



## Veggie Group Begins

Veggie Group begins February 13, 1:30 p.m. The Eugene Garden Club is once again offering a vegetable gardening discussion group for EGC home gardeners and their friends. Yes, public is invited so bring your friends, free.

Come to the clubhouse from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. the second Wednesdays of the months of February, March, April and May, we will gather to talk about what is important to YOU when growing your vegetables.

Are you experienced? Come share your knowledge. Are you new to veggie gardening or have challenges? Come learn from experienced gardeners. During the four sessions, we'll not only share knowledge and resources, but we'll trade seeds, transplants, etc. In the spring, we also tour several of the participants' gardens.

For the first meeting, please be prepared to describe your veggie garden, the size, location, and orientation. Diagrams might be helpful. This will assist you later as well. We, as a group, will want to get to know you as well as your garden.

Members of the group will dictate what we discuss each month. Be prepared to write down 5 burning questions that you want answered during our time together.

Carol Prud'homme will be the facilitator. Questions? Call Carol at 541.988.1383. See you on Wednesday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m.

## SMJ House

The 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays EGC members help maintain the plantings at the Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House at 11:00 a.m.

In January we planted 30 primroses, dug many, many weeds, pruned back ferns, hydrangeas, and the very tall Oregon grape plants west of the house.

(And we also noticed that there are lots of red Mahonia leaves that we might want to use next November.)

## Plant Nerd Night Coming

March 28 will be EGC's yearly "Plant Nerd Night" at the clubhouse, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Blade, Kathleen Gray and Dorothy Cruickshank have plans in place for members to sign up to help in this event when four nurseries will be on hand to talk about and display new things for our gardens in 2019. Plan to attend! Everyone in attendance will be given a ticket for a chance to win one of the plants that the nurseries give away. So far we have Gray's, Doak Creek, and Johnson Brothers Nurseries.



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

## Willamette District News

Our Willamette District Board will meet at the Eugene Garden Club, Friday, February 22, with morning snacks and beverages – 9:30 a.m., Meeting – 10:00 a.m. EGC is the host.

The District General Meeting will be Friday, March 22 in Junction City, place TBA.

Remember to bring your photographs to the February EGC meeting to be considered for the **OSFGC PHOTO CONTEST** which takes place at the June Convention in Klamath Falls. All the rules were in our January newsletter or can be seen at the OSFGC website as well. The seven Categories include both color and black and white classes.

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

*Fran Tierce  
Willamette District Director*



## Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

First off, I want to thank Marj Petrusha for saving some wonderful articles for me to use as a resource when writing my column.

The Downy Woodpecker is North America's most common backyard woodpecker. They are quite small and surprisingly tame. They have a black-and-white striped back with a thick white line down the center, and if it's a male, a bright red patch on the back of the head. They have a short, sharp beak made for boring into trees, which is how they find insect larvae to eat. They often stop at birdfeeders (I've seen them at mine) or forage in shrubs for fruit and insects.

Downy Woodpeckers are found mostly in deciduous forests throughout the United States, and they remain in their breeding grounds all year long. They live in cavity nests, often in decaying branches or dead tree trunks that they have excavated themselves, so don't be too quick to remove such from your yard.

Drumming is exactly what it sounds like: that rapid-fire tapping all year long that signals a woodpecker nearby. Woodpeckers drum for a variety of reason. They don't have a song like most birds, so the drumming pattern substitutes as a territorial and mating call. This is why you may spy woodpeckers tapping on street signs or other surfaces that don't offer a food source. And sometimes the drumming you hear is a woodpecker looking for food. The woodpecker's beak is specially adapted to withstand many, many sharp blows against hard tree trunks. They have especially long tongues so that they can reach the insects deep inside the holes they've drilled.

*Georgia Zahar, Birds & Wildlife Chairman*

"A flower is an educated weed."  
*Luther Burbank*

"When gardeners garden, it is not just the plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves."  
*Ken Druse*

## *In the Garden*

It is time to get a head start on getting those weeds before they go to seed.

Be patient and wait until the last week of February to prune your roses.

Fertilize your daffodils, tulips etc with a high nitrogen fertilizer after they bloom to feed the leaf growth and in turn have more bulb growth.

Get those fruit trees pruned before the buds swell or you will knock off the fruit for this year.

You can start your onion seed indoors to transplant outside when the soil is easier to work in early March.

The honey bees are out working soon and the slugs and snails are out too, time to bait for the slugs and snails, I also have seen cutworms and some ladybugs. Just being out in the garden gives you the chance to manually exterminate the pests.

*Jackie Getty  
Horticulture Chairman*

## *Bees In Our Gardens- Recycle Rx bottles!*

The Spring OSFGC Board meeting will be held in Portland, March 3 & 4. If you have orange prescription bottles to recycle, bring to our next meeting, and Sharon Wilson will get them to OSFGC member Nicole Sanchez, OSU Horticulture agent in Klamath Falls, who is using them for bee research.

Nicole will be sharing bee programs with us at the Convention in Klamath Falls this June. (We do need to take the paper off the containers. Try soaking in hot water someone said.)

## **FAC to Meet**

The Flower Arranging Class meets again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, February 21, at 1:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.

The assignment this month is to make a design that features either red or pink. We may use fresh and/or dried plant material and may make several designs.

# What's Happening

## February

- 5** EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 13** EGC Veggie Growers Group, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 19** EGC Regular Meeting  
State Photo Contest, 10:00 a.m.
- 21** Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 22** Willamette District Board Meeting, at EGC
- 20-24** NW Flower & Garden Show, Washington  
State Convention Center, Seattle
- 28** SMJ Work Party, 11:00

## March

- 3-4** OSFGC Spring Board Meeting, Portland
- 5** EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 7-10** Lane County Home & Garden Show, Fairgrounds
- 13** EGC Veggie Growers Group, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 14** Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 19** EGC Regular Meeting & morning workshop
- 22** SMJ Work Party, 11:00
- 23** Willamette District Meeting, Junction City
- 28** Plant "Nerd" Night, 6:00 p.m.

## April

- 2** EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 6-10** Pacific Region of NGC Convention,  
Van Nuys, CA
- 16** EGC Regular Meeting
- 18** Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 25** SMJ Work Party, 11:00

*Pictured at right is a sample hanging basket made last year at a McKenzie Bridge Nursery workshop.*



**Eugene Garden Club  
Sherry Cossey  
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## **In the Garden – in February**

**Prune deciduous summer-blooming shrubs and trees.**

**Prune clematis and other vining ornamentals.**

**Prune and trellis berries, cane 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.**

