

# Eugene Garden Club News

February 2016

Volume 11, Issue 5

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

65 members

Eugene Garden Club

1645 High Street

Eugene, OR 97401



## President's Corner

Our clubhouse and front gardens recently benefited from some good spring cleanings and maintenance. I'd say we're ready to put our best foot forward for active weeks ahead! Thank-you to all our ambitious and caring members – along with their Honey-Doers – who continue to share their time and abilities by working to keep the clubhouse an accommodating place we can be proud of.

In the next few weeks we hope to welcome many visitors and all EGC members to the clubhouse as we share our mutual appreciation of gardening. Strong-willed EGC committees have been organizing and promoting details for upcoming special events like:

- Char Mutschler, February program speaker  
February 16
- Flower Arranging Class – February 18
- Willamette District Meeting and Flower Show  
March 18 & 19
- *always-popular* Plant “Nerd” Night – March 31
- Garden Tool Care Workshop with Keri Sadle  
March 15 – morning before EGC meeting
- Program by OSU Climatologist Kathy Dello  
March 15



Be sure to examine this entire newsletter and mark your calendar with times for these special events! “I’ll meet you at the clubhouse!”



. . . . . *Debi Luidhardt*  
*EGC President*

## Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2016

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *WAFWA World Flower  
Show 2015*

By Char Mutschler  
Coordinator: Camille Noel

HOSTESSES: Pat Kramer\*, Bev Hackleman,  
Norma Helliwell

GREETERS: Sister Janet Marcisz, Phyllis Hammel

## February Meeting Info

At the January meeting some folks expressed an interest in purchasing one of the **“Frightened Frog” books published by NGC. Bring your \$10 to this February meeting, sign up with and give your money to Mary Bromley.** They will be ordered shortly.

Char Mutschler is our guest speaker for our February meeting, and she will be share photos and experiences of her trip to a design show in Ireland she recently attended. There will be many unique designs presented plus some of her favorite shots of the countryside.

Char brings to us a ton of design experience, as she is an accredited instructor of floral design for NGC. She has instructed flower show school classes, symposiums, seminars and workshops throughout the U.S. Char was a guest designer at our Pacific Region Convention 2015. So, many of us met her right here in Eugene last year. If you want to peek at some of her designs before the presentation, she has photos in the *Vision of Beauty* calendars and also in NGC’s *Designing by Types*. She hopes to be here in time to have lunch with us. It's going to be a real treat!

*Camille Noel, Program Coordinator*

## Members Prepare for Flower Show

### MARCH MADNESS



An NGC Flower Show, “*March Madness*” will be held at the Eugene Garden Club-Saturday, March 18-19. Ruth Michaelson and Fran Tierce of Oakridge Garden Club are co-chairing the Willamette District event. **Ruth will have the schedules at our regular meeting again next week.**

Horticulture Division includes trees, blooming shrubs, blooming perennials, bulbs, rhizomes & corms, indoor container plants. If you have any questions about classes in this area, contact our Horticulture Consultant Phoebe Staples at 541.343.1426.

The floral designs are to be preregistered with Georgia Zahar, by March 11, at [gzahar@comcast.net](mailto:gzahar@comcast.net) or 541.686.8397. Direct any questions about floral designs to Design Consultant Juanita Manley at 541.484.1704. There are 3 sections of 3 classes each of designs including all dried material, fresh material, and designers choice – traditional line design, incorporating hoops, 2 containers, water, cylindrical components, and reflective materials to summarize briefly. Class titles all relate to “*March Madness*”.

The Artistic Crafts Section includes decorating a ball using plant material, designing a greeting card using dry plant material, and decorating a tennis shoe using plant material.

Do plan to enter something(s) and invite your friends and neighbors.

**Entries come in on Friday morning, March 18, 7:00-9:30 a.m.,** and judging follows. The show is open to the public 1:00-4:00 Friday, and 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday. (Our OSFGC President Shirley Schmidt will be here for lunch with us Friday as she is one of the flower show judges.)

## Plant Nerd Night Coming

March 31 will be EGC’s yearly “Plant Nerd Night” at the clubhouse, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Sharon Blade, Ruth Fry, and Dorothy Cruickshank have plans in place for members to sign up to help in this event when

Trillium Gardens from Pleasant Hill,  
Garlands Nursery of Corvallis,  
Petal Heads from West Linn,  
Sedum Chicks from Turner, and  
Johnson Brothers Greenhouses, Coburg

will be on hand to talk about and display new things for our gardens in 2016. Plan to attend! And buy! Raffle tickets are sold that night for chances to win plants that the nurseries give away.



Sign up sheets will be available at our February meeting plus promotional material to have and place everywhere!



*Pictured above are Collages made for Arrangers Guild by Sharon Wilson, Ruth Michaelson, and Marj Petrusa. The design type must be low relief and include some plant material.*

## Photography Contest Held

Bring your entries for the **State Photography Contest** to our March EGC meeting. Winners in the following categories will be entered in the **Willamette District Photo Contest** on March 18. Winners at the District level will be taken to the state contest at State Convention in June.

There are 7 categories both Color and Black & White.

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Landscapes/Seascapes        | 4. Birds, Butterflies, Insects |
| 2. Gardens                     | 5. Pets                        |
| 3. Floral                      | 6. Wildlife                    |
| 7. President's Choice - Frogs. |                                |

Criteria for pictures:

- Printed 8x10, no frames, not touched up.
- May be either digital or 35mm
- Taken between Jan.1, 2015 and Apr.1, 2016
- Taken by current garden club member
- Information about entry written on card accompanying photo

## Willamette District Meets

Our Willamette District Board will meet at the Eugene Garden Club, Friday, February 26, hosted by Springfield Garden Club with morning snacks and beverages – 9:30 a.m., Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

The District General Meeting will be Friday, March 18. All members are invited to attend and the program is our flower show, “*March Madness*”. Cottage Grove Garden Club hosts at the EGC clubhouse.

*Sharon Wilson*  
*Willamette District Director*

## Flower Show School Held

Course 4 of the NGC Flower Show School series is slated for March 22-23 in Portland. At least 3 EGC members are attending and welcome other interested parties to join them.

The topics for Horticulture on Tuesday are Heucheras, small bulbs, and Collections & Displays. Design topics for Wednesday are Functional & Exhibition Tables and Small & Miniature Designs. David Robson from Illinois is the Horticulture instructor and Char Mutschler for Design. Both fine teachers!

To become a flower show judge one has to attend and pass tests for all 4 courses. Anyone can attend the courses just to learn and not become a judge. If you might be interested in this, check with Sharon Wilson, Georgia Zahar, or Sherry Cossey.



## Hairy Woodpecker

The Hairy Woodpecker is a common backyard bird that announces its arrival with a sharp chirp before landing on feeders. It has a barbed tongue that helps extract insects from trees. They are responsible for eating many destructible forest insects. They have tiny bristle-like feathers at the base of their bill to protect the nostrils from dust. It will drum on hollow logs, branches or stove pipes to announce its territory.

This woodpecker is about 9” in size and black and white with a long black bill. There is also a red mark on the back of the head. The female looks just like the male except there is no red mark. They make a cavity type nest and lay 3-6 white eggs. The female incubates the eggs during the day and the male at night. Both parents feed the young. They do not migrate. They feed on insects, nuts, seeds, and come to suet feeders.

If you have a bird feeder in your yard, look for this pretty little woodpecker. It is a special little bird.

*Georgia Zahar*  
*Birds and Wildlife Chair*  
*Resource: Birds of Oregon Field Guide*



*The first hellebores!*



*The first iris and daffodil.*  
*In early very early February even!*



## February in the Garden

By Juanita Manley, Horticulture Chairman

The sun is finally a little higher in the sky thus giving a bit more warmth to the soil. Unless you have very good friable soil, it is best not to try working it yet. Get the seedling potting soil ready. A sterile potting soil prevents many problems with damping off, one of the worst. Wash pots. Sharpen the cutting tools. Finish up the pruning.

Later this month we can complete rose pruning. And also fertilize them. A schedule from the Rose Society tells me to give triple 16 to the roses in February. They got magnesium last month . . . Clean up all the leaves on and around them and dispose of—but not in the compost bin.

Moss has been getting worse each year, especially if you have many trees or live on the north side of the hill. I have been raking the worst spots in the lawn. There are products out there for this such as lime and iron and fertilizers for the problem. They say it does not hurt trees and shrubs, but I am not sure. It tells of a weakened plant in need of better care, fertilizer.

Asparagus, rhubarb, trailing berries can all be fertilized this month.

Fertilize hydrangeas this month and finish deadheading. Add aluminum sulphate to the blue ones and some lime to the pink and red ones.

We are in the season of planting bare root trees. Those in containers can be planted any time the soil is workable.

If you have fruit trees, get ready for the dormant spraying. Extension has a good spray schedule. I don't like spraying, but you want edible fruit, it is necessary.

Clean off last year's growth on perennials and add a little soil or compost if rain has washed soil away from roots.

If you have wild flowers, they will soon be showing signs of new life.

I see daffodil blooms up and soon to open if not already! What is blooming in your garden? Bring something to share at our February meeting.

Enjoy winter. Plan for spring and for the Flower Show.

## Flower Arranging Class

Thursday, February 18, at 1:30 p.m. is the next meeting for this group and the assignment is to pick any design class from the "March Madness" schedule to practice on. Anyone is welcome to attend. Pictures scattered in this newsletter are from a recent FAC session. You may even see some suggestions of balls or hoops there.



## SMJ News

President Debi Luidhardt has entered the EGC's planting of a new shrub in the Pacific Region of NGC **Trees and Shrubs Project**. Recently our committee planted a *Laurustinus viburnum*, across the lawn from the entry to the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, at the top of the new concrete stairs that climb the hillside to the house.

Winter finds Mary Bromley, Janet Calvert, Sherry Cossey, Terrye Eames, Kathleen Gray, Debi Luidhardt, Sharon Wilson, Georgia Zahar and sometimes others, covering beds with piles of leaves that the city delivered, weeding, and picking up lots and lots of downed branches from December/January windstorms.

Usual work days are 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at about 10:30 to noon. Newcomers are always welcome and there is always something to do. The caretakers mow the lawn, but our garden club maintains the plantings. This month we plan to get the roses pruned with Dorothy Cruickshank and Marilyn Hunter's assistance and a couple very large roses moved to a spot where they will have more room.

*Pictured below are Terrye Eames, Georgia Zahar, Sharon Wilson, Sherry Cossey, Debi Luidhardt, and Mary Bromley when the new Laurustinus viburnum was planted late fall.*



# What's Happening

## February

- 2 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 12-14 Yard, Garden & Patio Show  
Convention Center, Portland
- 17 EGC Regular Meeting
- 17-21 NW Flower & Garden Show,  
Convention Center, Seattle
- 18 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 26 Willamette District Board Meeting, EGC  
Springfield G.C. hosts



March 21, 2012

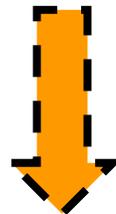
## March

- 1 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 10-13 Lane County Home & Garden Show, Fairgrounds
- 13-14 OSFGC Board Meeting, The Oregon Garden
- 15 EGC Regular Meeting & morning workshop
- ?? Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Willamette District Meeting, CGGC hosts
- 18-19 District Flower Show, EGC
- 31 Plant "Nerd" Night



## April

- 5 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 16-17 Better Living Home Garden & Lifestyle Show  
Portland Expo Center
- 19 EGC Regular Meeting
- 21 Flower Arranging Class



**At our February Meeting**  
 Enter to  
**WIN**  
 A *FREE* Guest Pass (\$8.00 value) to  
*Cascades Raptor Center*

**Eugene Garden Club  
Sherry Cossey  
87205 Willowdale  
Eugene, OR 97402-9133**

## **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.**

