

Eugene Garden Club News

November-December 2015

Volume 11, Issue 3

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

51 members

Eugene Garden Club
1645 High Street
Eugene, OR 97401



President's Corner

'Tis the season! It's THE season for recognizing our blessings and joining together with special folks to enjoy treasured traditions.

I truly recognize the blessings of you, my gardening friends. I look forward to enjoying this season of traditions with you as we anticipate our annual greens gathering followed by camaraderie as we work together to create beautiful holiday décor.

Happy Thankful Season!



*Debi Luidhardt,
EGC President*

INSIDE TODAY . . .

Greens Cutting
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Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House
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November-December Calendar

Eugene Garden Club Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Alternatives to
Pesticides*

By Ashley Chesser of Northwest
Center for Alternatives to Pesticides

Coordinator: Ann Rollins

HOSTESSES: Ruth Michaelson-lead,
Lorene Martinson, Terrye Eames

GREETERS: Sally Townsend & Ann Rollins

EGC MEETS IN DECEMBER

The EGC Meeting next month on December 15, at 11:30 a.m. will be a Holiday Potluck. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Friends and family are welcome.

Traditional, members have signed up in November to set tables of 6 or 4 for our potluck. Your table can be formal or casual. Creator's choice. Bring your own linens, table service and décor.

President Debi will have a sign up sheet at our November meeting for this. She will also ask all of us to indicate whether and how many guests we may be bringing.

We may have the opportunity to sing together after we eat!

****No Eugene Garden Club News in December.**

GREENS SALE PREP

Wait! -- Don't prune your evergreen shrubs and trees until Thanksgiving time. We need those basic and unusual greens to make our famously full and artistic wreaths and table arrangements. And don't forget your neighbors and friends' yards. See the suggested list on page 3. *If you need help bringing greens to clubhouse, call Janet Calvert, 541.686.2697.*

Sunday, November 21, 11:00-1:00

New! – We have a new area in the Marcola area for harvesting fir branches! Both Douglas fir and noble fir. Reapers will go directly to the site or meet at the clubhouse at 10:30 to caravan to the site. (Instructions will be emailed before then).

*****SIGN UP TUESDAY or call Janet Calvert.*

Saturday, November 28, 10:00-12:30

We plan to cut LOTS of Douglas fir at the EGC Clubhouse into bundled-sized boughs. Bring your sharp clippers, gloves and warm clothes, and food to share. We could use 15 people there! Need soup makers and 3 “cooks” for lunch when we are finished!

*****SIGN UP TUESDAY or call Janet Calvert.*

Sunday, November 29, 10:00

Dorothy Cruickshank will head up a group to collect interesting plant material from the Northwest Garden Nursery.

*****SIGN UP TUESDAY or call Dorothy Cruickshank, 541.342.2577.*

Sunday, November 29, 11:00

Meet at clubhouse to go to Edana Paz's property collecting interesting plant material, especially wild huckleberry and red Oregon grape. 1) rain gear helps as we walk through the bushes even if not raining and 2) latex gloves under our garden gloves keep the hands warmer.

*****SIGN UP TUESDAY or call Janet Calvert.*

Thank you to Greg Zahar for bringing their trailer for our refuse during Greens Sale preparations!

WHAT'S A GREENS SALE ?

For any of you who are new members or relatively new, here's a brief rundown on how our big event, the Greens Sale, works.

In November members collect all kinds of plant materials to use for making wreaths, table arrangements, swags, Yule logs, door blessings, small decorated trees made from noble fir, pine cone baskets and more.

We have a few organized excursions or parties, and people bring things from home too. We like to have cuttings of like materials “packaged” together, in clear plastic bags or open boxes so that it's easier to see what is there. For the Douglas fir that's the base of our wreaths, we use heavy duty very large black plastic bags. – 28 or more of them!

We store our materials in the shed outside the back of the clubhouse and bring in some supplies each day in the early morning to use throughout the day as we work the week before the sale. We eat lunch together and people sign up to bring soup to feed us – 15-25 people daily.

People sign up for working on all the various products that we offer as well as other jobs. We also purchase poinsettias from Johnson Bros. Nursery and sell them at a very reasonable price. Those are delivered on Thursday, and we need to take those we purchase by Friday morning so that the others can be placed in the rooms for the sale.

Worker lists are posted on the bulletin board in the back room as are the sheets to sign up for items each of us purchases. Sometime before the end of the sale, cash or checks made out to Eugene Garden Club, are turned in to Chairman Sherry Cossey, and she signs people off as paid.

Gardening Thoughts

Tomatoes and squash never fail to reach maturity. You can spray them with acid, beat them with sticks, and burn them. They love it!

S.J. Perelman, Acres and Pains, 1951

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.

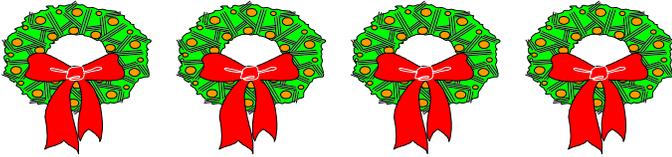
Author Unknown

When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves.

Ken Druse

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

Charles Dudley Warner



Plant Material for Wreaths

Some examples of plant material great for color and texture contrast – (evergreen varieties)

arborvitae	Oregon grape (red)
cypress	nandina (red)
boxwood	yellow holly
(plain or variegated)	holly w/ berries
salal	variegated holly
Japanese holly	cedar (with tips
eucalyptus	blooming)
pine (short needles)	cryptomeria
incense Cedar	(reddish especially)
magnolia	magnolia buds
yew	euonymous
skimmia	osmanthus
pieris	aucuba
grand fir	juniper (berried)
western red cedar	blue spruce
huckleberry	chaemecyperis
camellia	vinca minor
boulevard cypress	broom
Small branches, twigs, any color but	
especially yellow or red or gnarly	
(barberry, filbert, willow, blueberry, etc.)	
sage	curly branches
artemesia	lavender
santolina	rosemary
anything with berries that will last:	
holly, nandina, rose hips, juniper, etc.	

* * * The cut-part of boughs or branches can be up to ½”-thick branch both for wreaths and designs; and 12”-15” is a good length.

* * * Contrasts in COLORS, PATTERNS, TEXTURES, SIZES are elements that make our products wonderful!

Workers Needed

In preparation for our annual Greens Sale, our biggest fundraiser of the year, on Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., we work together every day the week before, Monday-Friday, November 30 - December 4. Bring your clippers and gloves if you are going to be working with the greens.

Chairman Sherry Cossey says that we especially need a few more people signed up to help make

WREATHS

LITTLE TREES

GARLANDING ??

TABLE ARRANGEMENTS

SWAGS, PINECONE BASKETS

DECORATING THE CLUBHOUSE

YULE LOGS, DOOR BLESSINGS

SIGN UP TUESDAY or call Sherry 541.515.5839

We make 150 beautiful wreaths, 30 holiday floral arrangements, 10 swags, 12 little decorated Christmas trees, 12 decorated pinecone baskets, and more, and also sell poinsettias that we order from Johnson Brothers. Plan to buy your poinsettias at the Sale and tell your neighbors as well.

Signups will be available again next week at the November meeting

Little ornaments are needed to decorate the little Christmas trees. If you have any extras you could contribute, just bring them and call Sherry Cossey's attention to them.



“March Madness” Flower Show Is Planned

The Willamette District Garden Clubs will have a Standard Flower Show, March 18-19, at the Eugene Garden Club chaired by Ruth Michaelson (EGC) and Fran Tierce (Oakridge GC). Schedules will be available soon for us to look through the floral Design and Horticulture classes. There is something for everyone!

All of the class titles relate to the famous (or infamous) end of basketball season tournament. We all have either plant material in our gardens or homes in March to share for horticulture and many will want to enter the floral design categories. There are also Special Exhibits entries in educational exhibits and Artistic Crafts. More to come in the new year . . .

Add to Our EGC Directories

Please welcome the following new folks and add their information to your Directories:

Jennifer Ellis
4442 Hawthorne
Eugene, 97402
dahliagirl50@icloud.com
541.689.7195

Jennifer Tucker
949 Prescott Lane
Springfield, 97477
Tuckerjennifer48@gmail.com
559.936.1250

Linda Knight
3606 West 18th Avenue #4
Eugene, OR 97402
gingernight@comcast.net
541.505.9757

***Change Natalie Reeves address on p. 11 to 84761 Murdock Road.

Add Additional Hostess Names

Ruth Michaelson reports the following additions for monthly hostesses for our EGC Directories

December: Glenda Andersen
January: Glenda Andersen
February: Norma Helliwell
May: Janet Calvert
June: Jackie Getty

More Gardening Thoughts

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.
Author Unknown

Despite the gardener's best intentions, Nature will improvise.
Michael P. Garfalo

I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error.

Sara Stein, My Weeds, 1988

Putting the SMJ Garden to Bed And Preparing for Spring

The next work party at the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House will be Friday, November 20, 10:30 a.m.

Thank you to EGC volunteers who help maintain the gardens at the SMJ House -- Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar, Debi Luidhardt, Janet Calvert, Mary Bromley, Kathleen Gray, Sharon Wilson, Terrye Eames, Jennifer Rabner, and others work who together to keep the historic gardens looking nice.

It is time to prepare peonies and dahlias for winter, deadhead dozens of geraniums, finish taking off all the daylily leaves, and spread leaves and mulch. Of course there are always a "few" weeds to eradicate. We may have to wear raingear this time.

Flower Arranging Class Meets

The November meeting for the folks participating in the monthly Flower Arranging Class will be the 3rd Thursday, November 19, at 1:30 p.m.

This month's assignment is a setting for one with table centerpiece (either for one or part of a larger table) for Thanksgiving, using fresh and/or dried material.

EGC Assists Pearl Buck

Dorothy Cruickshank reports that a small army of EGC members will again assist a large army of Pearl Buck pre-school children creating Holiday "Centerpieces" for their parents in December after our big Sale on Tuesday the 8th.

She will have sign up sheets at our meeting next week, or you can call her at 541.342.2577. You will need to bring your clippers

Now is a good time to divide many perennials and pot them up for our annual May Plant Sale. Plants have several more months to grow bigger than when potted in spring!



***Plan to buy your POINSETTIAS for the holidays at the Greens Sale. We will have many on hand from Johnson Brothers Greenhouses.**

What's Happening

November

- 3 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 17 Regular EGC Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 20 SMJ Work Party, 10:30 a.m.
- 22-28-29 Greens Gathering, TBA

December

- 11/30-12/4 Wreath-Making Week
- 5 Greens Sale. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 8 Pearl Buck Youth Floral Arranging
- 15 Holiday Potluck
- 18 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.

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
- TBA Clubhouse Cleaning Party



*Clockwise from above: 1 & 2) two designs from October Flower Arranging Class; 3 & 4) a nice credit to EGC in front of the SMJ house and also Debi Luidhardt working there last month with the newly planted *Laurustinus* in the foreground; 5) a sample of putting together a wreath on one of our machines; and 6) Pat Kramer finishing up her "leaf bowl" during Sharon Wilson's program at the recent Willamette District meeting in Oakridge.*

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

In the Garden – in November

Dig and store geraniums, tuberous begonias, dahlias, and gladioli. (Never store dahlia tubers on a cement floor over winter, but in a cardboard box with newspaper to insulate against freezing. Also turn clumps upside down so moisture drains out of cut stalks.)

It's not too late to plant spring bulbs, but don't delay!

Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.

Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias now.

Mulch small fruit trees to protect from winter freezes.

Spread lime on lawns.

Clean and oil tools and equipment before storing for winter.

Place mulch of manure over dormant vegetable garden area. A 3-4" layer of leaves spread over the garden plot prevents soil compaction by rain.

