



# 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 2025**

From the President's Desk .....1  
 Facebook Class ..... 2  
 Committee Updates ..... 3-4  
 Klamath County Library ..... 5  
 District News ..... 6  
 Club News ..... 7-16  
 Where are Our Pollinators  
 Hiding? ..... 17  
 Mahonia Info/Due Dates ..... 18

SEND WORD ARTICLES & JPG  
PHOTOS TO:

Leanna Woodall, Editor  
lwoodallor@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE  
MARCH 30. 2025

WINTER ISSUE

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Happy New Year Garden Club Family Members!

I hope you all had a joyful December and that you will enjoy a fabulous 2025. Please join me in congratulating Rebecca Cook (Becky) on becoming our OSFGC President-Elect. **Woo hoo for Becky!** If she calls on you to fill a position as a 2025-2027 Committee Chair, please consider doing so. If you are passionate about something, let her know. She will find a place where you can develop that passion and thrive.

It's going to be a busy Spring this year. Our own Tanja Swanson will be installed as the 2025-2027 Pacific Region Director in April. That Convention will be held in Tempe, Arizona, April 28-30. The theme is "Wild & Water Wise." More information is on the Pacific Region website: <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org>. I hope to see many of you there so we can support Tanja.

The National Garden Club Convention will be held May 18-22 in North Charleston, South Carolina, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Convention Center. Donna Donnelly will be installed as our new National President. Information is on the NGC website <https://gardenclub.org>.

Then in June we will have our own OSFGC Convention. This year it will be "in person" and held June 10, 11, & 12 in Seaside. Becky will be installed, the beach-accessible wheelchairs will be presented, there will also be workshops and speakers to help us learn something new. Additional information coming out in the next few months.

**Great news!!** You have donated enough money to buy TWO beach accessible wheelchairs. I will be ordering them soon and they will be presented during the June Convention. I hope to see you at the presentation. You have all worked so hard to raise the money we needed. I appreciate your efforts.

There are several contests still open. Take a look at the qualifications and application due dates. Consider entering your club, a club member, or yourself. The Chairs of the Committees can help if you need it, just ask them.



*Carolyn Olley*  
President OSFGC  
[molley1755@comcast.net](mailto:molley1755@comcast.net)



## How to make Facebook Work for Your Club or District Tanja Swanson

Carol Norquist, the Pacific Region Director, has agreed to do a class on how we can make Facebook work in our clubs or districts.

Carol has worked on Facebook for many states and for the National Garden Club.

The program will be on **February 7 at 11 a.m. Pacific time on Zoom**. Details of the Zoom call will be announced soon.

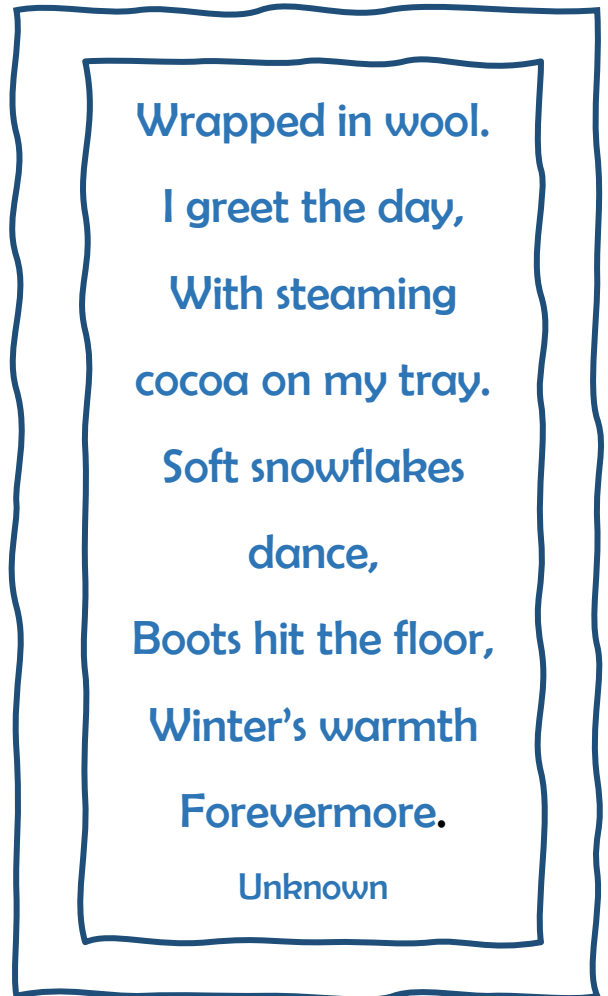
So please let me know if you are interested by sending me an email with the heading: **Zoom Facebook**.

Also, Carol asked if you have specific questions to please send them to me in advance of the February 7 meeting. That way we can have a more specific discussion.

Use the Heading: **Zoom Facebook question**. My email is: [tanjandy@gmail.com](mailto:tanjandy@gmail.com)

This should be very helpful for many of you so, please make a point of attending!

Thank you from Tanja Swanson!



## Nominating Committee Update Gaye Stewart, Nominating Committee Chair

At the June Convention in 2023, a State Nominating Committee was elected by the Board for the purpose of seeking qualified candidates to consider serving in one of the key leadership roles for the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs during the 2025-2027 term of office. Five people and two alternates were elected. We have since had one resignation, and one of the alternates has stepped up to fill that vacancy. The current Committee includes:  
Wanda Baker – Klamath District  
Kathy Kelsey – Mt. Hood District  
Mary Kerr – Rogue District  
Mike Stewart – Capitol District  
Me (Gaye Stewart) – Santiam District, and  
Ginny Timmerman – North Coast District (alternate)

These people represent different areas of the State and are active in the work of OSFGC, but they are not the only ones – you, too, are leaders and attend club and district functions, you know people and see their skills demonstrated through their club, committee assignments, problem-solving, joy in working with people, are visionary, and the list could go on... Why do I tell you all this? We are all part of the Nominating Committee and you too, see and know people who would make a great state officer. Make a list of these people, and one-by-one approach them and say, "I believe you would make an excellent candidate for the office of (and name the office)."

Then be prepared to give them a copy of the job description and required qualifications listed in our State Directory and be sure to include a



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## Nominating Committee Update

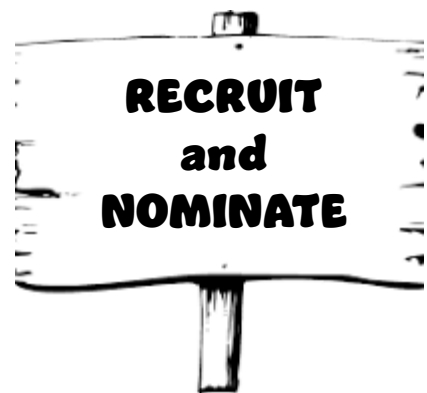
"Self-Nomination or Recommendation for the Executive Committee" form. The revised form is on the state website and is downloadable. This process works! Several nominations have been received but we need more if we are to fill all the officer positions.

Let me, or one of the other Nominating Committee members, know who you recommend. Remember we are all part of this important team-building process to find positive leadership to move OSFGC Forward!

So, **RECRUIT and NOMINATE** – two especially important action words!

Together we can...and we will, build a great Leadership Team for 2025-2027!

We do look forward to hearing from you. Oh, and YES, you may nominate yourself.



## Blue and Gold Star Markers Jane Sercombe

2024 has been a remarkable year for Oregon and the dedication of Blue and Gold Star Memorial Markers.

Several clubs who have thought about sponsoring a marker, have gone ahead, planned, ordered, and completed their project. Congratulations!

Any time is the right time to honor our veterans. Men and women serving in the Armed Forces see the accolades by the garden clubs throughout the USA.

That "ribbon of blue" from East to West and North to South continues to expand. The project began at the close of 1944 and eighty years later it is still flourishing.

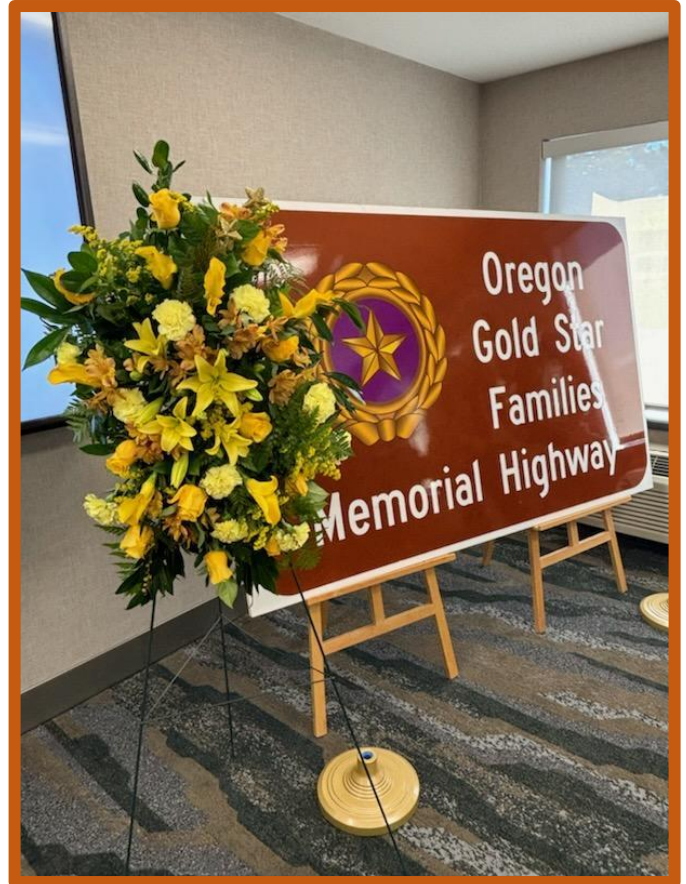
Oregon is a proud leader in paying tribute to the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Many thanks to the clubs, districts, and individuals who contributed to the Gold Star Families Highway Project.

The attached photo is an enlarged highway sign.

Sincerely,  
Jane Sercombe  
OSFGC Blue Star Gold Star Chairman,  
Veterans Liaison

"Sometimes our fate resembles a fruit tree in winter. Who would think that those branches would turn green again and blossom, but we hope it, we know it."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## Klamath County Library

Amanda Edwards, Assistant Director

Like libraries everywhere, the Klamath County Library strives to offer engaging programming for patrons of all ages, focusing on activities that appeal to both children and adults. Thanks to Tanja Swanson and the Klamath District Garden Clubs, the library has been able to bring some truly memorable events to life.

The garden club's support has made it possible to host a variety of creative programs. One standout event was a recycling/junk sculpture program, where children turned recycled materials into their own artistic masterpieces. Club members generously provided all the materials, organized the event and guided the children through the creative process. The result? Smiling faces all around!

The collaboration hasn't been limited to children's programs. This month, the library and the garden club teamed up to offer a wreath-making workshop for teens and adults. Participants left with beautiful handmade wreaths and a sense of accomplishment. This partnership has been a win-win for everyone involved. It has allowed the library to expand its programming and stay within budget while helping the garden club increase its community presence and (hopefully!) attract new members.

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## Klamath County Library

Each summer, the library holds a reading challenge to encourage kids to dive into books while earning small prizes for reaching milestones. A highlight of the challenge is a weekly performance or craft event, and the garden club was a key partner in the 2024 lineup. Their event was a flower-themed craft day, where children made bouquets and crowns. More than 150 patrons participated, making it a resounding success.

Looking ahead to the 2025 summer reading challenge, plans are already underway for another exciting garden club project. Given the enthusiasm from past events, we're confident this one will be just as well-loved.

I encourage garden clubs everywhere to connect with their local libraries. Many libraries face staffing shortages and tight budgets while seeking innovative programs for their patrons.

For garden clubs, it's an excellent opportunity to raise awareness, inspire a love for plants among younger generations and build membership.



## Portland District News

Christine McClure, Co-Director

It has been an eventful second half of 2024 for our Portland District! We had a beautiful Garden Tour and Tea in June, and a great Fall District Luncheon in October. Plus, we added a new club to the district—The Cactus and Succulents Club. We met Glenn Davidson (the president) at the District luncheon. Geri Grieve and Judy Jewell, Villa Garden Club members, also belong to the Cactus and Succulents group. The Tuesday Morning Club's special interest is Ikebana. We plan to get all of our clubs together a few additional times throughout the year so we can learn more about each other and the various ways we enjoy gardening.

Our fall luncheon was held at Colwood Golf Center on October 18. It was a beautiful fall day, and everyone arrived looking forward to an interesting, entertaining time together. And that is what they got!

We had a two-part theme - "Back to School" and "Learning Something New About Nature." Members were asked to wear outfits similar to what they wore to school decades ago. Several had attended Catholic schools and modeled the type of uniforms they were required to wear. Pat Allabastro pointed out the doily on her head, as girls had to cover their hair in church. Mary Ann Rogers described how to roll up a dowdy skirt to make it shorter once you left your house. Diane Tuttle took us down Memory Lane when she modeled her "shift." I remember sewing several of those to wear in the summer. Looking back on our days as students prepared us to "learn something new" from our guest speaker, Bob Shaw, a member of the Xerces Society.

Bob gave a most interesting presentation on "Habitat Conservation and Restoration." He reminded us how crucial it is for the survival of insects to have sufficient protected space to reproduce. Pollination is critical, and we have to be mindful of selecting plants (especially natives) that are favored by pollinators. It is mind-boggling just to consider the number of species of bees! Not only that, they have varied life-styles and specific purposes in nature. He suggested we allow at least part of our yard to remain more natural and welcoming to insects. He recommended putting up a sign declaring "Natural Habitat" if neighbors have questions on your landscaping style.



From the Portland District's Fall Luncheon  
"Learning Something New About Nature."



## Sou'Wester Garden Club Seaside, OR

Cherita Potter, President

### **December**

Our favorite time of the year! At our December meeting we create our "Teacups of Joy," which we then deliver them to all the Assisted Living and Memory Care facilities here locally.

We fill the teacups with greenery brought in by all the members from their yards and friends' yards. We add a bit of color, red carnations and sparkle and deliver them to their December homes and then pick them up in January to re-use for next year. We fill approximately 45 to 60 teacups that are glued to their saucer. It is always so rewarding to see their faces light up when we drop them off. Most of the filling is donated, so this is a very low-cost project for the amount of joy it brings.

### **January**

We will have a slide show of our trip to the Oregon Garden, very educational and fun. Local Gardener, Beth Holland, from Cannon Beach will talk to us about her Green House plans and walking trails.

Our Butterfield Garden has been put to bed for the winter, the Dahlias are cut back and everything is composted. Teresa and crew can finally take a break.

### **February**

Program is Master Gardener Joanie Chapel and friends to talk about "Care and Division of Dahlias."

### **March**

Will be a speaker from the Wildlife Youth Camp. We provide youth camper scholarships each year, and we look forward to hearing about their experiences.

## *Working on our Teacups*



## Lake Grove Garden Club Colleen Alexander

Our October 17 meeting was a hoot with Halloween colors and holiday treats! Sue Manning and Paul Whitney from the Oregon Mycological Society gave a marvelous presentation on mushrooms and helped club members prepare their own mushroom growing kits. The hit of the buffet table was the 'Daughter of Frankenstein' veggie platter with mushroom legs and torso – and meringue 'mushroom' cookies stole the show on the dessert table!



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## Lake Grove Garden Club

Our November 21 gathering was full of thanks! Our speaker Mark Browne, archivist of the Oswego Heritage Council, gave an excellent presentation about Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, the first women in the Pacific Northwest to own and operate their own landscape architecture firm. They opened their studio at Lord's family home in Salem, naming it Gaiety Hollow. The club plans to visit the house and garden in the spring! The hospitality committee prepared a delicious luncheon of seasonal flavors and created festive centerpieces with dried hydrangea blossoms from the garden. It was truly a feast for the eyes and tummy!



continued on Page 9



continued from Page 8

## Lake Grove Garden Club

Our first club "jaunt" was a grand success! On a cold, drizzly November day, 14 of us carpoled to Durant at Red Ridge Farm in Dayton, OR to attend their 15th Annual Olio Nuovo Festival. We had a tour of the olive mill and saw the day's pressing of lemon olive oil. In the Farm Shop we tasted more olive oils and vinegars, and perused the booths of the festival vendors.

Next stop was the Nursery where beautiful plants were available, including olive trees! We also found fresh wreaths made with olive branches.

Then we were on to the Wine Tasting Room where we could purchase lunch to go along with a glass of Durant estate-grown wine. (Our carpool drivers did not imbibe!) Remember that drizzle at the beginning of the trip? Soon after we arrived, the rain stopped and the sun peeked out – giving us a lovely late fall day for learning, tasting, shopping and having great fun together!

On December 12 we wrapped up a year of 100-year anniversary activities with a festive – and fashionable – holiday luncheon at Oswego Lake Country Club. The Centennial Celebration Committee pulled out all the stops! Centerpieces and decorations fresh from the garden, a delicious 3-course meal, a performance of holiday songs by the Lake Oswego High School Windjammers, and a champagne toast – we had it all! Club historian, Peggy, put together an incredible display of the last ten decades of gardening in Lake Oswego. Several of our members dressed in period outfits and did they look fab! As we gathered on the spiral staircase for our group photo, we were already smiling after a wonderful afternoon of celebrating our past, present and future!



continued on Page 10

continued from Page 9

## Lake Grove Garden Club



New Members



LGGC past presidents with Marleen (current)



DECADES OF FASHION



**LEADERSHIP TIP**  
Critics Demoralize  
Leaders Encourage  
Unknown

**LEADERSHIP TIP**  
“To handle yourself, use your head;  
To handle others, use your heart.”  
Eleanor Roosevelt

**FORGET THE MISTAKES.  
REMEMBER THE LESSONS!  
HELP DESIGN THE FUTURE**  
Unknown

“Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.”  
Henry Ford



## West Linn Garden Club Celebrates the Holidays 2024 Sue Piper, President

Happy Holidays!

Our garden club kicked off the holiday season with our annual Wreath Making and Holiday Potluck Party on December 2. We had a great turn out with beautiful wreaths.



Laurel Buncak shows off her beautiful holiday wreath.



There was plenty of conversation as well as creative decoration at the annual wreath making event.



Monique Harris hard at work on her festive wreath.



And her beautiful finished wreath!

Lori Griffith, Marcia Prinz and Laurel Buncak enjoying their wreath making activities together.



Heidi Streeter's beautiful finished product.



## Scappoose Garden Club Michelle Berg, President

To: OSFGC Clubs and Districts:

Attending a Blue or Gold Star dedication is a moving event.

Your club sets the program, veterans are involved, the community comes to celebrate our country and those who gave their lives to keep us free.

For those clubs who do not have a Blue and/or a Gold Star Memorial, please consider this OSFGC opportunity.

*“Sponsoring a memorial is an honorable use of your time and your funds. Your club will be appreciated and honored for decades to come.”*  
Jane Sercombe, Blue Star Gold Star Chairman, Veterans Liaison.

The Blue Star Marker Dedication was a deeply meaningful event for the Scappoose Garden Club. It allowed us to honor the sacrifices of our veterans while bringing our community together with gratitude and reflection.

The decision to undertake this project stemmed from a shared desire to give back to those who have given so much for our freedom. Fundraising and planning were driven by the heartfelt commitment of our members, who recognized the importance of preserving this legacy for future generations.

We are truly proud to have contributed to this lasting tribute.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Berg, President,  
Scappoose Garden Club



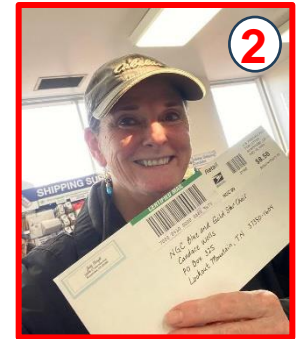
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## Scappoose Garden Club

From start to finish, the Blue Star Marker project was a moving and heartfelt experience, and I am proud to say that this endeavor came to fruition on November 11, 2024. While this project took some time, to pay tribute to the men and women who have served, are now serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces of this great Nation is a tremendous tribute.

The city, community, and local VFW were very supportive throughout the entire project. The City Public Works Department helped by setting the post, installing the marker and preparing a garden bed around the memorial. Veterans attended the dedication ceremony and shared their gratitude by thanking garden club members for taking the time and energy to bring a Blue Star Marker to Scappoose in their honor.

Judy Bright, Scappoose Garden Club.



1. Fund-raising booth
2. Judy Bright, St. Helens GC, sending paper-work to NGC.
3. \$500 donors, Bud & Karen from Wigwam

## BLUE STAR MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONY NOVEMBER 11, 2024 Scappoose, Oregon



St. Helens  
Blue Star Memorial



Veterans who attended the Dedication



St. Helens Garden Club Members  
attending the Dedication



We gratefully acknowledge Mike  
Stewart for taking these photos..

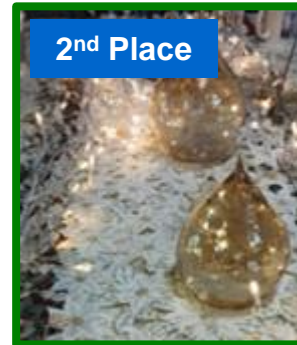
## Lebanon Garden Club Joli Root

Lebanon Garden Club closed their year with a wonderful Christmas Party at their December 16 meeting. In addition to their annual Christmas potluck, they decided to have a table decorating contest.

Some of the members formed teams to decorate six-foot tables. The event was well-received and everyone had a lot of fun. The decorators came to the event a little earlier to set up their tables before prying eyes could watch what they were doing. After the table scapes were finished, members drew numbers to indicate what table to sit at. The decorated tables were numbered and each member voted for their favorite table scape. The winners were, Renata Stanko, first place. Trudie Bason, Lynne Neuman and Donna Lesko, second place and Jean Chapin and Merrie Wales, third place.

Another annual event the club members do is to collect Christmas coffee mugs and meet the weekend before garden club and fill the mugs with bouquets. The mugs are then brought to garden club and volunteers pass them out in the community to assisted living facilities, the Veteran's Home and to anyone they find who needs a little Christmas cheer. One of our members who passed a few years ago used to bring Christmas mug bouquets to give to the members. In honor of this special member, we are continuing with a different twist.

***The bad news is time flies. The good news is you are the pilot.***  
***Michael Altschuler***



The decorated tables were numbered and each member voted for their favorite table scape. The winners were, Renata Stanko, first place. Trudie Bason, Lynne Neuman and Donna Lesko, second place. Jean Chapin and Merrie Wales, third place.



## Canby Garden Club Embraces Native Plants

Katherine Leppek, President

The Canby Garden Club recently threw their trowels and dollars around the new Native Plant Sanctuary in Canby. The Sanctuary, at the Canby Community Park, 1348 SW Berg Parkway, was established over 10 years ago and its history is spotty. It is being lovingly restored by a handful of community volunteers and has received a boost of funding.

According to Sanctuary Chair, David Kleinke, the city of Canby Community Enhancement Grants Project awarded a \$3500 grant in June to help develop the site. "We also received a \$1000 donation from our Canby Garden Club, and this was added to an initial \$350 funding from the Canby Kiwanis," Kleinke said.

Kleinke and his wife, Karen, moved to Canby from West Linn in 2022.

"The first thing we do in a new area is visit all the parks," he added. "The Canby Community Park had a sign signifying a native plant area. It was overrun by non-native blackberries. I went to the Canby Parks Department and asked if it was o.k. to start pulling the blackberries. They said O.K."

Since 2023 Kleinke has rallied a small group of volunteers to pull weeds and purchase plants. In February over 50 community members helped dig and plant 154 native plants, many donated from local nurseries and the Canby Garden Club members.

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## Canby Garden Club Embraces Native Plants

"The new funding helped us mulch the plants, purchase some tools, develop educational signs and begin work on a permanent path through the sanctuary," he added. "We are also flagging and marking each plant."

Kleinke added the sanctuary is now under the umbrella of the Canby Garden Club and he is working with Liz Belz-Templeman a teacher at the Canby High School to integrate the Native Plant Sanctuary into the high school environmental and ecology curriculum. He is hoping local teachers will include the park in their field trip plans. According to the sign at the park the sanctuary was developed and maintained by the OSU Master Gardeners of Clackamas County, but the group is unclear when that work fell away. "We would love to know the history of this area," Kleinke said.

According to the National Audubon Society, restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. By creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds and other animals. The City of Canby Parks department has helped with water sourcing, wood chips and logistics. "They have been terrific to work with," Kleinke added.



**continued on Page 16**

continued from Page 15

## Canby Garden Club Embraces Native Plants

“We recently had our first drop of mulch. It was a very warm morning. Two of us were working from 7 a.m. At 11 a.m. a family visiting from Spokane, WA. saw the work and offered to join in,” he said. “By 12 noon we were all cleaned up.”

The group has planned a “Grand Opening” of the sanctuary Friday, October 25. Everyone is welcome. For more information visit [canbygardenclub.com](http://canbygardenclub.com)





## Where are Our Pollinators Hiding?

© David Kollen

It often seems so dreary as we traverse the winter months. Many of our plants have lost their leaves and there are few blooms aside from exotic plants. Making things worse, we seem to have lost most of our pollinators aside from Anna's Hummingbirds in some areas.

Just where are they hiding? The details can be complicated but there are overall patterns that are easy to understand. Let's start with the bees. Like most insects, bees go through multiple life stages as they develop from eggs to larvae to pupae and finally adults. Bees (and wasps) can overwinter as either larvae, pupae, or adults, but never as eggs. Butterflies and moths on the other hand can also overwinter in the egg stage. Overwintering bees (with the exception of new bumble bee queens) can be found in the nest sites provided by their mothers. Since 70% of bees are ground nesters, that's where most of these will be found. For the other 30% of bees that nest in pre-existing cavities, they will be found in places like old beetle tunnels in trees or in plant stems that are hollow or pithy. The mothers will have made nests earlier in the year and provisioned them with pollen before laying eggs and sealing the nests.

New bumble bee queens (known as gynes) typically hibernate through the winter. Much like a grizzly bear, they fatten up through the fall and when temperatures get low and forage disappears, they excavate a hibernaculum. This is a chamber that is constructed in soft soil or a thick carpet of leaves.



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## Where are our Pollinators Hiding?

In milder coastal areas, some gynes may remain winter active. They take cover during periods of cold and rain, but will often show up after a couple of dry and warm days – if there are flowers available.

Overwintering butterfly and moth larvae (caterpillars) as well as chrysalises can be found among fallen leaves and sometimes under old logs or similar nooks and crannies that can provide protection from the extremes of winter. Luna moth cocoons are even camouflaged by looking like dry leaves.

Probably the most familiar overwintering adult butterfly is the monarch, but other members of the family Nymphalidae also overwinter, such as the mourning cloak butterfly. These often seek refuge in bark crevices.

If you are wondering how you can help these animals, think about leaving existing leaf litter until spring time. Another idea for those that have pithy-stemmed plants is to delay cutting these back until spring. For more information read about the Xerces Society's Leave the Leaves campaign (<https://xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves>).



## 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 must be submitted separately in a .JPG format only. Any photos not submitted in .jpg format will not be published.
- 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.
- 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 Leanna Woodall, Editor, [lwoodallor@comcast.net](mailto:lwoodallor@comcast.net) or Cell #503-332-4740.**



**The Mahonia is published 4 times a Year.**

### Article Due Dates

- Spring 2025, Due 3/30/2025
- Summer 2025, Due 5/30/2025
- Fall 2025, Due 9/30/2025
- Winter, 2026, Due 12/30/2025

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