

2015-2016 Officers and Committee Chairs



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The Garden Scoop

Arlington Garden Club
www.arlingtongardenclub.org

March 2017



Date **March 13, 2017** at 11:00 am
Gleneagle Golf Club Family Restaurant
7619 W Country Club Drive in Arlington 360.435.6713

Agenda

11:00 am	Social
11:30 am	Business Meeting
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm	Program
1:45 pm	Show and Tell
2:00 pm	Adjourn

Program fee \$15 for everyone (even if you come late)

Menu Corned beef & cabbage, variety of salads, rye roll and St. Patrick dessert

Greeters Karen Ricketts and Nancy Rambo

Program **“Weeds and Other Naughty Plants”**
Presented by Joan Helbacka

Joan will look at weeds from a home gardener’s perspective, including strategies to minimize problem plants in the landscape. She has gardened in the Puget Sound area for more than 40 years and has been a Master Gardener since 1997. Be thinking of the weeds that bug you the most.

For “Show N Tell”, bring a creation from your home or garden that is green (or orange) – Carol has St. Patrick's napkins for under your creation, if you want. Also, for the education table, let’s have a contest for the largest?, prettiest?, peskiest?, weed that you can bring. Carol has small green vases to put them in, (She says she might get her longest rooted quack grass wound into one). Also, bring your best weeding tips. Maybe we can add those to the speaker's tips and put them on our website.

Information: helbacka@comcast.net
425-271-6810

The Arlington Garden Club has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 112. Arlington, WA 98223

Membership – Libby Adams, Membership Chairman, reports that we gained one new member in January, bringing our total membership to 106. Welcome **Deb Cofer**, 18600 E Country Club Dr, Arlington. Cell# 206-235-5907, cofer32@msn.com. We also had one guest attending, Pamela Svenning, brought by Jan Hawley.

February Board Meeting – The board meeting was held on February 8th.

A reminder again about registering your Fred Meyer Rewards Card online so that a small percentage of your purchase amount at Fred Meyer will be donated to our club.

Cheri Hanson will be securing our club's 2017-2018 speakers. If you have a great idea for a speaker you can share it with her.

Joyce Lybyer has quilt raffle tickets neatly bundled in \$10 amounts, ready for distribution to club members to buy or sell.

Karen Ricketts said that a trip to Bonhoeffer's to see the fields of daffodils is planned for April. Craft Day at Karen's is planned for the third week in July.

We will be doing container planting at Sunnyside Nursery on May 20th (more on this later).

A vote was taken and decision made to not participate in the Arlington Street Fair on July 7th, 8th, and 9th this year.

The Garden Scoop will now be attached to an email sent to members, in addition to posting to the AGC Website. Those that get it by US Mail will not be affected by this change.

February Membership Meeting – Robyn Swesey, a certified rosarian, presented a program on roses.



Ways & Means – (Submitted by Merle Green)

Many thanks for the generosity of our AGC members. At the February meeting our Ways & Means Charitable Raffle table was overflowing with beautifully crafted gifts. We took in close to \$200 in ticket sales! These funds go a long way in supporting a local scholarship and all of the other worthy charities we support. Thank you to Mike and Leslie for helping to make the drawing go smoothly.

Several of you have made contact with me regarding donations for AGC March meeting:

Mike - Worm Tea Special
 Inez - Lucky Begonia Basket
 Kitty - Starting Seeds Surprise
 Merle - Cook's Delight
 Nancy Y - Always Special

Please give Merle a phone call if you have something you would like to include for March. 360.436.1778

Cedar Grove Compost Event cancelled – The March 9th event at Cedar Grove Composting is a private event for their customers only and does not include our garden club. So we will not be attending or receiving any “free” garden compost. Sorry for the confusion!

Missing Year book – Did anyone pick up Merle Green’s yearbook by mistake? Her name is on it. Please let her know if you have it.

Hearing Aids found – Jack Lybyer has found his lost hearing aids!

Laundry Bottle Caps – Bea has 80 of the 100 she needs (THANK YOU!) 20 more to go. She promises she’ll bring a sample of what she’s making to the next meeting.

Non-freezing Hummingbird Feeders – Judy Ness will place a group order. Let her know if you want to purchase one before the March meeting. We’ll save on postage by ordering together.

Arlington Care & Rehabilitation Center news – (Formerly the Regency Care Center.) Our club will be presenting a craft project for the residents living there on Wednesday, March 29nd, at 2:00. We are going to plant some of Kitty’s pansies. Bea Randall says they can use all the help they can get, so please consider helping out. If you would like more information, contact Bea Randall, Carol Jacques or Kitty Fitch.

Local Arborist to give Pruning Demonstration – Tom Boyce will be doing a pruning demo at the home of club member Sharon Dittenberger on Friday, March 10th from 9:00am to 10:00am. He will be showing basic winter pruning on a variety of plants. Please join us for an early start at 1216 - 153rd PL NE, Arlington.

Quilt Raffle – (by Joyce Lybyer) To all of our members: I am so sorry I didn’t get around to all of you to give you your two sets of raffle tickets at the February meeting. I thank all of you who so graciously were willing to take the packets that are already made up for each of you to sell. Remember, you only have 12 tickets in the packet and a photo of the quilt with all the information on the photo. You can sell them at a dollar apiece or six for \$5.00. If you sell them at a dollar apiece you will need to contact more people, but if you sell them six for \$5.00, you will only have to sell to two friends or relatives. You may even be one that would buy the six for yourself, then you would only need to find one other person to sell to. It really shouldn’t be too difficult. Plus you will feel so good that you did your part to help with this big fundraiser. Thanks again to all who took their packets and hopefully more of you will get your packets at the March meeting. Thanks, sincerely Joyce Lybyer; Quilt Raffle chairman



Plant Sale – John Marsh, our 2017 plant sale chairman, reports that the AGC annual plant sale will be on Saturday, May 13th. Sale times are 9:30am to 1:00pm at the usual location, in front of Arlington City Hall on North Olympic Ave.. There will also be a bake sale again this year. You may sign up at the Monday monthly meetings to volunteer to help on the day of the sale, everyone can donate clean, potted-up plants and garden tools to this major fundraiser for the club.

Kitty has 900 baby pansy plugs sitting on her front porch waiting for members to adopt them into foster care until our plant sale. Adoption means transplanting them into little pots and doing everything else you would do for an adoptee.

Helebores Fair – Christianson’s Nursery in Mr. Vernon is having a Helebores Fair on Saturday and Sunday, March 4th and 5th, at 11:00am and 1:00pm. There is no fee for this event and there will be a large collection of Helebores for sale.

The Arlington Garden Club Forum

by **Judy Ness**, Vice President

Using Diapers In Containers: Helping Your Plants Grow With Diapers

Using diapers in containers? What about diapers for plant growth? Say what? Yes, believe it or not, disposable diapers can keep your potting soil from drying out, especially during warm, dry weather when containers require frequent irrigation. (Keep in mind, it's fresh, clean diapers we're talking about!)

Diaper Filling for Moisture Control

Have you ever wondered how disposable diapers hold so much liquid? You might be surprised to learn that these highly absorbable, throwaway diapers contain hydrogel – that's the same stuff you can buy in gardening stores, usually labeled as water retention crystals or something similar. They work because each little crystal swells up like a sponge, keeping in moisture. For this reason, helping your plants grow with diapers is extremely plausible.

How to Use Diaper Gel in Plant Soil

When using diapers in containers, start with the cheapest diapers at your local big box store. Otherwise, you may be better off just buying expensive gels at your garden center.

Tear open a diaper and dump the contents in a mixing bowl. Don't bother picking out the little cottony bits – they absorb water, too. Add water until you have a thick gel, then mix in equal parts potting soil. Put the stuff in a pot and you're ready to plant.

If you don't want the fuss and muss of ripping into the diapers, just peel away the layer that goes against baby's bottom, then place the entire diaper in the bottom of a container, with the plastic side facing down. If the container is large, you may need more than one diaper. Be sure to poke a couple of holes in the plastic so the potting soil can drain; otherwise, you may end up with root rot – a disease that is often deadly to plants.

Is the Use of Diapers for Plant Growth Healthy?

You don't need to be a chemist to understand that hydrogels are not natural materials. (They are actually polymers.) Although a diaper here and there probably won't hurt a thing, it isn't a good idea to use them excessively because the chemicals, which may contain carcinogens and neurotoxins, will leach into the soil.

Similarly, using diaper filling for moisture control isn't a good idea if you're growing vegetables in containers.

People who are interested in sustainable, environmentally friendly, organic gardening usually choose to forgo benefits of chemicals – even the type that come from baby diapers.

Are there any members interested in creating an Arlington Garden Club presence in the Arlington 4th of July Parade? Let Judy Ness know if you are.

[Garden Club Logo Patches](#) – (submitted by Connie Gronning) I was lucky enough to find someone to embroider our Garden Club logo Patch (the real one that Barb Woodard used)! It's on peel-off backing and can be pressed on to any fabric. **But the best part, it is only \$10.00!** I will be taking orders at the general membership meeting in March. Everyone will need to pay when you place your order and the \$10.00 includes tax and delivery. The patch works on fleece, wool and cotton. I will need a minimum of ten to place an order so plan for your needs.



This month we are featuring **Kitty Fitch's** biography. Kitty joined Arlington Garden Club in 2013 and is currently a trustee. Kitty has been an active member of many committees, contributing her creative talents and skill. The following was written and submitted by Kitty.

I was born in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1941. I have two sisters and one brother.

I have one daughter who is an RN at Arlington Health & Rehab, formerly Regency.

I became a widow in 2011 after 39 years of marriage.

My love of gardening began at a very young age. I was about five when I picked some daffodils from the neighbor's yard. I took them home and dug a deep hole, about 6 inches, and planted them. I even remembered to water them. The neighbor always watered her plants however not a full gallon for 3 or 4 blossoms.

I was really proud of my "garden" until the next day when they were all wilted.

The neighbor lady saw me looking so sad and came over to see me. She took me to her house and dug up a bulb and explained about planting bulbs. She also gave me some flower seeds and told me how to plant them. They were marigolds and bachelor buttons and by late summer they were in full bloom. That started my love of gardening in earnest.

We moved to Washington in 1955. The weather was so different here, I had to garden by trial and error, and there were plenty of errors. I bought a book of "basic gardening" and learned a lot. I still have a large gardening library and I read the books often, and still have a few errors.

I joined the garden club to meet other gardeners and I really enjoy learning from them. I can't see myself not gardening.

Thank you everyone for sharing with me.



Blue Star Memorial Work Party – (Submitted by Bea Randall) This year's annual Blue Star Memorial work party will be at 10:00 AM Saturday March 18 at the North Bound Rest Stop at I-5. Bring your gloves, garden working tools (pruners, spades, smaller hand tools), a bucket, warm clothes, and a big smile. Also a second container for "weeds" you may want to transplant to your own yard, like tree starts. Never can tell what treasures one might find! For more info call Bea at [360-435-3892](tel:360-435-3892).

Container Potting Day at Sunnyside Nursery – (Submitted by Marilyn Enright) Join in the fun of Potting Day at Sunnyside Nursery---Saturday, May 20, 2017, 10am-4pm. Volunteers are needed for both the 10:00-1:00 and the 1:00-4:00 shifts to assist Sunnyside shoppers with the design and planting of their selections. Bring your garden gloves and AGC attire!!!

AGC members will have an opportunity to shop at 9:00am or 4:00pm to enjoy a 10% discount on plant materials and a 50% discount on top quality designer ceramic pots.

[Arlington Garden Club Website](#) – To see the newsletter and board meeting minutes that are posted on our website you need to do the following:

1. Go to www.arlingtongardenclub.org.
2. Click on the “Newsletter & District News” at the top right of the page.
3. Under “Newsletter”, find the year and month of the newsletter you wish to see and click on it. The Garden Scoop for the month you selected will come up for you to read and/or print.

[Board Meetings](#) – Board meetings are generally held at the Stillaguamish Conference Room, 154 West Cox (at Haller Park) in Arlington at 10:00am. All members are welcome to attend the board meetings, but check with a board member to confirm the date/time/location.

[The WSU Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation](#) – The cost of the individual lectures is \$20 per session and they are held in the Mukilteo Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 4515 – 84th St. SW, Mukilteo. They are held on Fridays from 9:30am – 11:30am. The first and second lectures are listed below under the calendar.

[Calendar](#)

March 4 th & 5 th	Christianson’s Helebore Fair (pg 3)
March 8 th	AGC Board Meeting
March 9 th	Evergreen District Flower Show and Corsage Workshop (pg 6 & 7)
March 10 th	Pruning Demo at Sharon Dittenberger’s home (pg 3)
March 10 th	Fifth Master Gardeners Speaker Series Lecture, “Cool Season Gardening”(pg 6)
March 13 th	AGC General Membership Meeting
March 17 th	Sixth Master Gardeners Speaker Series, “How to Successfully Prune any Shrub”(pg 6)
March 18 th	Blue Star Memorial Work Party (pg 5)
March 22 nd	Craft Day with residents of Arlington Health & Rehabilitation (pg 3)
March 31 st	Seventh Master Gardeners Speaker Series, “Heronswood: Past, Present and Future”(pg 6)

“St Patrick’s Day is an enchanted time – a day to begin transforming winter’s dreams into summer’s magic.” Adriene Cook

EVERGREEN DISTRICT NEWS

March 9,2017, 10:00 AM
 Doors open a 8:30 for Placement of Flower Show Entries
 Program:
 Hands On Creative Corsage Making Workshop
 Presented by Tory Bennett, WSFGC Corsage Chairman
 Lago De Plata Clubhouse
 620-112th Street, NE, Everett, WA
 Raffle, Door Prizes, Lunch

Evergreen District Flower Show Schedule

Horticulture Division

Bulb Section (3 of one color)

- Class 1. Chimodoxa (Glory of the Snow)
- Class 2. Crocus (may subdivide class by color)
- Class 3. Galanthus (Snowdrop)
- Class 4. Narcissus (Daffodil)
- Class 5. Tulip - with leaf or leaves if attached

Designers' Line Material Section (material under 30" long)

- Class 6. Fresh Material
 - a. Bare Branch
 - b. Vertical Foliage only such as Flax, Iris, Yucca

Early Perennial Section

- Class 7. Argyranthemum - e stems
- Class 8. Helleborus 1 stalk
 - a. Corcicus (Lividus sub species)
 - b. Any other Helleborus
- Class 9. Any other perennial

Flowering Shrub Section

- Class 10. Camillia 1 stem, with leaf or leaves if attached
 - a. Japonica - single
 - b. Double

Class 11 Daphne - 1 stem

- a. Laureola
- b. Mezerium
- c. Any other daphne

Class 12 Forsythia - under 30"

Class 13 Pieris

- a. White
- b. Pink

Class 14 Any other flowering shrub
Flowering Tree Section'

Class 15 Any flowering tree - may be subdivided

Primula Section - one crown potted

Class 16 Primula

- a. Auricular
- b. Denticulata
- c. Juliae (Wanda)
- d. Polyantha

Special Exhibits Division

Photography

Class 1. First signs of spring

Class 2 Baby animals

Class 3. Daffodils and/or tulips

Class 4. Bees & Butterflies

Artistic Design division

Theme: Wonders of Spring

Class 1. "New Beginnings"

Miniature design, not to exceed 5" in any dimension, designers choice

Class 2. "Flying High

Designer's Choice

Class 3 "Bees and butterflies"

Designer's Choice

Class 4 "Spring in Bloom"

Designer's Choice

Novice only: A person new to Entering flower schools

EVERGREEN DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW RULES

(JUDGING WILL IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE 2007 FLOWER SHOW HANDBOOK.)

HORTICULTURE DIVISION RULES:

- a. All horticulture specimens must be fresh materials grown by the exhibitor.
- b. All specimens must be named, giving genus and species when these are not already in the schedule; variety/cultivar added when available, common name may be added also.
- c. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class or sub-class if a different genus, species, variety, cultivar, type, size, or color.
- d. specimens to be displayed in clear glass bottles to scale for specimen.

ARTISTIC DESIGN RULES:

- a. NO ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS, FOLIAGE, FRUIT OR VEGETABLES ARE PERMITTED.
- b. Fresh plant material may not be treated in any manner.
- c. Some plant material must be used in each exhibit.
- d. Exhibitor may enter as many classes or sub classes as desired, but only 1 entry per class.
- e. Religious symbols must be displayed in a respectful manner in accordance with local church policy.
- f. American flag or other national flags must be displayed in accordance with proper flag etiquette.
- g. Landscapes or scenes are not permitted in the Design Division.

Arlington Garden Club Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2017

- The meeting was called to order by President Connie Gronning at 11:32am.
- Minutes:** Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as presented.
- Financial:** Mike presented the financial report. It was accepted as presented.
- Committee Reports:**
- Holiday Garden:** On February 24th, at 10 am at Gleneagle restaurant, there will be a meeting for members who would like to participate in the Holiday Garden. No sign-up required.
- Activities:** Karen and Sharon announced our upcoming events:
- Seven places were still available for signing up for the blueberry twig wreath making class on February 27th at Blue Hazel Blueberry Farm in Silvana. There are two classes: 10am and 12:30pm. Each class costs \$20.
- On March 4th members are invited to Christianson's nursery for a free class on hellebores.
- On March 10th, at 9am, members can join Sharon at her house to learn pruning tips from Tom Boyce. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Ways and Means:** Merle expressed gratitude to Joyce for leading the quilt raffle sale, and to members who brought things for the ways and means raffle.
- Joyce is giving envelopes to members to distribute raffle tickets. Each envelope has 12 tickets, money can be brought to her after members sell tickets.
- Plant Sale:** Kitty needs volunteers who could take baby plants from her to plant and care for them until our Plant Sale. Please call 425-359-5659 if interested.
John Marsh passed around a sign-up sheet to volunteer at the Plant Sale on May 13th.
- Old business:** Judy Ness announced that the Board voted to have the Potting Day event which will take place on May 20th at Sunnyside nursery. It will start at 11am after the container gardening class. Members need to bring pots and buy plants, our volunteers at the event will pot the plants for free.
- The Board decided not to participate in the Arlington Street Fair anymore due to much effort and time that is required for the three day all-day event.
- New business:** Mike announced our new Arlington Garden Club mailing address. It is PO Box 112, Arlington, WA, 98223.
- Bea Randall still collects laundry detergent caps. Please save them for her.
- Sean O'Leary spoke of Cedar Grove Compost Customer Appreciation Day. It will take place on March 9th at 10am. There will be an opportunity to learn how they compost, to have lunch and get some compost home. The link to RSVP will be provided.
- Judy Ness showed her hummingbird feeder with heater so it does not freeze in winter, and she explained they can be bought online for approximately \$12. She could place a group order for members interested in buying them to save on bulk shipping. Members interested should let her know before the March meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Irina Hensler/Secretary.



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