



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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UPCOMING EVENTS

District Director’s ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 10-11 am

Club Presidents’ ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10-11 am

Dedication of Gold Star Marker @
Willamette National Cemetery
Sunday, May 24, 2026
11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd., Portland, OR

2026 Convention Dates
NGC--May 4-6, 2026, St. Louis, MO.
OSFGC--June 27, 2026, The Shedd Institute
868 High Street, Eugene, OR
Pacific Region--October 12-14, 2026
Thousand Oaks, CA

MAHONIA SUMMER ISSUE DEADLINE

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Hello everyone,

Well, I think it’s spring. My geraniums are trying to bloom, and my little tree is sprouting. Those crazy daffodils bloomed and of course were in the blackberries and hanging off the sides of the creek. All those lovely spots of yellow and joy that harken spring. Mother Nature has awoken the heartbeat of our earth, and the timeless rhythm of planting and sowing has begun once again.

I know a lot of you are working in your greenhouses planting seeds, keeping an eye on the temps and hoping for the weather to stay nice. And at the same time keeping your fingers crossed that all your planning and working through the winter months will bring gardens full of color and joy and no slugs.

Our Federation is also working hard and planting seeds this spring. We are preparing for your **98th Annual Convention in Eugene on Saturday, June 27, 2026**, and just as our gardeners are trying out new plants in their gardens, we are trying out new things at your convention. So, please put it on your calendars and plan to come. Everyone is welcome! It will be one day! Come for lunch, informative and fun speakers on great topics, enter the flower show, and just have a good time with your fellow gardeners and make new friends. We gather once a year to smile, laugh, learn, and celebrate gardening and gardeners. This is your convention, so please plan on coming and having fun!

Thank you all for being wonderful members of OSFGC. We can’t do it without you! Here’s to gardens of blooms, the joys of gardening and lovely spring days to come.

President Becky

PACIFIC REGION UPDATE



Get your calendar out - go on, go get it now...got it? Now turn to October 2026 and ink in **“Travel to Thousand Oaks, CA for the PRGC Convention” on October 11 through October 14, 2026.** We want to entice you to come early and enjoy our hospitality and the fun workshops and tours that have been planned especially for you, so plan to arrive on Friday, October 9, 2026. The hotel is 35 miles from Burbank Airport but we have a chairman to arrange transportation between the airport and the hotel.

We are excited to share with you some points of interest in our area. We think you’ll be glad you came to enjoy our **“Palm Trees n’ Ocean Breeze.”** See YOU in October! 2026 Pacific Region Garden Clubs 82nd Convention.

Robin Pokorski
2026 PRGC Convention Chairman

Firewise Series Continues



3. Monday, April 13, 2026, 2 pm - 3 pm
Firewise Webinar #3: Insurance Matters: Understanding & Renewing Your Insurance
Emily Rogan, United Policyholders
Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d51CBVxwQaO6KN7PjB2ncw>

4. Monday, August 10, 2026, 2 pm - 3 pm
Firewise Webinar #4: Personal and Family Preparedness Before a Disaster
Todd Lando, President, Fire Safe Marin and Central Marin Battalion Chief
Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ahABCg wzTfeTFpu1c-MzvA>

5. Monday, September 14, 2026, 2 pm - 3 pm
Firewise Webinar #5: Organizing Your Neighbors (Firewise Communities)
Joelle Fraser, Diablo Fire Safe Council and
Macy Cornell, Oakland’s CABS Firewise Neighborhood.
Register here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Hu32W-2nROmVkJZUH_3pPdw

Links to previous webinars:

Firewise Webinar #1: Firewise Landscaping

Priscilla Robinson, President,
Clackamas County Master Gardeners

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Q4EHI2kZUG

Firewise Webinar #2: Making Your Home

Fire Resistant (Hardening Your Home)

Laura Blaul, Senior Wildfire Fellow,
Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmxPNHegVGI>

Pollinator Decline in Oregon - What Gardeners Can Do Right Now

Let's talk about the tiny workforce that keeps our gardens, and frankly our food supply, alive and thriving. I'm referring to, of course, our pollinators: bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and even the hummingbirds that zip through like they own the place.

Here's the problem: they're struggling.

Across Oregon and the greater Pacific Northwest, pollinator populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide exposure, climate shifts, and fewer diverse food sources. According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, both native pollinators and managed honeybee populations have experienced increased stress in recent years. And while this sounds like a big, global issue (and it is), it's also one where backyard gardeners—yes, even those of us with slightly chaotic garden beds and a few weeds we're emotionally attached to—can make a real difference.

First, let's clear something up: your garden does not need to look like a magazine spread to support pollinators. In fact, a slightly "messy" garden is often exactly what they prefer. Those stems you forgot to cut back? Winter shelter. That patch of bare soil? Prime real estate for ground-nesting bees. (So congratulations—you may already be doing something right.)

One of the most effective things gardeners in Zone 8 can do is plant for continuous bloom. Early spring through late fall, something should always be flowering. In Northwest Oregon, that might look like early crocus and hellebore, followed by native favorites like camas and Oregon grape, then summer bloomers such as lavender, echinacea, and—yes, I'm going to say it—dahlias, which pollinators absolutely adore when you choose open-centered varieties.

Equally important is choosing plants that actually provide nectar and pollen. Some modern hybrids are beautiful but essentially the botanical equivalent of a decorative pillow—lovely to look at, but not doing much. Native plants are often the best choice because they've evolved alongside local pollinators. Resources like the Oregon State

University Extension Service offer excellent regional planting guides for pollinator-friendly gardens.

Now let's talk about pesticides. This is where I gently—but firmly—step on toes (including my own, at times). Even products labeled "safe" or "organic" can harm pollinators if used improperly. A good rule of thumb: if you wouldn't want to be sprayed with it while eating dinner, neither would a bee. Avoid spraying during bloom, and opt for targeted, minimal interventions whenever possible.

Water is another overlooked necessity. Pollinators need shallow, safe water sources. A simple dish with pebbles or a birdbath with landing spots can turn your garden into a full-service pollinator spa.

And finally, consider leaving a little space for the wild. Not everything needs to be tidied, trimmed, or optimized. Pollinators thrive in environments that offer diversity, shelter, and a bit of unpredictability—qualities many of us gardeners are still learning to embrace ourselves.

The truth is, supporting pollinators doesn't require a complete garden overhaul. It's about small, thoughtful shifts: planting one more native species, delaying cleanup by a couple of weeks, skipping that extra spray. Individually, these actions may seem minor. Collectively, they create a network of habitat that pollinators depend on.

So the next time you see a bee working its way through your garden, take a moment to appreciate it. That tiny visitor is doing essential work—and with a few intentional choices, your garden can be part of the solution. And if your garden happens to include a few exuberant, slightly overachieving dahlias along the way... well, I fully support that.

Works Cited

"Oregon Pollinator Health." Oregon Department of Agriculture, www.oregon.gov/oda

"Enhancing Urban and Suburban Landscapes to Protect Pollinators." Oregon State University Extension Service, extension.oregonstate.edu

Amy Nalle
President
St. Helens Garden Club

DISTRICT UPDATES

Santiam District

A Season of Growth and Connection

What a wonderful time of year to be writing my first contribution to *The Mahonia!* Hellebores are still signaling the end of winter, narcissus are beckoning us to kneel and take in their fragrance, and 600 tomato seedlings are popping up in the greenhouse—each one a small promise of what’s to come.

And just like our gardens, the Santiam District is very much in a season of growth. We are fortunate to have four remarkable clubs, each with its own character and energy. The Alsea Garden Club is strong and active, nestled in a magical part of Benton County. The Lebanon Garden Club is growing in two ways—welcoming new members and preparing for their Spring Plant Sale on Mother’s Day Weekend (May 8 & 9). The Albany Grand Prairie Garden Club, once headed for the proverbial compost bin, is now thriving and expanding. And the Evening Garden Club of Corvallis continues to inspire with a wide range of community activities and programs.

We recently gathered for our Santiam District Meeting and were delighted to have Becky and Bernadette join us. They bring enthusiasm, warmth, and a wonderful sense of fun wherever they go.

This time, we tried something a little different. Along with sharing what our clubs are up to, we focused on getting to know one another more personally. The real magic began with a simple question: “What’s your current gardening obsession?” It was like opening all the doors and windows. Suddenly, we were peeking into each other’s passions—specialized shovels, teaching food classes, houseplant hoarding, citrus tree collecting, and that all-too-familiar inability to say no to just one more plant. It reminded us that beyond meetings and programs, what we truly share is a joyful, slightly obsessive love of gardening.

We are, without a doubt, a magical group of wonderfully enthusiastic gardeners.

Jean Chapin
Director

Willamette District

Willamette District held their Spring General Meeting on March 28, 2026. The Oakridge Garden Club was the host. We held a potluck, which was excellent. Oakridge gave a short presentation on Propagation and treated us with a crafted small container to propagate in.

Willamette District is planning on having a tea sometime in the coming year. Also we hope to hold an event for kids in the Spring or early Summer of 2027.

Sharon Wilson
Director

Links to Clackamas District’s Leadership Academies

Two Clackamas District offerings that your club officers and members might find useful:

#1 Board Leadership and Parliamentary Procedure Bernadette Sterry, OSFGC 1st VP and Mary LK Davis, Clackamas District Parliamentarian, January 28, 2026

<https://youtu.be/7Un1QmhbMJE>

#2 Website Considerations and Social Media-- Cathryn Viteri, Webmaster, West Linn Garden Club, February 25, 2026

<https://youtu.be/Jpj8A3nVUfo>



ID 308605421 © Ann Belousova | Dreamstime.com

IN PROFILE--John Ludi



Last spring, the Clackamas District honored John Ludi, revered president of the Sandy Garden Club and long-time leader of the Greater Portland Iris Society, for his knowledge, kindness, humor and wise counsel. The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs

recognized his long history of garden leadership with a statewide Member of Honor Award at the June 2025 Convention.

John's connection to Sandy goes way back. He moved with his parents to Sandy when he was about 10 years old. His parents were dairy farmers. They also liked to grow iris.

He went off to attend Eastern Washington State College, now Eastern Washington University. While there, he met his wife of 63 years, Kay, who was studying art. They married in 1963, and he then enlisted in the US Army, where he served for 22 years. He was on active duty in South Korea, Vietnam, Germany and here in the states, serving in supply and logistics. This was terrific preparation for his leadership as chair of numerous Iris Society conventions.

He and Kay returned to Sandy in 1985 where they raised five children. John worked for 20 years in the booking division of the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department. Kay notes that that was a stressful position, revealing that "you meet very interesting people that come in that you know and can't talk about."

Gardening became a stress reliever for John. "Both of our parents raised iris. When we moved to Sandy, we were naturally given iris for our garden. Most of our iris, however, were raised in John's parents' garden, which was part of the open garden tour for iris conventions," Kay explained.

They joined the Sandy Garden Club in 1985 and were already members of the American Iris Society, following in both sets of parents' footsteps. Over the years, John has held many leadership positions: president of the Sandy Club several times—often because no one else was willing to fill his shoes. He has been president of the Greater Portland Iris Society several times, past vice president, current treasurer, sales director and on the team for the four annual iris shows sponsored by GPIS. He is the Regional Vice President for Region 13 of the American Iris Society and is an Emeritus Judge and Artistic Judge.

In 2024, he chaired the national convention for the American Iris Society and is chairing the Region 13 Convention in June 2026. He runs the National Iris Mail Order Program called The Store Front.

"Kay and I have operated the Storefront (AIS Bookstore) for 22 years. It's been a long time but I'm glad we did it. Through it we have friends all over the USA and Canada," said John.

If you have ever had the honor of supporting John and Kay in these efforts, you will see that his years of experience in logistics shines through—John has plant sale set up and convention logistics organized to a T!

John (and Kay) continue to remain active in the Clackamas District, sharing their years of experience and wisdom to garden club leaders throughout the county,

National Garden Week June 7-13, 2026

In 1985, Congress passed a resolution at the request of the National Council of Garden Clubs (now National Garden Clubs, Inc.). It is always the first week of June and is designed to promote the NGC objectives of beautification, environmental education, gardening, and involvement of garden clubs in our communities.

This is a great opportunity to promote your club in your community.

Shirley Schmidt's Garden Club Saga



Before I moved to Oregon, I gathered requests for church flowers or plants for each Sunday's decoration to the sanctuary of my church in San Diego.

When my husband and I moved to Grants Pass in 2000, I took my first Master Gardener

class. Since I now had some knowledge, a girlfriend and I joined the local garden club that had 8-10 people sitting around a couple of 8-foot tables in the basement of the Methodist Church. When they began discussing the location of the Christmas Party, I suggested having a cookie exchange at my house. About a dozen ladies came. By February or March, the current president invited me to become the next president--I told them that the ONLY reason I was joining a garden club was TO LEARN THE NAMES OF FLOWERS!!! (Where have we heard that before!)

By the end of my first year as President, our vice president scouted a new location which could seat at least 75 people. At the second years' end, we had 70 members. For Christmas, we sponsored The Greens Project, creating table decorations and swags for sale for ourselves and the public. We really made lots of money (into the thousands) for our treasury. We took some of those funds and planted 11 Crepe Myrtle trees in Grants Pass Park.

I became District Director for the Siskiyou District in 2004. I taught the State song at a District meeting. We established the District flower (Cornus nuttallii-Pacific Dogwood) and shrub (Philadelphus lewisii--Wild Mockorange) and sold bulbs as a fundraiser that brought in several hundred dollars

When I was elected President of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs for the 2015-2017 term, my project was "How much do you weigh?" The challenge was for each member to donate to a food bank the amount of their weight during the two-year term. My virtual friend, Miss Molly, and

I traveled to each district to introduce the project in our fun way. At the end, the chairman reported that nearly half a million pounds --167 average per member--had been shared. What a blessing for the homeless!.

I also challenged club members to Try Something New. At each Board meeting, which I purposely held in different parts of the state, we planted a tree at the location where we donated funds.

We initiated the Susie Twist-Powel Designer of the Year Award in 2015 in honor of one of our quintessential Garden Club members. She promoted excellence in floral design through her skillful and artistic craftsmanship, active support of flower show schools and symposiums, organization of flower shows, and participation in the multiple activities of the Garden Club at all levels. I continue to chair this OFSGC Awards program.

Over the past 20 years, I have served in many capacities as a garden club member: as Sunshine Chair and Chaplain for the Board of Director meetings of the Pacific Region in addition to my service as Club President, District Director of State Garden Club President. I attended all four National Garden Club Schools: Landscape Design, Environmental School, Floral Design and Gardening School. As chair of the Gardening School Committee, I tracked all the national and international school locations and dates on spreadsheets for ease of communication. I still actively participate in judging flower shows.

My service on the National Garden Club by way of my holding the OSFGC Presidency provided opportunities to travel places I would not have visited if it hadn't been for Garden Club. Certainly, the things I have learned from horticulture to Robert's Rules of Order have enhanced my knowledge. My association with Garden Club has brought so many friends into my life, some for over 20 years. I have been BLESSED!!!

Shirley Schmidt
OSFGC President
2015-2017

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Blue and Gold Star Markers



Save the Date!

Sunday, May 24, 2026
Noon
Dedication of OSFGC's
Gold Star Marker @
Willamette National
Cemetery
11800 SE Mt. Scott
Blvd.
Portland, OR 97086

Please check out the list of Blue and Gold Star markers in this issue. Oregon can be proud to have installed 115 and counting! (Please let me know if we have missed one!)

Many of our Blue and Gold Star Markers are ordered, dedicated and maintained by Veterans across Oregon. We the garden club members must acknowledge the veterans' role in any Blue or Gold Marker. Veterans are the reason these markers exist and they are the reason for our increase of markers. Oregon garden clubs also installed and continue to maintain Blue and Gold Star markers in their communities. Many thanks to the volunteers who beautify our markers with plantings and flags. This year the National Garden Club is asking clubs to plant red, white and blue flowers to mark the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States. Please send photographs of your recent endeavors to jane.sercombe@gmail.com.

The Blue and Gold Star Marker program is managed by our National Garden Clubs, Inc. If you would like more information about how to raise the funds to install a marker, please feel free to reach out to me at jane.sercombe@gmail.com or check out the NGC website at <https://gardenclub.org/blue-and-gold-star-memorials>.

Jane Sercombe
Chairman
Blue and Gold Star Committee

Where are the Oregon Blue Star Markers?

1. Getting Creek Rest Area, southbound I-5. Nine miles north of Eugene. June 23, 1949.
2. Medford Veterans Park, Siskiyou Summit Roadside Area. April 27, 1951
3. Santiam River Rest Area, northbound I-5 south of Salem. March 16, 1952.
4. Jantzen Information Center. October 17, 1953.
5. Cabin Creek Roadside, north of Sutherlin, southbound Rest Area. April 18, 1953.
6. South Benton Museum, Monroe. June 19, 1953.
7. Community Park, Winston. May 6, 1954.
8. Collier Memorial State Park, north of Klamath Falls, US Hwy 97. May 27, 1960.
9. Beaver Marsh Wayside Rest Area, south of Chemult. June 10, 1960.
10. Veterans Memorial Park, Klamath Falls. September 22, 1960
11. Peter Skene Ogden Park, Crooked River Bridge, US Hwy 97. October 3, 1960.
12. Maupin City Garden, US Hwy 197. May 24, 1961.
13. Madras Triangle, US Hwy 26 and 97. April 29, 1962.
14. Sun Crest Rest Area, southbound I-5, north of Ashland. August 31, 1967.
15. French Prairie-Baldock Rest Area, Milepost 282, southbound I-5. August 7, 1967.
16. Biggs Junction, US Hwy 97 and I-80, destroyed. Replaced at Deschutes River Rec area. 2020.
17. Willamette Falls Viewpoint, Oregon City, Hwy 99. September 1, 1978.
18. Stanfield Rest Area, I-84. April 21, 1979.
19. Ontario Rest Area, northbound I-84, exit 376. November 24, 1979.
20. Tillamook Rest Area, US Hwy 101 southbound. August 7, 1981.
21. Hood River Port, 600 E Marina Way. September 27, 1981.
22. D River Wayside, Lincoln City, US Hwy 101, May 23, 1984.
23. Midland Information Center, exit 282, Klamath Falls. May 24, 1984.
24. Multnomah Falls, I-84, near Information Center. October 9, 1984.
25. Gardens of Enchantment, 43223 SE Oral Hull Rd. Sandy. April 19, 1986. BWM
26. Merlin Rest Area, southbound I-5, exit 61. June 9, 1988
27. Waverly Lake Park, southbound I-5 at Albany. June 1, 1991.
28. Alsea Memorial Gardens, US Hwy 34, 3154 Pacific Blvd. June 21, 1991.
29. V.A. Medical Center, Portland on the hill. July 20, 1994.
30. Baker City Rest Area, exit 295 southbound I-5. April 5, 1979.
31. Troutdale Rail Depot Museum, Main Street., February 18, 1995.
32. Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd, Portland. September 9, 1995.
33. Coquille Sturdivant Park, Hwy 101 south of Gold Beach. 1995.

(Continued on page 8)

OREGON BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MARKERS

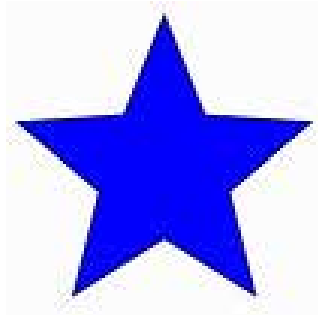
(Continued from page 7)

36. Hilton Creek Wayside. Heppner, I-5 to exit 68. June 21, 1996. BWM
37. Coos County Historical Society, North Bend, 1210 N. Front. September 11, 1996. BWM
38. Bandon City Park. March 14, 1997. BWM
39. Coos County Chamber of Commerce, 50 E. Central, US Hwy 101. May 31, 1997.
40. Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland. Battleship OR. August 28, 1997. (Stolen, June, 2023)
41. Green Waters Park, Oakridge, Hwy 58 off I-5. May 30, 1998. BWM
42. Ochoco Creek Park, downtown Prineville. May 22, 1999. BWM
43. Eagle Point National Cemetery, 2763 Riley Road, Medford. April 13, 2000.
44. Jacksonville Veterans Park. June 6, 2000. BWM
45. Corvallis, Hwy 99W. September 11, 2000.
46. Orchard Park, Milton Freewater I-84 exit to Hwy 11. September 22, 2000.
47. Roseburg Veterans Healthcare System, 913 NW Garden Valley Blvd. October 1, 2000.
48. Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, in Rose Garden. May 28, 2001
49. Veterans Memorial Park, Beaverton. May 27, 2002
50. Veterans Memorial Park, Glide, I-5 to Hwy 138. May 25, 2003.
51. Evergreen Aviation Museum, McMinnville, Hwy 18. May 26, 2003.
52. Veterans Hospital, The Dalles, Veterans Drive and Columbia Drive. June 6, 2003.
53. Cascade Locks Fire House, I-84, 440 WaNaPa St. April 3, 2004.
54. Canyonville Memorial Park, VFW Post 5714. November 11, 2004.
55. Umatilla Landing Park, I-84 exit 168 to Hwy 730. November 13, 2004.
56. McCormic Park VFW, St. Helens, May 30, 2005. Stolen August 30, 2009. Found damaged December 2009. Replaced at Veterans Park Memorial Wall. November 11, 2010.
57. Southern OR Rehabilitation Center and Clinics Park, White City. August 24, 2005.
58. Rainier River Front Park. May 29, 2006.
59. Dufur Historical Museum. June 25, 2006.
60. Sutherland, I-205 exit 136, Bridge of the Stars. November 2, 2006.
61. Boring Fire Protection District 59. November 10, 2006. BWM
62. Timber Linn Park, 900 Price Road, Albany. May 17, 2008.
63. Sandy, Pioneer Blvd and Hwy 212, November 11, 2008. BWM
64. Medford I.O.O.F. Eastwood Pioneer Cemetery. May 25, 2009. BWM
65. Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Canby, Hwy 99E. July 1, 2009.
66. Jean Road Fire Station, Lake Oswego. September 17, 2009. BWM
68. Veterans Park Central Point. May 30, 2011. BWM
69. Portland Fire and Rescue, 122nd and Sandy Blvd. Anniversary of September 11, 2011.
70. North Manzanita Rest Area, I-5 north of exit 6. May 28, 2012.
71. North Plains Fire Station, Commercial Street. November 12, 2012. BWM
72. Veterans Memorial Hwy I-205 northbound, West Linn Viewpoint. November 11, 2013.
73. Veterans Memorial Park, 267 SW 2nd Ave, Estacada. August 23, 2014. BWM
74. Milwaukie Waterfront Park, SW Jackson and McLoughlin. October 18, 2014.
75. Veterans Park Columbia City, Hwy 30 westbound. May 25, 2015. BWM
76. Harnish Wayside Park, Eagle Point, Hwy 62 and Royal Dr.. May 21, 2016
77. Veterans Outpatient Clinic, Fairview, 1800 NE Marker Dive. September 9, 2016.
78. Veterans Memorial Park, Cornelius, 1251 Baseline Rd. May 29, 2017.
79. Edward Allsworth Veterans Home, Lebanon. July 20, 2017.
80. Veterans Memorial Park, Grants Pass. September 29, 2017, Gold Star BWM #1.
81. Office Covered Bridge, Westfir, I-5 to Hwy 58. July 7, 2018.
82. Camp Withycombe, 153 Minuteman Rd. Clackamas. August 12, 2018
83. Newberg Memorial Park, 411 S. Howard St. May 18, 2019. BWM
84. The Oregon Garden, 879 W Main St., Silverton. September 14, 2019.
85. David Dewitt Veterans Memorial wayside, North Bend. October 5, 2019. Gold Star BWM #2.
86. Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden, Baseline and D Hwy. October 10, 2021. BWM
87. Dallas Post Office, 768 SW Church St. November 11, 2021.
88. Bly Community, Paul Melsness Rest Area, Hwy 140 E. May 21, 2022.
89. Bend Heroes - Project Recover, 35 W. Drake Road, Bend. September 25, 2022, BWM
90. Bend Heroes - Project Recover, 35 W. Drake Rd, Bend. September 25, 2022 Gold Star BWM #3.
91. MOPH 147 Medford Veterans, Don Jones Park, Central Point. May 29, 2023 Gold Star BWM #4.
92. MOPH American Legion Hood River Post 22 Idlewilde Cemetery. May 29, 2023 BWM
93. MOPH American Legion Hood River Pt 22 Idlewilde Cemetery. May 29, 2023 Gold Star BWM #5.
94. MOPH 551 Redmond Veterans, 3545 Canal Blvd, Redmond. May 29, 2023 BWM
95. MOPH 551 Redmond Veterans, 3545 Canal Blvd, Redmond. May 29, 2023, Gold Star BWM #6
96. Jefferson County Veterans, Madras. September 24, 2023, BWM

(Continued on page 9)

OREGON BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MARKERS

(Continued from page 8)



97. Jefferson County Veterans, Madras. September 24, 2023, Gold Star BWM #7
98. Ontario American Legion Post 67. 676 SW 5 St. September 24, 2023, Gold Star Memorial Marker #8.
99. Parkdale Bicentennial Memorial Garden, Baseline and D Hwy. September 30, 2023, Gold Star BWM #9.
100. MOPH Portland Am Legion Post 123 with Beaverton GC. November 11, 2023. Blue Star BWM.
101. MOPH Portland Am Legion Post 123 with Beaverton GC. November 11, 2023. Gold Star BWM #10.
102. Country Gardens Veterans Memorial Org. Lake Oswego. May 27, 2024, BWM.
103. Lake Grove GC with Veterans Memorial Org. Lake Oswego. May 27, 2024. Gold Star BWM #11.
104. St. Helens GC, Columbia City VM Park, May 27, 2024. Gold Star Memorial Marker #12.
105. Warrenton VFW Post 1054, May 29, 2024. Gold Star Memorial Marker #13
106. Odell Garden Club, Mt. Hood Fairgrounds. September 14, 2024. Blue Star BWM.
107. Odell Garden Club, Mt. Hood Fairgrounds. September 14, 2024. Gold Star BWM #14.
108. Douglas County War Memorial Central Point. September 18, 2024. Blue Star BWM.
109. Douglas County War Memorial Central Point. September 18, 2024. Gold Star BWM #15.
110. Dallas Garden Club, 185 SW Levens. September 28, 2024. Gold Star Marker #16.
111. Central Point Garden Club. September 29, 2024. Gold Star BWM #17
112. Scappoose Garden Club. November 11, 2024. Blue Star Memorial Marker
113. Central Point Garden Club. December 7, 2024. Blue Star BWM.
114. Albany American Legion Post 20. July 10, 2025 Blue Star BSM
115. Albany American Legion Post 10. July 10, 2026, Gold Star, BWM #18
116. Willamette National Cemetery. May 24, 2026, Gold Star #19

Oregon is home to two National Military Cemeteries

Eagle Point National Cemetery
2763 Riley Road
Eagle Point, OR
and

Willamette National Cemetery
11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd.
Portland, OR

Members across the state make contributions to the OSFGC Treasurer to provide funds for:

- Hanging wreaths, swags and garlands to decorate for the visitors who come during the holidays
- Planting patriotic-colored flowers before Memorial Day
- Donations to “Wreaths Across America” for the annual December ceremonies at these sites

OSFGC Eagle Point National Military Cemetery Chair--Shirley Schmidt
shirleyschmidt@yahoo.com

OSFGC Willamette National Military Cemetery Chair--Peggy Olin
peggyollin@gmail.com

Oregon Roadside Council

If your club is starting a project and needs funding, check page 33 of the OSFGC Directory. Funds are available up to \$250 for start up and another \$250 upon completion. Funds can be used for preparing a site for a Blue/Gold Star Marker (not for the marker itself) and then for the final landscaping or for doing the landscaping around an existing one. Send a proposal with details of what you are proposing, the location and pictures to Beverly Siebel
bds2213@gmail.com

CLUB NEWS

Columbian Garden Club--Multnomah District



Responding to questions at our plant sale..

What a fun fundraiser - the Columbian Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale! This year's plant sale is April 25th 10:00-2:00 at the Corbett Community Church on Mershon Road and Highway 30. Due to construction at the Corbett Fire Station, the plant sale is relocating. There will be treasures from our members' gardens plus other donations. For sale at bargain prices will be perennials, shrubs, native plants, trees, annuals, vegetables and specialty items! Carryout service will be available. Proceeds from our sale benefit club civic landscape projects, educational programs, and a horticulture scholarship. All activities promote the beautification and conservation of our environment.

Time sure flies -- I remember taking my two young daughters to the plant sale in the '90's, and they purchased beautiful little marigolds in soup cans for 5 cents! I purchased several perennials, which continue to bloom every year. Now those sweet daughters volunteer at our plant sales.

See you there!

Bev Law
Treasurer

Club Milestones for 2026

Albany Grand Prairie Garden Club, Santiam District--80 years
Columbia Garden Club, Multnomah District--80 years
Corvallis Evening Garden Club, Santiam District--55 years
Grants Pass Garden Club, Siskiyou District--100 years
Jacksonville Garden Club, Siskiyou District-- 80 years
Lebanon Garden Club, Santiam District--90 years
Maupin Dig and Hoe Garden Club, Mt. Hood District--70 years
Milton Freewater Garden Club, Mt. Hood District--90 years
SouWester Garden Club, North Coast District--80 years
Tualatin Valley Garden Club, Pioneer District--80 years
West Linn Garden Club, Clackamas District--110 years
Willapa Park Garden Club, Capitol District--60 years

Coos Bay Garden Club--Rogue District



Coos Bay Garden Club started 2026 learning about container plants in January, native plants in February and the Coos Water Shed in March. The Rogue District meeting in April continues the knowledge quest with attendees learning about and making a Kokedama, "moss ball." This is a Japanese art form where a plant's root ball is wrapped and bound with string, creating a plant without a pot for a table or a hanging display.

Patricia K. Johnson
President

Eugene Garden Club--Willamette District

Eugene Garden Club has started two new initiatives over the past year to engage our community more effectively. In collaboration with the Lane County Farmers Market, we offer an 8-week introductory gardening education series called “Dig It!” which is held at the farmers market. This series is free for the public to attend, and is advertised by the market as well as the EGC.

Current club President Jessica Cuadra, a Master Gardener and certified Permaculture Designer, developed an outline of information for each class, and farmers from the market present the materials. Instructor fees are sponsored in part by the club. Handouts are available to download from the LCFM website, <https://www.lanecountyfarmersmarket.org/>.

This has been a great way to connect with our community as an educational resource, and we have had several new members join on the spot! We have run this series at the start of the market season for two years now, with warm reception from the community and the market staff, and plan to offer refreshed topics for next year.

EGC has also just celebrated the first year of our evening meeting. We still have our monthly general meeting during the daytime, but the evening meeting allows folks who have work or other commitments during the day to still participate in club activities and learn from speakers and each other. This group is steadily growing, and we have new visitors every month. Having an evening option has proven to be essential to expanding our membership to younger individuals.

EGC’s Plant Nerd Night has been going for several years, opening the club to the public for an early spring plant sale featuring independent nurseries. We are now planning for a second vendor sale to take place in the fall, aligning with Oregon State University Extension’s recommendation to establish perennials late in the year to take advantage of the winter rains.

**Jessica Cuadra
President**



Jessica Cuadra presenting a “Dig It!” workshop at the Lane County Farmers Market. This is the second year EGC has offered the workshops during the first 8 weeks of the Farmers Market. “It’s been good for the garden club and the market management loves it-- it’s a great draw.”

“Dig It! Topics”

1. Where Am I: Introductory considerations for Gardening
2. Plant Needs: Soil
3. Plant Types and Families
4. Planning Your Garden Guide
5. Seed Starting Guide
6. Soil Preparation Guide
7. Container Gardening
8. Gardening Journey Guide-- Additional Resources

For PDFs of the workshops:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t1Uiq30eObA_9bz3kEFmwrJrbknAJGPV



Community members listen to horticultural information from local nurseries at EGC Plant Nerd Night

The Grants Pass Garden Club--Siskiyou District

One of the reasons the Grants Pass Garden Club has endured for nearly 100 years may be because it has always been about love; love of gardening, love of beautiful flowers, love of knowledge, love of creativity, love of nature, love of community and, of course, the love of just having fun.

The club was organized in 1926 by a group of women who promptly started off with programs about horticulture, birds, wildflowers, conservation, flower arrangement and corsage-making. They held meetings at Riverside Park in the summer and the city library in the winter. They held plant sales, flower shows, garden tours and summer picnics.

The first president of the club was Marguerite Riddle, known in club publicity as Mrs. George R. Riddle. She loved flowers and wanted others who shared her passion to have a place where amateur gardeners could acquire knowledge and share experiences. She also encouraged civic plantings, garden-related community projects and promoted the protection of native plants and birds. At one point, Mrs. Riddle made friends with staff members at the Oregon State College Arboretum in Corvallis and obtained hundreds of young trees, such as elms, cedars and birches for free distribution in Grants Pass. Some of those planted in people's yards and around town may still be providing shade.

The Garden Club also took part in Gladiola festivals that promoted the local bulb crop. In 1970 the Grants Pass Garden Club dedicated the Marguerite Riddle Memorial Garden in Riverside Park to its first president. In 2000 the nearby Butterfly and Bird Garden was established. With these gardens the club wanted not only habitat creation but a tranquil place for park visitors.

For 100 years the Grants Pass Garden Club has been holding workshops on horticulture, birds, wild flowers, conservation, flower arrangement, landscaping and other topics of interest to gardeners. They held plant sales, flower shows, garden tours and summer picnics.



During World War I, before starting the Garden Club, Mrs. Riddle helped judge "war gardens." These were encouraged as a patriotic duty to help towns become self-sufficient in a time of shortages and interrupted transportation. During World War II the club worked closely with disabled veterans at Camp White and helped landscape the buildings there.

The Club joined the State Federation of Garden Clubs in 1928 and sent three or more delegates to conventions. An early club president served as state vice-president.

Early activities included flower shows in the spring and chrysanthemum shows in the fall, each highlighting members' flower arranging skills. Plant sales have always been a major source of income for the club. They've been held in the Fairgrounds Floral Building, then in a parking lot along Williams Highway. During COVID they were held at a private residence and now, coming full circle, the next Plant Sale will be back at the Floral Building in April.

The club makes money mainly for its civic projects and scholarships. It has given away thousands of dollars to help beautify Grants Pass and provide students interested in horticultural pursuits with college help.

The Grants Pass Garden Club, still going strong with a large membership, meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon at the Fruitdale Grange in Grants Pass.

You are Invited!
Grants Pass Garden Club
100th Anniversary Celebration
June 3, 2026
12:30 pm
Trevillian Pavilion
Riverside Park, Grants Pass

Lynda Demsaher
Club Historian

Hood River Valley Garden Club--Mt. Hood District

Hood River Valley Evening Garden Club (HRVEGC) was established 30 years ago. We average around 20 members and meet once a month at member's homes. Our club's fundraiser is an annual garage and plant sale held every May. We use those funds to support our local Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, retirement centers, and to send our officers to the State Convention.

An ongoing project for HRVEGC began in 2020, when we were tasked with replacing a Blue Star Marker in Biggs Junction, OR that had been destroyed several years earlier. We located a lovely spot facing the river in the Deschutes River State Recreation Area, off Highway 30, about five miles west of Biggs Junction. The current park rangers love our work and have asked us about expanding the garden. This summer, we will incorporate a "Red, White & Blue" theme for the 250th USA anniversary celebration.

A committee is busy planning our August event in the garden, where we will honor charter members from 1996 as part of our 30th anniversary celebration.

**Lee Caryl
President**



Junction City Garden Club--Willamette District



The Junction City Garden Club (JCGC) volunteered and donated funds to the DAR Memorial Project. Our member Tammy Tkach led the project for the DAR. R-L: Rae Lyons, Ruth Kiscoan, TammyTkach, Marilyn Pollard, Sue Icenhower, Sylvia, Potter, Luci Boyer, Dixie Stromme Alene Drongesen, and May Hall.



JCGC maintains the Gale F. Fletchall Memorial Rose Garden in Junction City. Gale was the founder of Junction City's Scandinavian Festival in August. Members l-r: Rae Lyon, Cherry Hoffman, Alene Drongesen and Dixie Stromme. Alene leads the project.

**Kris Sherman
Vice President**
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McMinnville Garden Club--Pioneer District



Taking a close look at one of the new flower boxes now lining McMinnville's 3rd Street is Mrs. Renate Ritland, who operates a beauty parlor downtown. The boxes were prepared and donated by the city's garden club and will be picked up during special events in the downtown area, such as Turkey-Rama. May, 1967

This year, the McMinnville Garden Club is celebrating its 100 year anniversary, as well as the 25th anniversary of our Annual Garden Tour. Formed March 3, 1926 as a garden interest group within the McMinnville Civic Club, it has blossomed into a thriving, vibrant club, focused on education, civic beautification, and environmental sustainability.

It's hard to find a spot within the city of McMinnville that hasn't been impacted in some way by the club. Throughout the years, we have planted

thousands of trees, shrubs, and plants throughout town. Most notably, a pink dogwood tree grove was established on the Linfield campus in the 40s, honoring all past May Queens. Each year a new tree was planted to honor the current May Queen. We have also installed park benches, planters, helped restore wetlands, and more.

Though much has changed over the years, one thing the club remains committed to is serving and beautifying the community. One of our most impactful projects has been the creation of the Serenity Garden at the Willamette Valley Medical Center. Conceived of in 2019 by three club members, the garden is located outside the Cancer Center and offers visitors and those in treatment a calming respite.

In 2001, our club began our Annual Garden Tour. Three years later the downtown Garden Faire was added. Initially started as a fundraiser, it has become one of the most anticipated events of the season. It also gives us much needed funding for our civic projects as well as funds for our scholarship program. Each year we award thousands of dollars in scholarships to Yamhill County students who are pursuing a degree in horticulture or an agricultural-related field. To date, we have awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

In 1926, membership was so small, they met in each other's homes. Now we are nearly 100 strong! Members will celebrate the club's centennial at our spring luncheon in June.

Shelly Hickox
PP Chairperson



Northside Garden Club--Klamath District



The South Suburban Public Library asked our club to host a Junk Sculpture Workshop, which drew participants of all ages.



Pat Phillips and Laury Cron made petit floral designs at Northside Garden Club meeting in Klamath Falls. The workshop was presented by Vickie Liskey, President of our neighboring Evening Primrose Garden Club.

Bernie Wood
President

Salem Area Garden Club --Capitol District

The Salem Area Garden Club (SAGC) was formed in 1941, enjoyed a robust history for many years, and then fell on "hard times" with the club ready to close a few years ago. Many of the members at that time were no longer living locally or were inactive for other reasons.

That is about the time several members of other clubs within Capitol District decided it was time to help SAGC get reorganized. They started by attending club meetings as guests, and then they became club members.

When the Club President did decide to take an email vote to close the club, six active members protested and took steps to keep the club alive. They petitioned the Secretary of State's Office to cancel the President's request to close the club, thereby preserving the club's 501(c)3 status.

It was a new beginning. The six members slowly grew to 22 members after the club voted to change their meeting time from the evening to the early afternoon. We also became intentional in expanding our meeting time to include a variety of activities, including field trips, along with great refreshments and a closing drawing for donated items.



This past March we participated in the Marion and Polk Home Builders Yard, Garden and Home Show at the State Fairgrounds and our "Country Store" earned enough from our sales to pay the annual rental fee for our meeting space. We also gained two new members and several others signed up to receive our monthly newsletter.

The lesson we learned is that if your club needs help, ask for it, and if you see a club that needs help, volunteer to help them. Listen to what those who want to be in a club are interested in doing and give permission to those who are no longer interested in the club to seek other interests.

Mike Stewart
President
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Sou'Wester Garden Club-North Coast District

The members of Sou'Wester Garden Club enjoyed the Holidays. As usual we assembled 45 lovely tea cups filled with greenery and flowers for the local Assisted Living Homes.

Starting off the New Year we made a \$300 donation to the Blue Star Memorial fund for our North Coast District.

Also, Knappton Cove Heritage Center, the Historic Columbia River Quarantine Station, is a favorite place of ours. We have had several meetings there over the years and enjoyed the walking trails, and experiencing the Aromatic Healing Garden.

Nancy Anderson, a long time member of our club, is owner and manager of the Center and is a delight to listen to. She has a variety of stories from long ago. This year our members voted to make a contribution to help with upkeep and expenses of the facility. Check out their web site, Google Knappton Cove Heritage Center, it is very interesting. <https://www.knapptoncoveheritagecenter.org/>

Our club Instagram page is getting underway but still a work in progress. Our interesting meetings seem to be bringing in a few new members here and there so we keep plugging away on that front.

At our January meeting we enjoyed Hope Stanton talking about Native Plant Gardening. She did a

wonderful slide show presentation and had native plants to purchase. In February, local Master Gardeners taught us about Propagation. We enjoyed hands on demonstrations by three Master Gardeners.



We are prepping for our Plant Sale, dividing, sprouting cuttings, and starting our seeds for May 23rd 9am to 12pm. We will have hundreds of plants and gardening items, as well as a raffle, silent auction, and home baked goods, jams and jellies. The line is out the door, so come early for the best stuff.

Our meetings are on the 4th Wednesday each month at 10 am at 1120 Broadway, Seaside. Stop in and visit. We would love to see you.

**Cherita Potter
President**



Sunny Hills Garden Club--Clackamas District

Sunny Hills Garden Club had a baby shower for one of our members. When was the last time your club had a baby shower for a MEMBER?

Hannah Tanzer has been a member for a few years now. We were so excited for her! All of us little “grannies” had a great time. Hannah loved her gifts. We can’t wait to be introduced to her little boy!

Carolyn Olley
President



Tualatin Valley Garden Club--Pioneer District

So, what has the Tualatin Valley Garden Club (TVGC) been up to? Well, we just try to raise the Green Thumbers Flag wherever we can.

Our monthly meetings have been yielding interesting and educational subjects. Thus far in the 2026 year, starting with a speaking coming from Monrovia Nursery, who shared a bit on the nursery’s production and incorporating the plants in various garden types. One such type that really inspired me was the possibility of planting a Moonlit Gothic garden space.

February had one of our club members speaking on Fertigation and implementing it in his growing space, which was very helpful for anyone who would like to employ such a process in their own yard.

March brought us Dewey Caron, a published Bee specialist, who gave us a presentation on Bees and pollination, with loads of useful information, especially since it covered helping the native bee culture.

In the coming months, we intend to have a speaker who runs a CSA farm, and then we enter the summer convivial meetings where we socialize and enjoy some of the fruits of the season.

Other things our club has done in the year thus far includes our February pruning demonstration, which worked out surprisingly well bring in quite a few people and even a few who have been attending club meetings since then.

Next, we spread some composted mulch in the Lloyd Baron Rhododendron Garden that our club sponsors and cares for. It is named for one of our club’s founders.

Along with the spring, summer and fall seasons our club is also involved in the Hillsboro Saturday Farmer’s market, setting up a booth to sell plant starts, product and eventually garlic… yeah, shamelessly plugging my own product… anyway loads of other good products for sale ranging from tasty apples, not so tasty bamboo, locally sourced eggs, and similarly the same for honey, tons of tomato starts and, of course, many other vegetables starts too, and flower bouquets--so, so many.

It was my goal to keep this short, so I hope y’all have some great gardening adventures in the year and years to come.

Andrew Stone