

Eugene Garden Club News

February 2014

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Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

56 members

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street
Eugene, OR 97401



President's Corner

I'd say the ground hog was certainly correct in forecasting 6 more weeks of winter this year. Much of the country is under snow and ice and I am looking at what 12 inches of snow looks like on my property right now. I'll probably be needing some help pruning trees, like my beautiful magnolia, when all the damage is assessed.

It will soon be time to pull some dahlia tubers out of the garage and see how they are wintering over. I hope we all move into Spring without too much damage.

Our club house has had a good organizing effort leaving things cleaner and easier to find. Thank you to all who helped with the big clean up.

This month's program is by Gail Karlsen, a master gardener coming to us through the OSU Extension office. She will be sharing with us her expertise on "good bugs and bad bugs". She'll be giving us organic ways of solving and avoiding pest problems. She brings some great slides with this presentation. You'll be amazed!

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Phoebe Staples, we now each have our own personal parking pass! Get yours at the Meeting February 18th and be sure to give her a big "thank you".



. *Camille Noel*
EGC President

Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2014

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Pest & Soil Management*
By Gail Karlsen, OSU Ext.

HOSTESSES: Julie Knebel*, Chris DeRoss
Jennifer Rabner, Mary Thomas

GREETER: Carolyn Boyle

EGC Trustees Report

Ruth Fry, Chairman

The Eugene Garden Club's sidewalk replacement has been completed. The project included considerable coordination between the garden club, the contractor and the city to have the trees removed, the sidewalk removed, the tree roots ground, and the sidewalk replaced.

The big disappointment came when vandals defaced the newly poured cement. Rod, the contractor, fixed it as best he could only to have them come back two nights later and do more damage. Again he patched and repaired. It is not as smooth and perfect as it would have been, but still looks great.

The contractor was Cummins Construction and I would highly recommend him. He was easy to work with, was on time, returned phone calls and kept us informed of his progress.

We still need to remove the remaining concrete from the area where the old trees were, plant new trees and fill in the area with bark or other filler. That will be done early spring.

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TO BE HELD

Bring your entries for the **State Photography Contest** to our March EGC meeting. Winners in the these categories will be entered in the **Willamette District Photo Contest** on March 21. Winners at the District level will be taken to the state contest at State Convention in June.

1. Landscapes/Seascapes - Color & B&W
2. Gardens - Color & B&W
3. Floral - Color & B&W
4. Birds, Butterflies, Insects - Color & B&W
5. Pets - Color & B&W

Criteria for pictures:

- Printed 8x10, no frames, and not digitally touched up. Winners will need to be matted for the district contest
- Taken between Jan.1, 2013 and Apr.1, 2014
- Taken by current garden club member
- Information about entry written on card accompanying photo (see current *The Mahonia*)

Willamette District Board meets at the Eugene Garden Club, Friday, February 21, hosted by Westside Gardeners; Morning snacks and beverages – 9:30 a.m., Meeting – 10:00 a.m. The District General Meeting will be exactly 4 weeks later on March 21 hosted by the EGC. All members are invited to attend, program will be announced next month.



*Sharon Wilson,
Willamette District Director*

Trustees Report, *Continued from page 1*

Other projects include lighting for the front that will project to the sidewalk area. We are in the process of getting ideas and bids.

The graffiti on the two peaks of the building will be painted out as soon as the weather permits. Rick Rabner has volunteered to do that for us, so all we will need to do is buy the paint. (Thank you, Rick!)



Cold Weather . . . Not for the Birds



We have experienced some very cold weather this winter. The life of a bird in the winter may not be as stress free as one might think.

Winter can be a difficult time for birds. The days are short while the nights are long and often very cold. The natural food supply has been consumed or hidden by snow. Water can be hard to find as well. Finding shelter may not be easy. If there are limited natural evergreens or shelter, birds may seek manmade houses or habitats that can provide refuge from winds, rains, snow and ice.

People can provide high calorie, high fat foods like sunflower seeds and suet. Peanuts are another great food for the birds in wintertime.

Water is also important. During freezing temperatures make sure the water source doesn't become frozen.

Roosting boxes or natural plant coverings can also aid birds seeking protection from the cold.

We have two hummingbirds that come to our feeders every day. During the last cold spell we installed a lamp next to the feeder to keep it from freezing. One late afternoon we watched a hummingbird take a long drink from the feeder, then, it took a very long rest next to the heat of the lamp. It was rewarding to watch that little bird soaking up the warmth before going to sleep for the night.

Winter can be a great time to feed and enjoy the birds!



*Georgia Zahar
Birds and Wildlife Chair*



During the most recent snow & ice locally, finches feed at the niger feeder, a towhee and a black-capped chickadee wait on the icy nandina for their turn at the black oil sunflower feeder, and many songbirds line up for the wild bird seed in the trough feeder on the deck railing. There is even a bird eating suet below the feeder.

What's Happening

February

- 4 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 18 EGC Regular Meeting
- 18 Master Gardener Seminar, *Discovering David Douglas*
- 20 Flower Arranging Class, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Willamette District Board Meeting, at EGC

March

- 4-6 Flower Show School Course 1, at EGC
- 6-9 Lane County Home & Garden Show, Fairgrounds
- 7 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 17 OSFGC Board Meeting, Seaside
- 18 Master Gardener Seminar, *Bioremediation*
- 19 EGC Regular Meeting, Photography Contest
- 20 Flower Arranging Class
- 21 Willamette District Meeting, EGC Hosts
- 27 Pant Nerd Night, EGC, 6:00 p.m.
- 29-30 State Flower Show, Portland EXPO
Energy Trust Better Living Show



April

- 1 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 3 LC Dahlia Society's Tuber Auction,
Celeste Campbell Center, 7 p.m.
- 15 EGC Regular Meeting
- 17 Flower Arranging Class, 9:30 a.m.
- 26 Master Gardener's Spring Garden Fair
- 29-30 Rockin' 50's in the Garden,
Willamette District Flower Show in Cottage Grove

The BOUTIQUE IS BACK . . .

Our 2nd EGC Boutique will be open at our meeting next week. If you have items to donate, it is not too late! We will be setting up before lunch. Are there any bunnies, chicks or decorative eggs hiding in your house? We could use more Easter-themed things. See you at the bargain table!

Chris, Phyllis and Shauna -- Boutique Committee

**Eugene Garden Club
Sherry Cossey
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In the Garden – in February

Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.

Prune clematis and other vining ornamentals.

Prune and trellis berries, can berries and grapes.

Prune fruit trees & blueberries.

Plant new fruit trees and deciduous shrubs.

Plant onions outdoors when soil is dry enough.

Till in cover crops and/or organic material

Prune roses in middle of the month.

