



## **INTERLAAKEN GARDEN CLUB**

**Dupont, Lakewood, Tacoma, & University Place, Washington**

**Club Name:** Interlaaken Garden Club

**Club Start Date:** March, 1947

**Club President/Primary Contact:** Judy Swortz

**Term Dates:** Until July 1, 2025

**Contact Information:** Email – [judyswortz@comcast.net](mailto:judyswortz@comcast.net)

**Phone:** 253-359-4285

**Nearby towns/areas the club represents:** DuPont, Lakewood, University Place & Tacoma

**Club Meeting Location:** Varies with meeting dates. Sometimes at the Steilacoom Library, homes or field trips.

**Club Meeting Schedule:** Third Wednesday of each month. Club Meeting Times: 11:00 A.M. with meeting ending with lunch afterward. If meeting in homes, the opportunity to go out to lunch offers a social time get together.

**Do club hostesses provide lunch?** Not always.

**Potlucks for special occasions:** Yes, on occasions.

**Does the club brown bag at meetings?** Sometimes depending on activity.

**Club Website Address:** N/A Is club on Facebook? No

**Club Interests:** “We are a well-seasoned membership that is interested in a variety of National Garden Club opportunities and aspects. It is a self-directed club in that mutually they decide on the annual activities. No long meetings, but the activities are more meaningful.

Communication regarding business issues is done via email with a less than a 15-minute business meeting at the actual meeting.

Horticulture is discussed at every meeting possible under the title “*Bring and Brag*”. Members discuss growing conditions, ease of growth, placement of plant for shade or sun, is it a thirsty plant, etc. Propagation and sharing of plants are done in the springtime. Often garden tours of members own gardens are done in the springtime for landscape ideas.

A discussion of the upcoming District flower shows and design opportunities are discussed at club meetings prior to the District meeting. Over half the club members are involved in some sort of floral design.

Changing climate and environmental issues are often discussed with guest speakers brought in to discuss these topics. One good source of speakers is the Master Gardeners Program.

The membership is interested and curious enough to explore rather than meet at a fixed location. Every other meeting is an outing of some sort. We visit a variety of gardens, parks, etc., along with each other’s home gardens.

We have discovered the Pierce County Library System offers the use of free meeting space including the use of a slide projector and screen. Meeting space must be reserved in advance. A one-story building with great parking is a great motivator for the use of the libraries.

Some of the members are now in retirement centers or apartments so the challenges of living with limited growing space is a learning opportunity for the membership.

There is a serious attempt to carpool to meetings and outings. The club members are willing to drive some distance to have the opportunity to explore a new environment.

There is usually a Christmas outing/luncheon at a restaurant and a summer picnic hosted by a member. Members often open their homes for a summer potluck picnic.

Specific charities include the master gardeners, scholarships, libraries, Penny Pines program, and donations for trees in specific locations. We help maintain a sensory garden at the VA Hospital at American Lake residential center. We have assisted both physically and financially with the redevelopment of the South Sound Nature Park in Lakewood and encourage participation in National Garden Club youth activities such as Woodsy Owl, Smokey Bear poster contests.”