President, Judy Hathaway, a delicious buffet of poached salmon, salads and sides were served along with a celebratory dessert.

Members do enjoy gardening but some of the best times are getting together at our monthly meetings like our anniversary celebration. We are proud too, of giving back to our community by contributing to organizations like The Lake Oswego Heritage House. Annually the club provides a horticulture scholarship to Clackamas Community College as well as Portland Community College.

On August 1, we celebrated the love of gardening, the friendships we have made, and the support we give to our local organization.

Happy 75th Anniversary!



Affiliate News

Capitol Arrangers Guild, Capitol District

The Capitol Arranger's Guild is one of only three Guilds that still exists in Oregon. It exists solely for training and teaching people about creative designs approved by NGC. We meet the 3rd Thursday of each of seven months: September, October, November, February, March, April, and May in Salem from 6 to 8pm.

Guild membership is open to anyone who desires to learn more about these beautiful designs, the materials used, and how to put them together. This year begins with new designs that were chosen at our August picnic. Some of the designs we will be doing are a tray design with a harvest theme with a creative floral technique, a plaque, a transparency, and a cascade. We hope to add to our membership and will start by asking visitors to come to the meetings just to see what we do. Our monthly guild designs are critiqued by one guild member, and two accredited NGC judges.

For more information call or text *Nita Wood, Guild Chair* at 503.871.9578.



Member News

*What we've been up to -
For sale to benefit the OSFGC Judges Councils*

Decluttering and consolidating all my design materials.

The Chiotti's are going to be liquidating containers, frames, driftwood, and even dried material in November and want to invite judges' council members to get first selection of it. Reasonable prices with proceeds to the OSFGC Judges Councils. There are several large Ken Swartz sculptures and acrylic staging. Lights too. Some Pat Brame ceramic containers are also available.

We had to be realistic about entering flower shows and fairs now that we are over 80. The garage and patio shelving are overflowing. We no longer can physically hold our National Garden Week arranging at our home. Setting up tables, chairs and racks for the finished designs is too hard on us. It was a big decision to make, but necessary.

So, we are inviting Judges Council designers to come to our home in St. Helens and purchase items from years of designing. The Schwartz sculptures were originally over \$75, and other items were \$20-50.

First come, first served after November 1. Our house. Call ahead. The drive is special at this time of the year, so plan a leisurely drive out to Columbia County.

The address and telephone number are in the OSFGC Directory.

Lynn and Stan Chiotti

A Glimpse into the Lives of Pollinators

What do bees, wasps, birds and clocks have in common?

Each of these groups has their *cuckoos*. Everyone knows of cuckoo clocks and most of us are aware of cuckoo birds. However, there aren't nearly as many people that have heard of cuckoo wasps and bees. Both of these are considered pollinators since the adults visit flowers to consume nectar.

Generally speaking, female cuckoo bees and wasps operate somewhat like their avian counterparts, "stealing" the enormous work that non-cuckoo female bees and wasps put into provisioning their nests prior to laying an egg. This behavior is known as kleptoparasitism and the cuckoos are termed brood parasites.

Brood parasites only attack solitary bees and wasps. There is another type of cuckoo bee that is a social parasite. In that case the cuckoo bee takes over the entire colony and either kills or subdues the queen. Some bumble bees have adapted this strategy to take advantage of non-cuckoo bumble bees. This is a more complex behavior and will not be discussed further here.

After the host bee or wasp has completed the hard work of provisioning, the cuckoos sneak into the unsuspecting female's nest and kill her eggs or larvae if present. The cuckoo then lays (usually) multiple eggs on the nest provisions. Often the host female is unaware that her brood cell has been compromised. It is thought that chemical mimicry may play a role such that the cuckoo smells like the host and so is not detected.

What happens if the host bee or wasp catches a cuckoo in her nest? Cuckoos are heavily armored, with a thicker "skin" (integument) than non-cuckoos. If you look closely at the beautiful cuckoo wasp picture you will notice that the area around the eyes and behind the head looks very rough. The term for this is "sculptured" and it is part of the protection that enables cuckoos to survive host attacks. Normally a host will not succeed in killing the cuckoo, but it may be able to drive the cuckoo out of the nest. On the other hand, the cuckoo may well kill the host.

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A Glimpse into the Lives of Pollinators (continued)

Since the vast majority of wasps are carnivorous, successful cuckoo wasps are taking over a brood cell with typical wasp prey items like insects or even spiders. Cuckoo bees on the other hand are vegetarians like (almost) all other bees. The host cells that they are commandeering are stocked with collected pollen as appropriate for bee larvae. In either case, the cuckoo's offspring will be well fed thanks to their hard-working hosts.

By David Kollen



Cuckoo wasp (*Holopyga generosa*), Frank Vassen



Cuckoo bee (*Coelioxys* sp.), David Cappaert



Cuckoo bee (*Nomada ruficornis*), gailhampshire



Unless you have toooooo many members – you need this..... Come join us!

Newly reformatted

Membership Mondays

ZOOM meetings

Beginning October 7 at 1:00 pm EDT

and the first Monday/month
thereafter except for December

Watch for more information
& zoom link

Leanna Woodall
18120 SW Board Oak Blvd
Aloha OR 97007-4612

Send her a card and wish her speedy recovery!

Calendar of Events

2025

March 29	Spring State Board Meeting	Zoom
April 28-30	Pacific Region Convention	Tempe, Arizona
May 18-22	NGC Convention	North Charleston, South Carolina
June 10, 11, &12	OSFGC Convention	Seaside Convention Center.



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Forget-Me-Not

*Say thank-you or honor someone special here.
Send your tribute to the Editor and a check for \$10 to
Treasurer Karen Brown, 5211 Salmon River Hwy,
Otis, OR 97368-9780*