

# Eugene Garden Club News

January 2020

Volume 15, Issue 5

Editors: Sherry Cossey, Georgia Zahar & Janet Marcisz  
75 members

Eugene Garden Club

1645 High Street, Eugene, OR 97401

Member of National Garden Club, Pacific Region,  
Garden Clubs, Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs



## President's Corner

Greetings! I wish each of you a very Happy New Year, good health and good times! Each new year brings renewed energy and anticipation for a fresh start in all that we do and hope to accomplish. I always love the motivation that new beginnings inspire.

I read an article recently about the declining population of the ever-so-important pollinators in our world.

I've had a "beneficial bee B&B," (bee house) in my yard for several years but didn't know anything about what kinds of bees or when they go into shelter. At a session I attended at the home and garden show last spring about Mason bees, I learned how to maintain the houses and tubes after they emerge in late March and early April. They are the most prolific pollinators of all bees.

The article gave tips about things you can do in your yard to help beneficial insects find safety for the winter. One thing I decided to do was *leave* the leaves on the ground rather than raking them up in the fall. (It actually wasn't a very hard decision...ha) This helps some little critters find safety and a hibernation spot under the leaves. I'm sure some of these critters are not who I want to help, like the snails and slugs, but the ladybugs, earwigs and praying mantis are several beneficial insects I hope are under my leaves laying eggs or doing what they do. Hopefully they will bring new life out with them in the spring.

Now I have another job in the Spring...raking leaves! I hope some of my "new beginnings inspiration" is still with me by then. However, it will give me extra exercise.

I encourage each of you to keep our Conservation Pledge in mind as you go about your days and try to protect or conserve some tree, plant, animal, bird, insect, water, whatever works for you. See you the 21<sup>st</sup>!



. . . . . Pat Kramer  
EGC President

## Eugene Garden Club Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2020

11:15 a.m. Brown Bag Lunch

11:45 p.m. General Meeting

1:00 p.m. *Dahlias*

Camille Noel

HOSTESSES: Jackie Getty\*, Geraldine Mabey  
Peg Funkhouser, Jennifer Ellis

GREETER: Lucy Chambers



## First EGC Meeting of 2020

The January EGC program is being presented by Eugene Garden Club and Lane County Dahlia Society member, Camille Noel.

Plan to learn more all about taking care of your dahlia bulbs, planting, and growing them.

## Clubhouse Cleanup Soon

The date set to do our annual clubhouse clean up is Tuesday, February 11. Pat will give more details at our January meeting.

# **INS & OUTS**

## **OF THE EUGENE GARDEN CLUB**

### **2020**

#### **. . . NEW MEMBER**

Please add our new member's information to your EGC Directory:

Jenny Cowell  
635 Audel Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97404  
520.318.1544  
[cowellstories@gmail.com](mailto:cowellstories@gmail.com)

#### **. . . DECEMBER POTLUCK**

EGC held our traditional Holiday Potluck for our December meeting with volunteers decking out tables with their own linens, tableware, and floral designs. Everyone brought delicious food that we enjoyed eating!

And a few people gave me their recipes to share with us all. Find them in this issue.

#### **. . . HELP WANTED !!!**

Ruth Michaelson needs someone who likes photography to fill in for her in March. Ruth will not be at the March meeting to take photos of people and activities for the scrapbook and is looking for someone who would be willing to do this. Maybe you will enjoy it and be willing to work on this committee for the rest of the year. Let her know!

#### **. . . PUBLICITY FOR GREENS SALE**

Publicity Chairman Janet Calvert sent out news releases to local newspaper and the Master Gardener newsletter announcing the Greens Sale. Notices about the Greens Sale appeared twice in Section 541 of the *Register Guard* before Thanksgiving and the week before the sale. EGC paid for a Classified Ad in the Christmas Bazaar section on Thursday-Saturday before the sale.

Greens Sale Chairman Sherry Cossey produced 100 color posters for members to distribute and bulk mailed 250 color post card ads to past buyers.



*Two of the little trees produced by Chairman Phyllis Hamel and crew for the Greens Sale*



## **Flower Arrangers Work**

The Flower Arranging Class meets again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, January 16, at 1:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Georgia and Sherry ask you to plan to make an all foliage design. As usual, bring your own containers and plant material. We always have material to share of course!

## **Veggie Group To Begin**

Veggie Group will begin Wednesday, February 12, at 1:30 p.m. The Eugene Garden Club offers a vegetable gardening discussion group for EGC home gardeners and their friends. Public is invited, so bring your friends (free).

We meet at the Clubhouse from 1:30-3:00 p.m. the second Wednesdays of the months of February, March, April and May. We 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. If you have questions, call Carol at 541.988.1383. See you on Wednesday, February 12 at 1:30 p.m.

## **EGC BUS TOUR HAPPENS IN APRIL**

The bus tour sign up sheet will be available at the next 3 general meetings for our trip to the Japanese Gardens in Portland on Tuesday April 21. We have 26 signed up so far. Hoping for 50. Lucy Chambers will open this opportunity up to the other clubs after our January meeting.

Please call, text or email Lucy for details: 5412185370, [chamberslucy.1015@yahoo.com](mailto:chamberslucy.1015@yahoo.com) to sign up or see her at our meeting.



## Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

The Spotted Towhee has much to recommend it. At the top of the list is that the bird is an accomplished vocalist with five distinct songs and two different mew (cat-like sound) calls and chips. The bird is gorgeous and colorful. With its black back and head (brown in the female), rust and white underneath, white spots on the wings, and red eyes the bird's bright colors are a tonic for our gray Oregon days. And happily for the neophyte birder it is virtually impossible to incorrectly identify the bird as the only similar species is the Eastern towhee and their ranges don't overlap.

Other than when singing, the Spotted Towhee is a quiet bird that feeds on the ground and never strays far from cover. There is a male in my neighborhood. Sometime the bird forages across the street near a shrubby area, and occasionally when standing at the kitchen window I see him in the top of a large bush just beyond the fence. Another good place to see and hear the bird is at Mt. Pisgah. Simply sit quietly at the picnic table beside the visitor's center and wait or walk slowly in the area.

"Cool facts" according to one birding site: The Spotted Towhee feeds on the ground using a two-footed, backwards-scratching hop as it rustles in the leaves looking for insects or dropped seed from feeders. Early in the breeding season, male Spotted Towhees spend their mornings singing their hearts out, trying to attract a mate. Male towhees have been recorded spending 70 to 90 percent of their mornings singing. Almost as soon as they attract a mate, their attention shifts to other things. HMMMMMMMM. No comment.

*Donna Michel, Birds & Wildlife Chairman*

*1<sup>st</sup> wreath 2019*



## PHOTO CONTEST

Oregon State Garden Clubs will again have a Photo Contest at the State Convention in June. The photos must have been taken between January 2019 and April 1, 2020. They must be 8"x10" and matted not to exceed 11"x14". Eugene Garden Club will judge our entries at the February meeting with the winners presented for vote at the March District meeting.

Categories 1 – 7 will be Color, NO Black & White.

1. Landscapes
2. Gardens
3. Floral
4. Birds
5. Wildlife
6. Insects/Butterflies
7. President's Choice – Pets in the Garden.

Photos must be taken by current EGC members and may not have been enhanced by Photoshop or similar programs. Photos can be digital or film.



*(Pictured above are Georgia Zahar and Marj Petrusa, Greens Sale Co-Chairmen for the table designs & crafts.)*

## EGC Folks Work Hard!

Clipping branches first then and then producing wreaths, little trees, swags, table designs, holiday arrangements, Yule logs, bows, soup, cookies & other delish, along with setting up for the sale, pricing, decorating, cashiering, and cleaning up involved almost 50 people! And this includes the fir getters too.

**THANK YOU** to Sharon & Jerry Blade, Sandy Bond, Carolyn Boyle, Patty Boynton, Mary Bromley, Janet Calvert, Lucy Chambers, Sherry Cossey, Jenny Cowell, Dorothy Cruickshank, Dianne & Bill Dewey, Terrye Eames, Jennifer Ellis, Peg Funkhouser, Jackie Getty, Kathleen Gray, Phyllis Hamel, Monica Henry, Fay Hogan, Marilyn Hunter, Pat Kramer, Jacquie Litchfield, Janet Marcisz, Donna Michel, Ruth Michaelson, Camille Noel, Marj Petrusa, Carol Prud'homme, Jenn & Rick Rabner, Robbie Ridenour, Pam Rogge, Ann Rollins, Arlene Taylor, Sharon Wilson, Lorraine Wong, Julie Yamane, Georgia & Greg Zahar.

# What's Happening



## January

- 7 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Regular EGC Meeting
- 16 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 24-26 Good Earth Home, Garden & Living Show  
Lane County Fairgrounds
- 23 SMJ House work party, 11:00

## February

- 4 EGC Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 11 EGC House Cleaning
- 18 EGC Regular Meeting  
State Photo Contest, 9:30 a.m.
- 20 Flower Arranging Class, 1:30 p.m.
- 28 Willamette District Board Meeting, at EGC
- 26-Mar.1 NW Flower & Garden Show, Washington  
State Convention Center, Seattle

## Greens Sale Wraps Up

Congratulations ladies and gentleman again on a wonderful 2019 Holiday Greens Sale! Jennifer Rabner, EGC treasurer reported that we had expenses of \$680.50 and gross income of \$5,490.18, so we netted \$4,809.68. We didn't have as many customers this year as usual.

For production we had a wonderful variety of plant materials and plenty of conifers to make beautiful products. Thanks to all who brought stuff, made things, fed us, and helped in any way. We had 44 people who helped in some way. And thank you to Greg Zahar for bringing their trailer for our throwaway plant material. It got emptied twice!

Thank you to everyone who joined Janet Calvert, our Greens-Getting Chairman, for getting fir – Rabners, Deweys, Blades, Calverts, Lorraine Wong, Sherry Cossey, Geraldine Mabey, Jim Kohler, Sharon Wilson. We were blessed with fir from Cosseys, the Trupps–friend of Sherry's, a Triangle Lake area–noble, a Monroe area, and Lane Forest Products. Marj Petruscha collected salal. Dorothy Cruickshank and crew brought various clippings from the O'Byrnes at NW Garden Nursery. Dale Haynes offered much from her "overgrown" landscape trees.

During the production week, December 2-6, 9:00 – 3:00 daily, we made 121 beautiful wreaths, 40+ holiday floral arrangements, 3 Christmas mugs, 9 swags, 20 little decorated Christmas trees, 20 Yule logs, 12 decorated birdhouses, 2 lanterns, 5 stars, 30 bows. At sale end we still had 20 wreaths, 8 little trees, 2 table designs, 2 Yule logs, 3 pinecone baskets and 1 Christmas mug. Sherry took some of the wreaths and sold them the next few days. Renters during the following week purchased a few things as well. After a week all that was left was 4 wreaths, 1 little tree, 2 pine cone baskets. Thank you to everyone who helped in some way. We had lots of good soup, cookies, desserts, veggies, dip and more during the week. **THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TIME, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS FUN EVENT**

**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.**

