

Eugene Garden Club News

January 2016

Volume 11, Issue 4

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

65 members

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street



President's Corner

Well, here we are in mid-January with the holidays tucked in behind us and our gardens a blank-slate vision before us! Are you an organized gardener, studying your seed catalogs and making specific plans for your spring and summer gardens? Or are you like me and shoot from the hip when that inspiration hits? My inspiration usually occurs about two and a half weeks AFTER the prime time! But, hey, it (usually) works for me.

As a shoot-from-the-hip gardener I'm eager to gain timely inspiration from Ross Penhallegon's program about International Lessons for Domestic Gardening at the clubhouse on the 19th. A Google search for Ross Penhallegon discovers a long list of accomplishments. An OSU Extension Agent, a 2013 OSU *Ask an Expert* Outstanding Faculty award winner and a published author knowledgeable specifically with gardening in Lane County. How appropriate is that!?

Grab your boots and gloves ya'll and let's get down to dirt with some fun activities in this New Year! Happy 2016! See you on the 19th as we begin this fun journey together.



. Debi Luidhardt
EGC President

A garden is an awful responsibility. You never know what you may be aiding to grow in it.

-- Charles Dudley Warner

Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2016

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *International Lessons for Domestic Gardening*
By Ross Penhallegon, OSU Extension Agent
Coordinator: Sister Janet Marcisz

HOSTESSES: Sharon Blade*, Peggy Funkhouser,
Glenda Andersen, Cheryle Hawkins

GREETERS: Juanita Manley & Norma Helliwell

Notes from EGC Board Meeting

1. EGC is going to order enough copies of the new NGC book, *The Frightened Frog, an Environmental Tale*, to donate to each elementary school in 4J and Bethel school districts along with lesson plans for the primary teachers. While the book is intended for youngsters it is a good read for adults as well. We hope to have a copy for you to peruse at the meeting next week.

2. Jennifer Rabner asks us to be on the lookout for inexpensive glassware that folks may have in excess at home or find at St. Vinnies, etc. that will work for the glass "mushrooms" garden art that EGC will be making for the District Plant Sale in the spring.

3. With EGC's donation to Cascade Raptors Center to sponsor Tristan, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, we will have 10 free passes that will be given to members at a drawing next week during our meeting.

4. President Debi created an EGC presence on Facebook last week, and will tell us more about it next week at our meeting.

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Greens Sale Eventful This Year

Congratulations ladies and gentleman on a very successful 2015 Holiday Greens Sale! Forty-two club members and six husbands, helped in one manner or another from cutting and procuring materials to making and producing the products, to bringing cookies or publicizing, setting up, decorating, serving, selling, cleaning up or feeding the troops!



Janet Calvert coordinated the “Gathering of the Greens” with Douglas fir, noble fir, & grand fir cut from a “retired” tree farm owned by the Munsell family of Debi Luidhardt’s neighbors, variegated holly from the SMJ house, nice plant materials from Edana Paz’s property and also the O’Byrnes NW Garden Nursery. Greg Zahar brought his trailer for our “trash” receptacle behind the clubhouse and we are really thankful. He dumped it half way through the week after cutting many many branches of collected fir and then again after the sale was over. We actually wound up with a few bags of fir left over and Arlene Taylor and Sister Janet Marcisz found local charitable groups who wanted them!

During the production week, November 30 - December 4, 9:00 – 3:00 daily, we made 127 wreaths, 42 holiday arrangements, 20 little decorated Christmas trees, several pinecone baskets, 16 Yule logs, 10 door blessings, 16 swags, 2 special wreaths from birch, 9 little wooden reindeer, 12 wooden ornaments, 3 grapevine stars, a tall stylized “tree” made from red twig dogwood branches. And we decorated a Christmas tree and the rest of the clubhouse very beautifully. We had about 50 bows ready for \$3 before the sale. Dorothy ordered poinsettias from Johnson Brothers Nursery which she and Marilyn picked up on Thursday. We sold the last wreath at 12:23, and when nearly everything that we made was gone by 1:00, we cleaned up and closed up the building at 2:00 p.m.

Georgia Zahar organized the Floral Design portion of our sale with a lot of help from Marj Petrusha, and Phyllis Hamel was in charge of the “little trees”. On Friday Ruth Fry took several small cup designs and little trees over to Sheldon Parks Senior Living Center and sold \$140 worth!

We grossed \$5,718.29 and had expenditures of \$1,064.65 for a net of \$4,653.64 which compares with last year’s \$3,928 out of \$4,792. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TIME, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS FUN EVENT!

Special thanks to Sherry Cossey--Chairman, Janet Calvert, Georgia Zahar, Sharon Blade, Jennifer Rabner, Marj Petrusha, Sharon Wilson, Dorothy Cruickshank, Phyllis Hamel, Ruth Fry, Ruth Michaelson, Jerry Blade, Bill Dewey, Greg Zahar, Len Calvert, Rick Rabner, Marj’s husband, and many many more members!



Clockwise from Top Left: 1) Finished cutting fir and pickups loaded! Jennifer Rabner, Len Calvert, Greg & Georgia Zahar, Sherry Cossey, Janet Calvert, Sharon & Jerry Blade, & Debi Luidhardt at the top. 2) Jackie Getty, Sister Janet Marcisz, Marilyn Hunter, & Ruth Michaelson check out the few things left when we closed up our sale early! 3) A couple of the 25-35 wreaths hung out on the shed daily during preparations. 4) We ate lunch together daily -- Georgia Zahar, Ruth Fry, Sharon Blade, Jennifer Rabner, Jackie Getty, Ruth Michaelson, Calvert on one day.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Aegolius acadicus

-- Tristan --

Now that our garden club is sponsoring Tristan, a Northern Saw-whet owl at the Cascade Raptor Center, I thought I would tell you a few facts about this species of owl.

This owl is a small woodland species, with a relatively large head, short tail and long wings. Females are larger than males and they look alike. Generally they are about 8 inches in length with a wingspan of 17 inches. They usually weigh about 2.5 pound.

Saw-whet owls are protected both by the state and federal governments.

These owls are found in a variety of woodland habitats. They like dense coniferous forests, mixed deciduous-coniferous forest, riparian woods, to wooded swamplands. In breeding season these owls favor mature old growth stands of trees for nesting and during the day roost near the nest hole.

Saw-whets hunt most actively in the dusk to dawn hours. Rodents are their favorite prey. They also eat other small mammals, birds and insects.

The distinctive call of this little owl is a rasping, metallic screeching that sounds like a saw being sharpened.

These owls are primarily cavity nesters, and use old woodpecker holes in mature old growth stands of trees.

Most common problems are collisions with vehicles, as well as flying into windows. Loss of prime breeding habitat is also a problem for this little woodland owl.

Georgia Zahar, Birds & Wildlife Chair
Information gathered from Cascade Raptor Center



Willamette District News

PHOTO CONTEST

District Director Sharon Wilson reports that our State Garden Club will again have a Photo Contest at the State Convention in June. The photos must have been taken between January 2015 and April 1, 2016. They must be 8x10 and matted not to exceed 11x14 inches. Eugene Garden Club will judge our entries at the March regular meeting with the winners presented for vote at the March District meeting.

There are 7 categories both Color and Black & White.

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



FLOWER SHOW

District Flower Show Co-Chairmen Ruth Michaelson and Fran Tierce, Oakridge Garden Club, report that Willamette District will have a flower show, *March Madness*, on Friday-Saturday, March 18-19. Schedules for the horticulture, design, and special exhibit entries will be available at our coming EGC meeting. All class and division titles will relate somehow to the NCAA basketball tournament happening in March. Do plan to participate in some way. Most of us have landscapes with a variety of plants, some knowledge of floral design and maybe even special houseplants!

Flower shows are held to help educate the public as well as club members about horticulture and for an opportunity to express creative ideas with plant material.

The committee will be looking for staging materials that reflect the basketball theme, such as balls, hoops, trophies, jerseys, etc. If you have something that could be used please contact staging chairman Sharon Wilson, 545.844.8622. or Ruth Michaelson, 541.485.2772.

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5. A visitor to the clubhouse recently donated a large box of dozens of *Hortus*, a British publication containing essays and drawings related to gardening. The 5x8 "books" are from a few years back, but still relevant and well written. Juanita Manley read through one from the 1990s and enjoyed it. Please feel free to help yourself at our meetings.

6. **Annual clubhouse cleaning will be Friday, January 22, 10:30-2:30. Everyone is welcome!**

January in the Garden

Looks like we are back to Willamette Valley winter. Makes one anxious to start the gardening season. Time to get serious with chores yet undone. Make lots of notes – seeds you want to try, equipment to make ready like tomato cages, more stakes for the dahlias, etc. I am going to grow Legend tomato again. The last two are on the kitchen counter, one red and one green. I picked them November 19, just before the first freeze.

We can start the pruning. Using the **3 d's**, we start by cleaning out the **dead, dying, and diseased** wood in our spring-blooming plants. Shaping the live wood comes after blooming. After bloom, pruning is the way to keep **heathers** bushy. Blooms are sheared off just before new growth starts.

This is a hard time for many houseplants and those overwintering in our homes. Low light really slows them down. We have passed the shortest day of the year, but there are still a couple more months of dark days.

--Extra water left in the saucer can invite root rot, especially with the **Gesneriads (African violets)**.

--**Cactus and succulents** need no water at this time unless they show signs of shriveling. Mine have received no water since October. Those in little pots will need a bit now and then to keep them plump. In summer, potted cactus are soaked up to their rim in a bucket about once a month. They enjoy the summer dew.

--**Christmas cactus** are finishing their first bloom cycle. Withholding water to the point of shrivel for about a month, then watering with a bloom fertilizer often starts a second bloom cycle. Use this only on healthy plants that had a good first bloom cycle.

--The blooms on our Christmas **Amaryllis** are fading. After deadheading, place them in a window and keep them damp, fertilizing every week or two. They will show a little yellowing about July or August, indicating that they need to go dormant. Stop the watering and set them aside for a couple of months and resume watering when they show signs of new growth. But don't forget them during your busy summer schedule. I didn't catch their hint last summer and they just kept growing. They are now dormant and won't bloom until probably April. These plants originally came from South Africa where the seasons are opposite of ours – growing in the winter and going dormant in the summer.

--The houseplant insects are busy now. Check plants for scale, mealy bugs, maybe even aphids. I just found mealy bugs on the coffee tree fruits.

The current issue of *Horticulture* has many pages of new plants for 2016. . . I see an *Alstromeria* that has green, yellow and white striped leaves and red blooms. Ah, but it is zone 9. There is a big-leaved *Hydrangea* mac. Hybrid 'L.A. Dreamin' that has pink, white and blue flowers on the same plant. And how about 'Red Rooster, (Pilag III) Crape Myrtle with red bloom and maroon foliage and grows to only 5-6 feet. Zone 6-9. I like that. There is a burgundy cone flower. A white tulip edged purple, a deciduous holly, *Ilex*, that has bright red berries that last well in wreaths. Have wondered why I didn't plant this a long time ago. They also come in orange and yellow.

Juanita Manley, Horticulture Chair



"Holiday" designs from December by FAC folks, Ruth Michaelson, Eldoris Cobban, and Kathie Spinola, clockwise from upper left.

FAC to Meet

January's Flower Arranging Class meets again on the 3rd Thursday of the month, January 21, at 1:30 p.m. at EGC. Georgia and Sherry suggest that participants choose one of the 3 designs listed below that are classes in the March Willamette District Flower Show, "March Madness". As usual, bring your own containers and plant material. We always have material to share of course!

"The Sweet Sixteen"

Plant material must be all dried. However, other non-plant material may be included. Space will be 24" x 30".

Class 34: "**Free Throw Line**"

A Traditional Line Design: all dried material

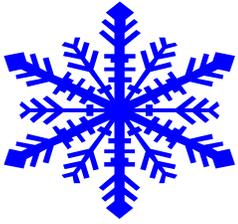
Class 35: "**Three Point Shot**"

Creative Design using a ball: all dried material

Class 36: "**Passing the Ball**"

Traditional Design using two containers: all dried material





What's Happening

January

- 5 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 19 Regular EGC Meeting
- 21 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 22-24 Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show
- 22 Clubhouse Cleaning Party, 10:30-2:30

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
- 26 Willamette District Board Meeting, EGC
Springfield G.C. hosts

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
- 17 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Willamette District Meeting, CGGC hosts
- 18-19 District Flower Show, EGC
- 31 Plant "Nerd" Night



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

In the Garden – in January

Plant deciduous fruit & shade trees. Take hardwood cuttings of deciduous ornamental shrubs & trees.

Bring cuttings inside from quince, forsythia, flowering cherry to force bloom.

Plant peas & sweet peas if soil is well drained.

Begin planning this year's garden.

Order new roses for March 15 delivery. Remove old leaves from rose bushes and clean up rose beds. Prepare beds for planting new roses in March.

Don't forget to feed the birds who have come to depend on your supply.

