

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
PROMOTING...

WASHINGTON Garden & Design



2022 FALL ISSUE OCT NOV DEC VOLUME 48, NUMBER 2
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PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Members,

Fall is here. I'm not sure about you, but our summer was slow in coming and went by very quickly. I am so happy that we were able to have our Fall Board Meeting in Ellensburg. The Hotel Windrow was a great venue. Thank you, Diane Franchini, for all your work and stick-to-it-iveness. Our speakers were excellent. The Future Planning Session organized by President-Elect Suzann Stahl gave us many good ideas.

WSFGC lost its Investment Fund Officer, Mary Brasseaux, in July. I had the honor of attending her service on August 8. I expressed WSFGC's sympathy to her family and explained all that she did for us. We will miss Mary's excellent work in the handling of our Endowment Fund, her kindness, and her wicked sense of humor. Treasurer Gale Baullinger has graciously agreed to take over the duties of Investment Officer for the remainder of Mary's term.

There are many events that I hope you have participated in, such as the "Key to Your Club", Greater Seattle District's "A Day to Remember" in Normandy Park, and the Bunco Party in Olympia supporting the 2023 WSFGC Convention. I have visited Edmonds Floretum Garden Club, Olympic Peninsula District, in Port Angeles; and Kelso Garden Club, Central District, in Ellensburg. I love visiting clubs and districts and meeting our members. If you would like me to visit, contact Julie Darby, kungfujulie@comcast.net. She is my Scheduler. If you would like others to attend with me, let us know. The more the merrier.

—Anne Sullivan
President, WSFSG
absullivan@comcast.net

"Flexibility and an open mind allow us to grow our abilities and our gardens. Do not audit life. Step up and make the most of your life now."

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On the Cover



Photo by Doreen Wrynja
Information from monrovia.com

Magnolia acuminata
'Yellow Bird' has bright yellow 3 1/2 inch flowers that appear more dependably since they emerge with the foliage late in the spring after the danger of frosts. Plant as an accent or specimen.
Deciduous.
Grows to 40 to 50 feet.
USDA Zone 5-9
Light Needs: Full sun
Water Needs: Once established, water deeply, occasionally; more in extreme heat.

WSFGC NEWS

Life Memberships Recognize Outstanding Members

Lois York has been a member of O'Brien Garden Club, Chinook District for 60 years! Her daughter, Susan Nash presented her Life Membership award at the June Chinook Awards event. Lois joined the garden club with her mother. In turn, her daughter Susan and granddaughter Fiona have joined, making this a four-generation family affair.

Connie Keen received a Life Membership award from her Enumclaw Garden Club, Chinook District, to honor her generosity and many contributions over 27 years. In addition to President, she has held numerous positions and currently is the Chinook District Second Assistant District Director.

Mary Jacoby, Port Angeles Garden Club, Olympic Peninsula District, has been a member since 2015 and is currently the Co-President. She was a member of the Bogachiel Garden Club from 2008 to 2015 where she held the offices of Treasurer and Co-President. She served as Secretary for both the PAGC and the Olympic District for several years. Mary was the Co-Coordinator for the Clallam County Fair Floral Barn in 2018 and 2019. She chaired the 2019 and 2020 (virtual) Members Garden Tours. She has been an active Christmas Wreath Fun Raiser designer since 2015 and regularly volunteers her home for garden club workshops, new

member orientations, garden tours, and board meetings.

Helen Mandic is 97 years young and still very active in her West Sammamish Garden Club, East Lake Washington District. Helen is a founding member of West Sammamish and has held too many offices to mention, organized countless fundraisers and has supported her garden club in every possible way. Congratulations to all!

Life Memberships celebrate a member's leadership and commitment to strengthening our clubs, districts, and state organizations. The purchase of a Life Membership is a way to honor and support our scholarship program. If you have a member in your club that has made a difference, consider recognizing them with a Life Membership. They will feel honored and appreciated.

Application forms for Life Memberships are available on the WSFGC website. Please be sure to include an application form, a short garden club-related biography and a three-inch by five-inch photo. Send a check made out to WSFGC for \$57 (fee and pin). I will send you a certificate, a membership card and WSFGC pin in time to meet your deadline. Application forms for Pacific Region and National Life Membership are also available on their respective websites.

—*Jill Cooke*,
Life Membership Chair



Life Membership Honoree Helen Mandic

West Sammamish Garden Club honored Helen Mandic, a founding member. Helen is 98 and was presented with a Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Life Membership. A life membership is an especially good way to honor a member as the cost of \$57 includes a certificate and pin plus the money goes to scholarships. Lana Finegold,

past WSFGC president and current Pacific Region Director, made the presentation to Helen. We were able to have the lunch outside on a lovely summer day and Helen was especially pleased to visit with members. She says garden club has always been an important part of her life.

—*Renee Kroese and Gale Baullinger,*
Correspondents



Photo: Courtesy of Renee Kroese

Pacific Region Director Lana Finegold presents a WSFGC Life Membership to Helen Mandic, a founding member of West Sammamish Garden Club.

Emeritus Judges

President Anne Sullivan presented NGC Flower Show Judge's Certificate for Emeritus status to Esther Banholzer, Norma Boswell, Betty Burkhart, and Jo Martin at the Summer Board Meeting in Ellensburg in August.

Cross Sound District Activities

Cross Sound District's garden clubs will each host a meeting with several programs: Central Valley GC on November 14, and in 2023: Evergreen GC on March 14, and Long Lake GC on May 6. Our NEXTREX bench has been ordered, and we are waiting delivery to install it at the Retsil Veterans Home with a small presentation. I wish all a wonderful year of finding their joy in gardening!

—*Loretta Lukkasson,* Cross Sound District Director

WSFGC NEWS

Help Wanted



Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Without them there would be no lifetime garden club friends, schools, state

flower shows, fun board meetings, conventions, interesting programs, and all those things that make us who we are, the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.

We have valuable volunteers at every level of the organization that include club and district leadership and WSFGC Board members who chair dozens of committees. The work simply could not be done without all these exceptional members.

Listed are positions that need to be filled this year. We offer grateful thanks to the members who have filled these positions for many years. But life and our priorities change, and now it's time to ask for your help in finding individuals who enjoy the type of work these positions involve.

Maybe that person is *YOU*? Our members have limitless talents, in most cases known only to their closest friends and themselves. Please consider applying those priceless talents as a volunteer for the Washington Federation of Garden Clubs. For every opportunity listed there is a former volunteer willing to help you learn the task, should that be needed.

Directory Editor

It is with grateful appreciation that we say thank you to Val Manuel, now moving on to other pursuits, who has been the *Directory* Editor for

over ten years. Every two years she produced this important publication that contains detailed information about its members, Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs leadership, flower show judges, awards, and more. Updates to the *Directory* are sent to the Editor by June 1 in odd-numbered years. Editing Word documents and arranging for printing occurs primarily in June through August of that year. Deadline for distribution is September 1.

Washington Garden & Design Online Newsletter Editor

After many years of devoted service beginning in 2004, the *Washington Garden & Design* Newsletter Managing Editor Judith Juno is retiring at the end of June 2023. Hers are big shoes to fill, but if we can find someone to step in now that person will benefit from working with her for the next year. Some changes to the format are being considered and we want **YOU** to be part of that discussion. This is a quarterly publication online only—no printing or mailing required.

WSFGC Website Editor

<https://www.wagardenclubs.com>

The website is run on a WIX.com platform and is about five years old. It's in need of fresh eyes and new ideas (says the current web manager!) If you're at all familiar with a similar platform, Microsoft *Publisher* or *Canva* you'll make an easy transition to editing on WIX. The website requires attention about once a week for an hour or so.

Go to page 7, bottom of column 1

Planning for Our Future

Change is everywhere. We cannot escape it. Nothing is like it was two years ago or five or ten. There was a day when garden clubs had waiting lists of ladies and gentlemen eager to join. Attendance at state, district and club meetings was high. WSFGC had twice the number of judges it has now. WSFGC had many more clubs and members than it has now.

WSFGC is changing, and we must be true to our mission and work to sustain the organization. Our statement of mission is *WSFGC coordinates the interests of garden clubs to provide education, resources, and networking opportunities for its members to promote gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.*

We need to start thinking about how we adapt to these changes so that we can continue to fulfill our mission. The process has started. At the Fall Board Meeting in Ellensburg

on August 23, more than 30 members gathered in groups to discuss the many changing functions of WSFGC. Similar discussions will be held at the November 2022 and March 2023 Board meetings. In late March all members will receive an online survey that represents the new ideas and suggestions that came forward from those group discussions.

We need and welcome your feedback. If you cannot participate in those discussions, I encourage you to respond directly to the email inviting your response to the survey. This is an opportunity for your voice to be heard and for you to be an important part of *Planning for Our Future* of Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.

You can send your thoughts and comments directly to me at billnsuz5312@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Continued from page 6

A little more time is needed June-August in odd-numbered years when there is a new administration.

Contact Suzann Stahl, President-elect, if you are interested in learning more about opportunities listed here. 360-791-7422 billnsuz5312@gmail.com

We LOVE our Volunteers!



WSFGC NEWS

Horticulture Essay Award Winner

My New Old Garden

This year I began caring for a new, old garden. New to me because I bought this house recently, and old because the garden is the 20-year endeavor of strangers. In the hot real estate market I had no time to investigate anything. It was bought with only the tantalizing promise of a bare-leaved garden. My smartest decision was to live with the garden for one year before making any major changes. Over the year there have been beautiful surprises, much self-education, some frustration, and

lots of work. I have learned the hard way what garden professionals in *Fine Gardening* and *Gardenista* advise *before* buying property: step back and consider the framework of a healthy garden. It is a good reminder even for established gardens.

The site is the most important. Where is the sun and shade during the growing season? What are the soil types, microclimates and the growing zone? Does the soil drain well? I researched the transit of the sun through the sky, but it was



ONE GREEN WORLD
pacific region garden clubs
lana finegardl - director

Save the Date: April 17 – 20, 2023 Pacific Region Convention 2023 “Going Green – Together”

WSFGC is excited to host the Pacific Region Convention at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood with its spacious guest rooms, complimentary breakfast, and happy hour.

Volunteers will be needed to man the registration desk, (Meet New Friends!) sell opportunity drawing tickets, (Make New

Friends!) arrange centerpieces and favors, and more. (Fun With Friends!) Let us know if you would like to help!

Terry Critchlow, Diane Franchini, Dorrie Carr, Jeanette Pruin, and Brynn Tavasci are planning to provide the best convention ever for you to enjoy. Please join us in the fun.



not until sunny July that I really understood. I drew the arc of the sun on my map along with the shade cast by trees. I discovered weed block fabric in every bed and under it found sandy soil and not a single worm! Should I worry about organic matter? Test the soil went on my list. Also, steel myself for a lifetime of removing weed-block fabric! I kept notes, marked plants as I identified them, and measured and drew my garden on graph paper.

Existing plants must be considered a starting point; after all, an old garden was someone's life work and mature plants are almost irreplaceable. Is there a theme? What plants are thriving? Are plants crowded, unhealthy, noxious or spreading? As the blooming season progressed, I decided the theme was love.

It seemed that every plant the previous owners loved had come home with them. Calla lilies came up inside rhododendrons; pink, yellow and orange rhododendrons crowded each other; hydrangeas struggled in the hot sun and sun-loving coreopsis in the shade. There are now ribbons

on some plants indicating future removal or transplant. But there were also wonderful surprises such as the delicate red river flag lilies (*Hesperantha coccinea*), the pale yellow Cape fuchsias (*Phygelius aequalis*) and the lavender spider-wort (*Tradescantia*) in the rocks. All were new to me. My favorite discovery was the mystery fruit tree with its enlarging fuzzy pear-shaped fruit which turned out to be quince (*Cydonia oblonga*)! I felt like my own grandmother as I cooked and ate it.

There are many other factors to consider when adopting a new garden. Think about trees and roots, deer, laws, regulations and neighbors, hardscaping, access to the garden, and where you will entertain your family and your dog. In the end, a new old garden is really just the beginning of a friendship and the promise of a lifetime of engagement sprinkled with daily gifts of beauty and wildness.

—Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom Garden Club, Hill & Dale District

NOTE: Cindy's essay received the 2021 WSFGC Horticulture Essay Award.

Advertise your next district or club event in your magazine, *Washington Garden & Design*. Download information from wagardenclubs.com or from your *WSFGC Program and Meeting Guide*.

Celebrating 75 years

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Floral Building entrance

Hill & Dale District, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, located in Pierce County, has sponsored our annual tradition of the Floral Building since 1975 and continued again this year. The State of Washington Department of Agriculture visits our fair every other year and awarded us the Black & White Commissioners' Rosette Ribbon for the most outstanding building of the entire fair. We also received the President of the Fair Boards Rosette Ribbon for our outstanding building. Our fair offers the community a place to gather, celebrate their heritage, and reward one another for their accomplishments through competition and public recognition. The residents of our county have shown us the fair is important to them through their attendance and participation.

Our hostesses, with some dressed as Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow eras, greeted all the visitors. This year's attendance was 20,000 in four days. The Floral Building had 524 people vote for our People's Choice awards, and 1,252 youth came into our building for a treat. With just those numbers alone, we know people were enjoying all the flowers and designs. With the on and off weather lately, our entries were down from other years with only 394 total entries. New this year, we accepted photos of "What's in Your

Yard" as a section. We had entries of sunflowers, marigolds, dahlias, hydrangeas, roses, vegetables, designs, educational information, etc...to list just a few. At the end of our fair, all the vegetables and fruits still in good condition were donated to our local food bank which is another way we support and help our community; 24 pounds were donated this year. We spent 952 hours from start to finish to have this year be another fantastic fair showcasing the skills and talents of our community through education and experiences.

To follow this year's theme, *Celebrating 75 years Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, our main highlight was three living gardens out front representing the different eras.

"Victory Gardens"

- Citizens showed their solidarity and patriotism by growing their own vegetables and fruits
- They provided a needed morale

boost during a time of uncertainty

- Some 20 million Americans participated
- 40 percent of the vegetables grown in the United States during World War II came



Yesterday, 1947 - 2000

from Victory Gardens

“It smells so good in here”
 was commented by almost all visitors, hopefully
 because of the flowers and not just because they
 came from the cow barns.

Photos by Kathy Johnson

“Home Gardens”



Today, 2001 – 2022

- Choose native plants adapted to the local climate
- Group plants by their water needs
- Select plants that will thrive with little maintenance as well as provide color, scents, etc.

- Prepare the soil with composts, plant properly, and mulch

“Conservation Gardens”



Tomorrow, 2023 – 2047

- Vertical gardening techniques for smaller areas
- More accessible, more ecologically friendly
- Requires 90 percent less water than conventional soilbased plots
- Water source

can be a rain barrel

We agree with NGC that our youth should be educated to become future horticulturists. That is one reason we sponsor the Floral Building at the Pierce County Fair and put an extra emphasis on youth activities. We work with youngsters to educate and share our knowledge with those visiting. We had kids planting activities daily that were free and open to the public where

300 old painted shoes were planted with succulents, and care guidance was provided so they can watch them grow at home.

We also had a kids scavenger hunt which encouraged them to seek out the Floral Building and receive a treat when they returned one of the 300 rocks painted as flowers and hidden on the fairgrounds. By doing this we hoped to excite and encourage them to become gardeners now and in the future. Our goal is that every child attending the fair or showing at the fair as a 4-H member knows where the Floral Building is and enjoys playing outdoors.

Adult members of the community also benefited from our flower show by giving them a place to show their talents for what they grow at home. Premium dollars are paid by the fair to all ribbon winners. That extra money can support their habit of buying more plants. It also shows nongrowers what they could be growing at home. We had five people interested in joining our clubs and had twenty visitors request information on how to enter their horticulture in the fair next year.

This outstanding Civic Project allows our district members to promote our garden clubs, our love of gardening and floral designs and is a very visible way of promoting NGC, Pacific Region, WSFGC and District goals of beautification, education, gardening, and involvement in our community.

—Kathy Johnson,

Floral Building Superintendent and
 Hill & Dale 1st Assistant Director



AUTUMN SONG

The pumpkin sat in the corn patch
And wished that he were tall;
The corn stalk thought the pumpkin
Wasn't bad at all.
Each one envied the other
And wished that it were he;
When I see corn or pumpkin
I'm glad that I am me.

By Jessie Eugenia (Clough) West,
Mother-In-Law of Madeline West
Authorized by Jessie.....from Heaven 2016



Photo by Ellen Rector

Ready for carving the face on my porch. Happy Halloween!

YOUTH NEWS



**ANNOUNCING 2022-2023
SMOKEY BEAR AND WOOSY OWL
YOUTH POSTER CONTEST**



To: WSFGC District Directors

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in Fall 2022 for the 2023 Youth Poster Contest sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc and US Forest Service.

National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. is allowing students to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention through original drawings of Smokey Bear.

Smokey Bear Says: ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!

Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol of wildfire Prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey's message, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!" encourages personal responsibility for wildfire prevention. Smokey Bear teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

Woosy Owl Says: LEND A HAND—CARE FOR THE LAND!

Woosy Owl is America's loon for the conservation of the environment. Since 1971, Woosy has helped parents and teachers inspire children to observe, explore, and care for the environment. He challenges children to "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" and to take an active role in caring for the land through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste, planting, and caring for trees, using resources wisely, and not littering.

All posters and local chairman reports are due to WSFGC Poster Chairman by January 20, 2023.

Mail to Chairman Evie Marwood at
12711 11th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177, Call, or text 206-519-7431.

Links are provided for Guidelines, Rules, and Timelines for this Poster Contest.

Announcement: poster-contest-announcement.pdf (gardenclub.org)

Rules: poster-contest-rules.pdf (gardenclub.org)

Timeline: poster-contest-timeline.pdf (gardenclub.org)

US Forest Service Volunteer Options: Home | US Forest Service (usda.gov)

Local Chairman Reports are due to WSFGC Chairman by January 2, 2023,
poster-contest-local-chairman-report.pdf (gardenclub.org)

Organization of Floral Art Designers



Debbie Spiller demonstrated techniques in her workshop presentation. Judy Strickland and Patti Isom assisted.

Organization of Floral Art Designers is a group of avid designers from NGC, Ikebana, and members of the floral industry who come together every August for four days of design programs and workshops. There also is a gallery of designs from attendees.

This year in South San Francisco, the NGC featured speaker was our own Debbie Spiller. She held a workshop where members were each given a bag that included a stand with a large dowel with holes drilled in it and components that includ-

ed gutter guard, embroidery hoops, metal grids, and lots of flowers. Twenty-one members came out of the class with huge smiles and completed designs that they could take home for inspirations for their own design groups.

Debbie's two-hour design program showed her love of color and recycled materials. Pictures are worth a thousand words, so please enjoy the pictures. For more information on OFAD please go to www.ofad.design.



Photos courtesy of Linda Maida



This Creative Vertical Design used floral wire to hold components together.



This Creative Geometric Design incorporated bent metal grids and gutter guard.



Above: This Creative Transparency and Geometric Design used the red carnations for visual emphasis.

Left: Members created their designs from materials provided. Judy Strickland, Keith Ripley, Linda Maida, and Patti Isom also attended.

HORTICULTURE

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Experimentation is one of the fun parts of gardening. We are an optimistic group and always hope that a new plant will pass all expectations. Sometimes we are determined that if we just move it to another spot or give it a little more fertilizer or a little more sunlight it will settle in and grow well. Our plant selections succeed more often than they fail, but still it is a thrill when that new special plant grows into a blooming bonanza, or the foliage never fails to inspire us!

Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Acoma' – Crape Myrtle was one of my plant picks many years ago. It



Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Acoma' gives many blooms when pruned heavily.

was one of the few that was rated Zone 6 to 9. At that time most crape myrtles were not as cold hardy as many are today. Most were trees that grew 10 to 25 feet tall and peeling multi-colored bark is one of the attractions in older trees. *L. 'Acoma'* was considered a semi-dwarf that was to grow to about 10 feet tall. Spectacular clusters of pure white, crinkled flowers positively glowed in mid-to-late summer sun here. It survived a couple of quite cold winters in my Zone 7a garden. Its then current shape left something to be desired. Its floral display was outstanding on the branches it had, but how could I encourage more flowering? I pruned every branch, so the tree was now a shrub about four feet high. Every summer now the entire "shrub" is

covered with those striking white flowers. It does get pruned back every winter to encourage the massive floral display.

A dwarf crape myrtle with a small, shrubby form and upright branching topped by a profusion of dark bubblegum-pink flower clusters is *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Moners' or Petite Embers Crape Myrtle. No pruning is necessary to keep it to a dainty size as it is mature at about five feet high and four feet wide. It is rated Zone 7 through 9. Looking for something a bit larger, then *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Whit II' or Dynamite might be the choice for you. This is Zone 6 through 10. It can be either a large shrub or small tree growing 15 to 20 feet high and 10 to 15 feet wide. The intense, bright ruffled, fiery red flowers are show stopping. It will display the typical smooth, peeling bark, and its foliage changes to a vibrant orange red for fall.

Eucomis is a genus of flowering plants in the family *Asparagaceae*, subfamily *Scilloideae*, a native of southern Africa. Most species of this genus are commonly referred to as pineapple flowers or pineapple lilies. I had never heard of these interesting plants until one of my early trips to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show several years ago. The bulbs were not particularly inspiring, but the pictures of the plants and their blooms caught my eye, and I had to purchase a couple. Most eucomis are Zone 6 or 7 to 10. Some can tolerate low temperatures into the teens. I have always mulched mine in the late fall for the winter using a light duff of pine needles, arborvitae needles or even straw. When the weather takes them down they turn to mush which I



remove. A mulch that does not flatten and stay too wet seems to be one key to their survival. They do not seem to be too fussy about soil type and enjoy sun to half sun in a hot summer climate.

Eucomis 'Can Can' was one of the earliest ones I purchased. It has lavender-pink flowers with purplish stems. The long strap-like leaves emerge flushed purple. Most of the eucomis grow about 30 inches tall and wide if they are doing well. *Eucomis comosa* 'Sparkling Burgandy' bears a fountain of purple colored, strap-shaped foliage. The leaves look similar to a large amaryllis leaf but wider and thicker. 'Sparkling Beauty' is really, for me, the only one that strongly shows its purplish color for most of the summer. *Eucomis comosa* 'Leia' is part of the Aloha series of smaller plants. Its tag actually said it was hardy down to Zone 5. It only gets a little over one foot tall and wide. It has burgundy-maroon buds that open into raspberry-pink flowers. *Eucomis* 'Tiki' is another one in the Aloha series that sports leaves with wavy margins. The most unusual and newest I have is *Eucomis* 'Glow Sticks.' The foliage is an unusual copper-gold in the spring and a burnished green in the summer. The flowers are white. This is a medium-size eucomis that grows about 15 inches tall and wide.



Eucomis grow beautifully in a sunny location.

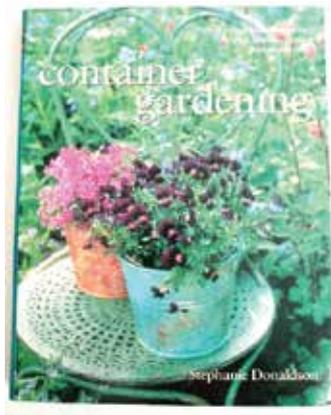
Photos by Ellen Rector

Its tag read Zone 8, but online I found Zone 6 to 8. I purchased it in 2018 and never told it what Zone in which it was planted!

It is hard to turn down a lovely dwarf evergreen. *Picea pungens* 'Globosa' (Blue Spruce) is a charming, globe-shaped, flat-topped, densely branched dwarf evergreen. The bright bluish needles hold their color all year long but are a brighter hue in the summer. Slowly it grows to reach three to five feet high and five to six feet wide. This would look great against bright colored shrubs or even your dark green lawn. Like most spruces, this one is very cold hardy. Who could resist a shrub named 'Twinkle Toes'? *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Twinkle Toes' only grows to be three feet high and two feet wide. Bright yellow new growth appears to twinkle against the mature green foliage of this irregular upright mound. The color fades to light green by the end of the summer. The small-scale foliage makes this suitable for a rock garden, in a container on the patio, or in the garden. It's hardy to Zone 6. Looking for something that naturally has the aesthetics associated with a manicured bonsai, then *Pinus mugo* 'Jakobsen' is a good choice. This new selection has dark green needles set artfully against the strong trunk and branch structure giving the slow growing pine the look of age and beauty. Mature size is four feet high and six feet wide. These three evergreens are not too fussy about their soil, and all would prefer sun to mostly sun to look their best.

Keep exploring the constantly new world of plants being introduced and enjoy your successes in your garden!

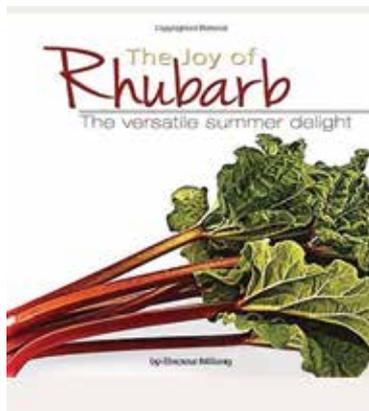
BOOK REVIEWS



Container Gardening

Stephanie Donaldson & Peter McHoy
2003 Anness Publishing
\$7.50 softbound

We can have gardens in containers, outside or inside our home. The authors have presented their tips on how to pick the right container, plan the space where it will be, and determine watering requirements. They have provided many examples of outdoor containers with the plant choices and pictures of what to do. They have provided similar tips with houseplants: to know the best potting soils, containers, and grooming requirements to make them look good. Did you ever want to know how to have leaf and stem cuttings to get more plants with a propagation process? Color pictures are throughout with about 150 designs you can try.

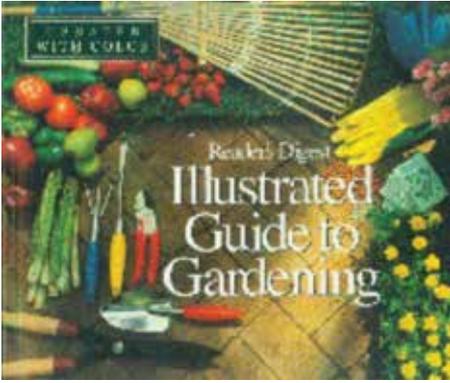


The Joy of Rhubarb, The versatile summer delight

Theresa Millang
2004 Adventure Publications
\$10.00 softbound

This is a cookbook that describes how to grow rhubarb and how to enjoy the stalks. It is high in Vitamin C, dietary fiber, and calcium. You have probably known about the pies, but how about beverages or as a sauce with pork loin, or muffins and breads. Rhubarb is a versatile vegetable that grows very well in Washington.

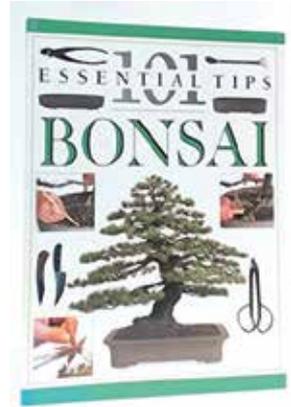




Reader's Digest Illustrated Guide to Gardening

Editor: Carroll C. Calkins
1978 Reader's Digest
\$10.00 hardback

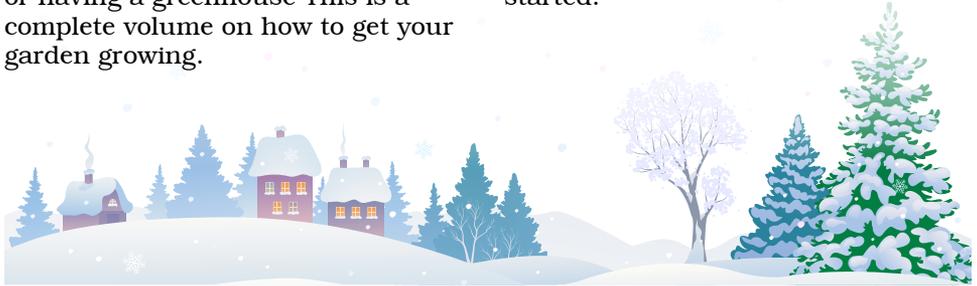
When you have your outdoor garden you think of examples of choices of trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and food plants that you could have in your garden. Your landscape starts with pictures to plan your space. Then it helps to have lists of plants with their size, growing habits, and hardiness. This guide provides ideas for containers and pruning shrub types, dividing perennials and making a frost cover or having a greenhouse This is a complete volume on how to get your garden growing.



101 Essential Tips Bonsai

Harry Tomlinson
1996 DK Publishing Inc
\$3.95 softbound

So you've always wanted to have a Bonsai "shallow tray plant" growing art form. You can decide to start your own or to rescue a castaway. You need to create a balance of the tree you are going to train to the shape that is most important to your specimen. With the proper tools you can prune or wire to that shape and, when ready, have a watering regimen to watch your bonsai grow. This guide with lots of pictures and diagrams is very helpful to get you started.



DIBBLE, DIBBLE, dig, dig

A T-shaped shaft, made of wood, about a foot long with a pointed tip, meant for poking holes into the ground is called a dibble. It is most useful for planting the various sizes of true bulbs, bulbs, and corms like tulips, daffodils, jonquils, narcissus and allium.

During the Renaissance era, dibbles were made from iron; today, they are made from lightweight metals and plastics.

Le Prince Jardinier's French dibbles are very nice but may be out of line for your budget. You may want to use an old, large knitting needle, Philips screwdriver or whatever is handy.

In some areas they are called 'dibber' or 'dibblers' or 'planting bar.' The dibble has a long history going back for centuries when people used sticks to thrust holes in the ground to plant seeds. They also used bones or horns carved to a point. Most dibbles/dibbers/dibblers are made from beech wood, and DeWit Company has some that have the shaft of the tool engraved with depth measurements. Muldale Store in Lincolnshire, England says their dibbles are sturdy, durable and easy to use.

Rustic Workbench Company, in Jefferson, Maine, says the dibble is great for consistent depth, dragging the dibble for a trench, or aerating the soil around a plant, and best of all it has a leather loop to display or hang in your 'she shed.'

The trowel dibber combines a dibber with a trowel, with one tool on either end and these types are usu-



Photo by stock.adobe.com
by exclusive-design

Dibble

ally made from aluminum. There is also a foot-powered poker with a long handle.

Other uses for a dibble: It can be used as a lever to pry up roots, dig out weeds between bricks and paving areas, or punch drainage holes into plastic planters. I find a chopstick will work just as well, or perhaps your handyman will make some for gifts.

I became infatuated with the dibble as a collector item for the garden tool shed. There also is the thrill of someone asking you what those pieces of wood are, and the conversation begins. They would make a great gift for your garden friends or family also. A whole new hobby is just emerging.

—Madeline West, Correspondent
You can find dibbles: *RusticWorkbench.com*, *Amazon.com/DeWit*: wooden dibber, C.S.Osborne&Co. of New Jersey: metal planting dibbles, *Muldale.com* (Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, England): Beechwood dibbles.

WSFGC NEWS

Invite Plant Societies to Join Garden Clubs

There are two plant society affiliate clubs in WSFGC. Kitsap Chrysanthemum Society is one, and they are associated with Central Valley Garden Club, Cross Sound District. However, Central Valley GC sends affiliate dues directly to WSFGC.

How can garden clubs help affiliate groups in their districts?

- Encourage affiliate clubs to bring their plants to garden clubs' meetings and plant sales.
- Invite affiliate club members to speak at their meetings.
- Support and encourage a Plant Society Show every year or every other year.
- Send National Garden Club Inc. Flower Show School information to the various plant societies in their areas.
- Design a Plant Society Symposium with the help of the plant society.
- When a garden club assists a Plant Society Show in their district, it shares the work load of chores that the garden club members have to do.
- If plant societies want to pay the \$15 a year, encourage them to do so.

You will find plant society members attending the garden club functions and joining in the activities and chores.

In Washington State, there are three Chrysanthemum Societies: Kitsap Chrysanthemum Society in Poulsbo, Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association in Seattle, and Vancouver Chrysanthemum Society in Vancouver. These are great areas to

practice designs in their shows, enter horticulture and enjoy lovely blooms of the same species.

Also, the possibility is that plant society members will join garden clubs and attend garden club functions, Flower Shows, Horticulture Shows, Workshops and NGC Schools because plant society members need training in designs. They need to be invited to garden club functions so they can judge on an NGC Flower Show team along with two NGC Judges. A lot of potential is not being tapped. If every garden club would adopt just one plant society, the Plant Society Horticulture Judges could have more and better trained Design Judges on an NGC team, by taking advantage of the great programs put on by NGC groups.

It's a win-win for all, and you might just find some new, exciting friends.

—*Madeline West*, President of Kitsap Chrysanthemum Society, member of Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association, member of Central Valley GC, member of: Evergreen Bonsai Club, Kitsap Dahlia Society, Kitsap Rose Society, Pierce County Iris Society, King County Iris Society, Portland Iris Society, Portland Chrysanthemum Society, Oregon Trails Iris Society, National Chrysanthemum Society, National Dahlia Society, National Iris Society; and a Judge in the Rose, Dahlia, Iris, Chrysanthemum, NGC Flower Shows, Science Fair Judge, 4-H Judge (over 60 years). Writer for the National Chrysanthemum Society; occasional articles for the Iris, Rose and Dahlia societies; *Pollinator* newsletter, and the *Washington State Garden & Design* magazine.

Breaths

We share our breaths with each other
At home, work, school, church,
Play, concerts, sporting events, and
At garden club meetings and activities,
Whenever we gather.

We share our breaths
As we break bread, cook, drink, have desserts,
In general as we enjoy each other's company.

We share our breaths
As we live, laugh, love, argue, teach, learn
With each other.

We share our breaths
As we travel on planes, trains, buses, subways,
Taxis, cars, motorcycles, bicycles
And even while skating, running or walking.

We share our breaths
In the hospital as we give birth,
As we have surgery and recover,
As we have Covid and heal or die.

We share our breaths
Even as we enter the emergency room
For illness, overdoses, broken bones,
Accidents, heart attacks, strokes, whatever.

In all cases, from our first breath at birth
To all our breaths as we live,
And to our final breath as we die,
We share our breath.

The breath we share is a miracle
From first to last;
Don't take the next breath.
For, you see, each breath is a miracle.



As part of the planet's ecosystem,
We share our breath
Of carbon dioxide with our plants
Which share their breath
Of oxygen with us.

We are interdependent.
The more people we have,
The more trees and green plants we need
To sustain us.

The Amazon Rain Forest
Is part of the lungs of our planet.
The Seas and Oceans are part
Of our respiratory system.

Listen to the waves on the shore
Breathing in sync with our breath.
We are interdependent.
We need clean waters
To nourish us and the denizens of the planet.

The wind currents above
Circulate the oxygen and
Carbon dioxide,
Distributing moisture everywhere.
We need clean air.

All are parts
Of our interdependence.

Climate change is real
And we need to listen
To Gaea's angry message
To clean up and care for
Our planet because
It is our only spaceship!

Photo by [stock.adobe.com](https://www.stock.adobe.com) By skif

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

'Musky' the Muskrat Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) Family *Cricetidae* in the Order *Rodentia*

I may be called musky because I secrete a musky secretion that males use to mark their territories and to attract mates during breeding season. But I really can be good for the environment. Muskrats tend to get overlooked, but we are invaluable wetland engineers, removing extra plants and clearing waterways.

Early creation myths, such as the recorded one in Alanson Skinner's 1924 *The Mascoutens: or, Prairie Potawatomi Indians, Part II, Mythology and Folklore*, "speak to the muskrat's facility with mud: In the beginning of things, there was nothing but water everywhere and no land could be seen. On the waves a canoe floated, and a man sat in it and wept because he had no idea what would happen. After a while, a muskrat climbed up on the canoe and said, 'Greetings, Grandfather! Why are you crying?' The man answered, 'I have been here a long time, and I cannot find any land.' The muskrat replied, 'But there is earth under all this water!' The man asked the muskrat to get him some land, and the muskrat dove down and came up again with both paws full of mud."

Decades ago, short, brown spikes of hybrid and invasive cattails started growing in wetland areas; they became dense and crowded out sedges, wild rice, and rushes, leaving no room for ducks to nest or fish to swim. The cat-



tails cross-pollinated with the native varieties and before long the offspring had supplemented the parent species, becoming mats of floating cattail as large as the size of four football fields, breaking off and drifting for miles before colonizing new bays. This has created navigational hazards which are invisible on GPS maps, causing boats to smash into docks and blocking

boaters inside coves.

Muskrats have made a dent in opening the cattail in the marshes and cleared out areas around their huts and created the amount of open water by 50 percent. As the cattail recedes, seeds that have been dormant for decades sprout again and native plants return. Biologists are counting on the voracious appetite of the muskrat to contain this cattail invasion. Their denning and feeding habitats are the main cause of conflict between humans and muskrats. They defoliate aquatic vegetation and eat crops from nearby gardens. They are among the few animals that defecate in water, which causes illness in people who drink from streams. While natural wetland habitat has been decreasing, muskrats continue to thrive because of the new human-made wetlands of drainage ditches and canals.

The muskrat is common in ponds, lakes, rivers and creeks, weighs two to five pounds (about the size of a large



rat) and measures up to 14 inches in length. Their coats have beautiful fur on their skin which makes them distinctive from rats, and muskrats have a soft dense underfur of guard hairs of two layers that produce the color of the upper parts. Feet and tail are brown or black and they can swim under water for 12 minutes. They burrow into the banks making an underwater entrance. Their fur traps air to keep them warm, and this allows them to float in water.

Even though muskrats are an important part of native ecosystems, their burrowing and foraging activities can damage agricultural crops, native marshes and water control systems, such as aquaculture, farm ponds and levees significantly impacting agriculture crops like rice that rely on consistent water levels for growth. Damage by eating agricultural crops and mussels impacts fish and wildlife. Muskrats are rarely trapped, like the beaver. The early settlers of the 1900s hunted and trapped muskrats for their waterproof pelts (marketed as "Hudson seal fur"). In cold, icy areas, they can extend their feeding areas by constructing "pushups" which are piles of vegetation deposited on the surface of the ice over an opening. They bring vegetation to these pushups and eat it there.

Native to North America, they have been introduced to other states, parts of Europe, Asia and South America. Muskrats live along perennial rivers, permanent marshes, and along dirt-filled canals. They eat cattail, pickleweed, bulrush, smartweed, duck potato, horsetail, roots, bulbs, shoots, water lily, sedges, willows, arrowheads, mats of algae, fish, frogs, snails, salamanders, alfalfa, clover, corn, and carrots when near these aquatic habitats.

Predators include large hawks, owls, mink (a major predator), otter,

bobcat, coyotes, foxes, raptors, and largemouth bass.

In Washington it can be safe to eat muskrats as it is one of the healthiest foods available because their main food source is plants. Muskrats can have up to five litters per year with five or more kits per litter.

If trapping muskrats, you must first obtain a body-gripping trap/s (conibear type trap submerged in water), a padded foothold trap, or a non-strangling foot snare to be authorized under this permit. You must establish that a problem exists with the muskrat. Washington Fish and Wildlife must make a written finding before authorizing the use of these traps. You cannot offer to barter, sell or exchange the raw fur or carcass using a Special Trapping Permit. From 1991 to 2000, an average of 6,189 muskrats were trapped. Initiative -713 in 2000 (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/factsheets/i-713.htm>) greatly reduced the trapping.

Muskrats are most active at twilight and throughout the night. It is always fun to look for muskrat tracks as they are small, hand-like prints, with long finger-like toes. The rear print is two to three inches long and may look like a smaller version of a raccoon track. The front print may appear four-toed because the inner toe is extremely small and barely shows in the track.

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/reports/Muskrats-U.S.DepartmentofAgricultureAnimal&PlantHealthInspectionService,WildlifeServices,WildlifeDamageManagement
<https://www.livescience.com/FactsaboutMuskrats>
<https://WashingtonDepartmentofFishandGame-muskratfacts>

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor

Judith Juno, jjuno@frontier.com

Production Editor

Shawna Murphy, shawnamurphy@comcast.net

Proofreaders

Debbie Angel, debbielangel@gmail.com

Marva Lee Peterschick,

davidpeterschick@hotmail.com

Becky Westby, bkwestby@gmail.com

Logistics

Advertising Coordinator

Judy Swortz, judyswortz@comcast.net

Calendar of Events

Information and dates to

Judith Juno, jjuno@frontier.com

Department Editors

Book Reviews

Christine Dillinger, Teenie.Dillinger@gmail.com

Environmental Interests

Madeline West, flowerstopick@msn.com

Floral Design

Linda Maida, linda.maida@yahoo.com

Horticulture

Ellen Rector, perwa@aol.com

Poetry Corner

Joyce Johnson, joycejohanson@msn.com

Pacific Region News

Lana Finegold, lanafinegold@msn.com

NGC News

Brynn Tavasci, brynn-tavasci@comcast.net

Contributors

Gale Baullinger, Jill Cooke, Kathy Johnson,

Renee Kroese, Loretta Lukkasson,

Evelyn Marwood, LeAnna McMahan,

Suzann Stahl, Cindy Swanberg

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Managing Editor's Desk:

Dear Garden Club Members,

Change is the word of the day and of this issue. Garden clubs are reflecting our times, as always. We are going through a period of contraction as people age and interests change. It is time to attract new members, the lifeblood of every organization. Do you remember when you were new to garden club? You joined to learn about plants in your garden, to add new ones, to care for your garden, and to make new friends.

Camaraderie is a major impetus for joining and remaining in the club. Welcome all who join and stay. Mingle. Avoid forming cliques. When you go to a meeting, sit with different people each time.

Sharing information is vital. Encourage members to share their knowledge of items great and small at meetings. Examine your programs. Do they offer something for everyone? Have a meeting that has time devoted to horticulture, design, and a third topic. Bring hort specimens and designs to share and critique. Some members like programs about horticulture, others like design, still others like programs about birds, wildlife, insects, the environment, and folks like me, enjoy it all. I feel that if I walk away from a meeting with one new idea I learned, the meeting was worthwhile. If I share friendship, I will return. I have been a member of Oak Harbor Garden Club for 26 years.

Like you, I have seen many changes: Covid in 2020 almost shut us down. We responded with Zoom meetings, outdoor meetings, and creativity in many ways. In 2021, we continued being resilient. Now in 2022 we are returning, cautiously, to the new normal of meetings: masked and unmasked. We will make it!

Do revitalize your meetings. Do include a smorgasbord of information for everyone to select from. Do persist and persevere.

Yours in friendship,

Judith

(Former WSFGC President 2011-2013)

BY JOYCE JOHNSON

POETRY CORNER

Colorful Changes

Nature, the quick change artist
Is dropping hints today
Of the beauty of her fall attire
And splendor on the way.

The fruit on the old apple tree
Is falling to the ground.
Fat grapes await with patience for
Jack Frost to come around.

Bright flowers in the gardens are
Ablaze with final showing
While lower temperatures assure
That Autumn will be glowing.

We say goodbye to Summer
As Fall comes creeping in.
We're grateful for the lull before
Cold Winter shall begin.

And so it is with our lives,
When we reach our autumn years.
We show our maturing colors as
Our youth's green disappears.

Managing Editor's Note:

Joyce is going Emeritus as our
long-lived (104 years) WSFGC Poet.
We have enjoyed her poems
For the past 14 years.
Thank you from all of us.

Photo [adobe.stock.com](https://www.adobe.com/stock.com) By Yggdrasil

EVENTS

- October 4-6 **NGC Flower Show School I** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Wilsonville OR, and NGC Flower Show – School II: March 7-9, 2023, Puyallup, WA. More information at wagardenclubs.com.
- October 11 **Membership Workshop *Key to Your Club*** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Dryer Mason Hall, 306 134th St., S., Tacoma WA 98444. Sponsored by WSFGC, this is a free event with lunch provided. Reserve your seat and lunch with Elise at elisearseneau@gmail.com. For questions, please contact LeAnna McMahan directly at 360-520-2045 or gotmilk@lewiscounty.com
- October 18 **Greater Seattle District, *A Day to Remember, Fund Raiser*** will be held at The Cove, 1500 SW Shorebrook Drive, Normandy Park, WA 98166. Donation \$25. Doors open at 11 a.m. Lunch at 12. Auction at 2 p.m. of designs created by ten NGC designers. Contact District Director Mitch Grospe or Lona Carter for information.
- November 2-3 **WSFGC Winter Board Meeting** will be held at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge in Anacortes. Save the dates. Details later.
- November 14 **Chrysanthemum Plant Society Show, *One Green World With Mums***, sponsored by Cross Sound District and Kitsap Chrysanthemum Society, affiliate of Central Valley Garden Club. Members of Evergreen Chrysanthemum Association (Seattle) will assist. Will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Silverdale Lutheran Church, 11701 Ridgepoint Dr., NW, Silverdale. Free and open to the public. For a Flower Show Schedule, contact Madeline West, 360-271-3527.
- April 17-20, 2023 **Pacific Region Convention, *Going Green Together***, Embassy Suites, Lynnwood. Save the dates. Details later.

Editor's Note: Due to the impact of the coronavirus and COVID-19, check with the event coordinator to determine whether the event will be held as scheduled.

ERRATA OND

2019-2021 WSFGC DIRECTORY online, page 176

Grospe, Mitch: change email address to: mitchgrospe@yahoo.com



Photo courtesy of Ellen Rector

Easy peasy.



OUR MISSION:

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs coordinates the interests of garden clubs to provide education, resources and networking opportunities for its members in promoting gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

Winter Deadline: December 1
All electronic articles should be e-mailed to Managing Editor Judith Juno, jjuno@frontier.com

Annual Submission Reminder		
Deadline	Issue	Months
June 1	Summer, #1	July-Aug-Sept
September 1	Fall, #2	Oct-Nov-Dec
December 1	Winter, #3	Jan-Feb-Mar
March 1	Spring, #4	Apr-May-June