

Eugene Garden Club News

October 2015

Volume 11, Issue 2

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz

59 members

Eugene Garden Club

1645 High Street

Eugene, OR 97401



President's Corner

As Pacific Northwest gardeners we know gardening slows but does not end with summer. Even though days are shorter, nights are cooler and, hopefully soon, the rains more abundant, our common love of gardening continues. With a little planning, a bit of common sense and knowledge of what and when to plant, we are fortunate to live in a climate where we can harvest vegetables and florae from our gardens almost any time of the year.

According to the 2016 Farmer's Almanac the average first frost date for our area is just around the corner on October 19th. A "wet and mild" with "above-normal precipitation" winter is forecast. Although this prediction doesn't resolve our despairing water needs for next summer it does lend itself to my own gardening style this winter. I often feel successful (or not!) when I can enjoy my homegrown leafy vegetables through winter. My recently planted kale, lettuces, spinach and garlic are soaking up the warm autumn day temperatures yet savoring these cool nights.

I look forward to EGC's October membership meeting program presentation by Dave Doolittle of Petal Heads, (<http://www.portlandpetalheads.com>). I plan to bring a bit of *cash-from-my-stash* to treat my flower gardens to some suggested plants he will be selling for October planting. See you on October 20th!



. Debi Luidhardt
President

OCTOBER MEETING EUGENE GARDEN CLUB

October 20

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

12:15 p.m. Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Stories Behind
Petal Heads' New Plants*
By Co-founder Dave Doolittle

Plants will be for Sale!

Coordinator: Sharon Wilson

HOSTESSES: Sister Janet Marcisz-lead, Ruth Fry
Marilyn Hunter, Dorothy Cruickshank

GREETERS: Lorene Martinson & Jennifer Rabner

MORE HOSTESSING HELP NEEDED



We all enjoy the creative decorations at EGC monthly meetings. And the snacks/goodies supplied by the hostesses are yummy. If you are not signed up for this year (check your year book), there is still time to help out.

We can use one or two more helpers for these months: December, February, March, and April

If you have never done this job before, take heart, as there will be a lead hostess who will help you know what to do. See page 23 in your EGC Membership Directory for further information. Please contact Chairman Ruth Michaelson at michaelson4416@comcast.net, or at our monthly meeting, or at 541.485.42772.

Ruth Michaelson

GREENS SALE 2015 DECEMBER 5



The annual Eugene Garden Club Greens Sale is our biggest fundraiser for the year and is fast approaching. Sign-ups will be available at October and November meetings. The big sale day is on Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

It's time to start thinking about which shrubs or trees to wait on cutting back until late November so that the trimmings can be used in wreaths, floral designs, and more as we prepare for the sale during the week after Thanksgiving, November 30 -December 4.

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 blooming tips)
eucalyptus	camellia
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
boulevard cypress broom	vinca minor
sage	curly branches
artemesia	lavendar
santolina	rosemary

Also -- Anything with berries that will last: holly, nandina, rose hips, juniper.

And -- Small branches, twigs, any color but especially yellow or red or gnarly, like barberry, filbert, willow, blueberry, etc.

* * * * The cut part of boughs or branches can be up to about 1/2" thick both for wreaths and designs; 12"-18" is a good length.

Our EGC budget has \$5000 income included from our Greens Sale. That's certainly within our reach! It's a lot of work, but really a lot of fun too! Most people work multiple days during our preparations.

***Janet Calvert will have signups for Greens Gathering, and Sherry Cossey will have signups for the work week at our next two meetings.

Willamette District Regular Meeting Hosted by Oakridge Garden Club Friday October 23, 2015 At Oakridge United Methodist Church

48137 East 1st Street
Oakridge

Hwy 58 to Oakridge; turn left at stop light; then right on East 1st Street at stop sign. Church is across from the grade school

9:30 -- Coffee & Country Store

10:00 – Meeting

12:00 – Potluck Lunch
(Bring your own table service)

1:00 – Program
TBA

Door Prizes & Raffle



Sharon Wilson
Willamette District Director

If you have never been to a District Meeting, this is a great opportunity to meet people from our other clubs and share ideas.

District Meeting Has Country StoreSo we are welcome to bring white elephant items and our wallets!

STATE BOARD MEETING HELD

The OSFGC held it's Fall Board Meeting Monday, October 5, at the Oral Hull Park for the Blind near Sandy. On Sunday, members toured the beautiful Gardens of Enchantment, heard the history of the 23-acre site, and planted a Dawn Redwood.

In 1971 members from Multnomah and Clackamas District Garden Clubs started this 5-sensory garden which they have maintained and the OSFGC supported every since. Several years later a lodge, dormitory, large gazebo and other needed buildings were added so that the Oral Hull Association for the Blind and people of low vision have a facility for large events and a garden they can enjoy. The facility can be rented, but the organization is a non profit agency. Check out their website for photos.

INS & OUTS OF THE EUGENE GARDEN CLUB

. . . DIRECTORIES

If you haven't picked your EGC Directory up yet, they are in the closet in the front room at the clubhouse. Please get one.

**Change Dianne Dewey's cell telephone on p. 5 to 541.357.1460.

**Change Marj Petrusha's email address on p. 10 to M-MHPetrusha-54@centurylink.net.

. . . CLUBHOUSE – NEW “POLICY”

If you BORROW something from the clubhouse to use at home or elsewhere, please put a note on the backroom Bulletin Board with your name and the date.

. . . PLANT FAIR

NOW is the time to think about dividing our plants. Pot some up for the Plant Sale in May of 2016. Be sure to use clean pots and sterile soil. Then let Mother Nature take care of new babies until spring! If someone would volunteer to host a potting party in the next 6 weeks, our club could provide soil, and members could come to pot up plant divisions.



Flower Arranging Class

**Thursday, October 15,
1:30 p.m. (new time!)**

“Halloween” is the theme.

**Use of Creative Style and some Abstraction
is encouraged**

\$5.00 fee one-time per year

**Sherry & Georgia
Instruction and Assistance**

Designs above from September “Am I a Duck or a Beaver” were created by Ruth Michaelson, Dorothy Cruickshank, Kathie Spinola, and Sister Janet Marcisz.



CLAY FEST HAS DESIGNS

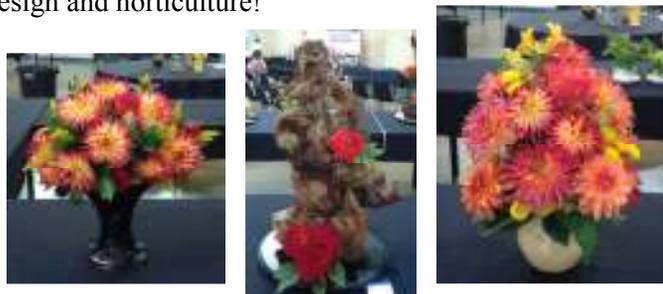
For many years Eugene Garden Club has cooperated with the local Clay Fest which is held in conjunction with the Fall Home Show at the Fairgrounds in Eugene. This year Marj Petrusha, Monica Henry, Sherry Cossey and Georgia Zahar (below) filled 3 dozen containers that potters brought by their station in the morning. The Clay Fest buys flowers for us and we bring foliage and other plant material from our yards. Our work always brightens up their booths with their wonderful pottery creations. A few are pictured above.



EGC OUT & ABOUT

. . . Last week a team of Eugene Garden Club members joined Dorothy Cruickshank at Pearl Buck Center to help preschool children plant pansies.

. . . In mid September Eugene Garden Club members Juanita Manley, Sherry Cossey, and Georgia Zahar helped judge the floral designs in the Lane County Dahlia Society show in the Wheeler Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. Members Camille Noel, Cheryle Hawkins, and Monica Henry were among the big winners both in design and horticulture!



Camille's mass design using Flame dahlias won a blue ribbon as did Monica's design featuring wood. Monica won Best in Show for the Amateur Class in another class! Sherry's mass design garnered red.



SOME BASIC FROG FACTS

- A group of frogs is called army.
- Frogs can be found on every continent in the world except Antarctica.
- Frogs drink by absorbing water through their permeable skin.
- Frogs are known as the indicator species and give scientists valuable insight as to how the ecosystem is functioning.
- There are 4,700 species of frogs!
- Every year that a frog goes into hibernation a new layer of bone forms. You can count these rings to find out the frog's age.
- Many frogs can jump twenty times their own height.
- Frogs come in all sorts of colors.
- Croaking is used by male frogs as a way to attract females.
- Frogs shed their skin about once a week – some every day. Once the old skin comes off, the frog eats it!

Check out the wonderful new children's book, *The Frightened Frog*, (An Environmental Tale) published by NGC about frogs! See it at our next meeting. Cost is \$10.

*Georgia Zahar
Birds & Wildlife Chairman*

EGC HELPS PEARL BUCK . . .

Five EGC members and one husband worked together at the annual Pearl Buck "Trivia Night" fundraiser held in Springfield at the Sprout Building a week ago. Dorothy Cruikshank, Natalie Reeves, Ann Rollins, Sherry Cossey and Kathleen Gray and husband Bob teamed up at the "Weed Warriors" table to answer dozens of question in competition with 20 more tables. And Eugene Garden Club WON the big prize, a large basket filled with lots of goodies will be shown off at our meeting next week!

Side note: Dorothy's daughter obtained some nice looking pressed marijuana ("weed") leaves that Sherry and Dorothy created a tallish floral design to decorate their table with. They didn't win the best decorated table, but did offer their design to Pearl Buck to auction off, and the winner paid \$100!!!



OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

The big question for me is when is winter coming? The geraniums are in full bloom, Dahlias are just starting. The best clue out there? The tomatoes have quit. It is time to plant spring blooming bulbs -- the daffodils, tulips, crocus hyacinths, trilliums, lilies. Have you found something terrific? How about a tub filled with tulips, crocus and small daffodils, topped off with pansies.

I am still learning how to make a successful compost pile. Those leaves that are coming down heavily this week should be composted on site if possible. Or they can go on top of the dahlia tubers that were left in the ground. Compost is a best buy for that 1 inch to finish off the shrub beds for winter. We will discuss compost another time.

The temperature is slowly cooling, so house plants that have vacationed outdoors should be cleaned up, soil refreshed, pots scrubbed and brought back in. And don't forget an appropriate saucer.

Christmas cactus can still be left out a bit longer but they won't take a freeze. If you see buds starting to form bring the plants in as they will drop maturing flower buds with the change of temperature. Don't repot Christmas cactus now. They are in a bloom mode. When the blooms have faded, stop watering the plant almost to the shrivel point for a few weeks. This will often force a second flush of blooms. If no buds appear, slowly reestablish watering. Keep on the rather dry side for the rest of winter.

If this column is to be of help I need to know what you are thinking. I will try to keep it in a timely mode. Next time maybe I will look into dealing with the amaryllis that blooms at holiday time unless someone comes up with something that sounds more interesting.

*Juanita Manley
Horticulture Chairman
juanitainthegarden@hotmail.com
541.484.1704*

What's Happening

October

- 5 OSFGC Fall Board Meeting, Sandy
Rainbow Lodge – Hull Park
(Garden Tour on 4th & plant Dawn Redwood)
- 6 EGC Board Meeting
- 6 “Weed Warriors” at Pearl Buck Trivia Night
- 7 Pearl Buck pansy planting
- 9-11 Eugene Clay Fest, Fairgrounds, EGC- floral designs
- 15 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 16 SMJ Work Party, 10:45
- 20 EGC Regular Meeting
- 23 Willamette District General Mtg., Oakridge
- 23 Garden Therapy with Junction City Seniors
- 25 Mushroom Festival, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum



November

- 3 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 14 SMJ Work Party, 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Regular EGC Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 19 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 27-28-29 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.



Fall Colors Are Coming

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

In the Garden – in October

Dig dahlias or mulch in well-drained soil, making sure rain won't get into cut stem. If you dig your dahlias, do so about a day or so after you cut the plant back to a stalk. (If you leave your dahlias in the ground over the winter, put a small can or baggie over the end of the cut stalk to prevent rot or freezing from rain.)

At first sign of cold weather, cut all rose bushes to 40" above ground.

Clean up annual flower beds and mulch with manure or compost.

Plant garlic for harvesting next summer.

Dig and store potatoes, harvest pumpkins and squash.

Save seeds from vegetables and flower gardens.

Mulch around roses, azaleas, rhododendrons for winter protection.

Plant ground covers and shrubs.

Fertilize lawn for last time this year.

