

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

PROMOTING...

# WASHINGTON Garden & Design



2026 SPRING ISSUE APR MAY JUN VOLUME 51, NUMBER 4  
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# PRESIDENT'S DESK

HELLO FELLOW GARDENERS,  
AND HAPPY SPRING!

We're well on our way to another spring and summer of gardening. And that means the state garden clubs are planning tours, plant sales, teas/luncheons, and other events. It is also getting to be the time of year when we can get outside and visit parks or other natural areas without getting our shoes or clothes wet. I'm looking forward to late spring and summer when I can get my grandkids out in nature. There are so many places to visit in our state. Did you know the Olympic Peninsula has a waterfall trail with 23 waterfalls? You can download a brochure entitled "Olympic Peninsula Waterfall Trail, A Magical Misty Tour." Have you ever tried to find the Thomas Dambo "Trolls?" You can go on his website and look at the "Troll Map" to see where they are in our state. Have you ever been to Beach 1 (south of Ruby Beach)? All, literally all, the rocks on the beach are flat. There's also a short path where you can see trees with both small and large burls growing on their trunks. Have you ever taken the time to visit the Ginkgo Petrified Forest in Vantage? I could go on and on about all our state has to offer. In my lifetime I will never be able to discover all the amazing places to visit, but I'm going to make a huge dent in them!



During the months of November through February, I had the pleasure of visiting garden clubs, two fundraising events, a tea, and a Blue Star Marker Dedication. This is the part of my job I enjoy the most – meeting garden club members from other clubs whether it's at a garden club meeting or some event. During the month of March, I will be visiting four clubs and have my first official visit to a district – Hill and Dale. And then the first week in May I will be attending the NGC convention in St Louis, MO. The NGC headquarters is in St Louis and sits on property that is adjacent to the Missouri Botanical Garden. It shouldn't be too hot so I'm hoping that I will be able to visit the garden.

The Spring WSFGC Board Meeting was held March 2-4, 2026, at Little Creek Casino & Resort. Chinook District was the host of this board meeting and like all the other districts who have hosted board meetings they did a fantastic job. The lunch program was about Being Wildfire Wise – a very good program and the speaker gave us lots of good information. Then we had two fun workshops run by members of the Enumclaw Garden Club. (I heard raving reviews for both.) Lastly, the evening program was a design challenge organized by Brynn Tavasci. All attendees, whether they attended the lunch program, a workshop, or the evening program had a great time. A big thank you to the Chinook District Director Erin Gregory, and the members of the district for making our stay most enjoyable.

Our Annual Convention/Meeting is being held June 9-12 at the Icicle Village, Leavenworth, WA. Leavenworth is a wonderful place to hold a convention! Lots of good food to eat, a fun downtown area to discover, but most of all a chance to spend time visiting old friends and meeting new ones. And as in past years, full-

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Johnson Point Loop, Olympia

Photo by Dorrie Carr

time attendees will have \$100 taken off their registration cost. Leavenworth also has many hiking trails, most of which are difficult, but manageable.

The Endowment Committee updated the Fund Distribution document during the meeting in February. Because of the robust stock market, we raised the amount of grant funds available to districts and clubs from \$10,000 to \$15,000. We also raised the available convention funds from \$2,500 to \$3,500. If you remember we began the endowment fund with \$1.3M, it is now sitting at \$1.9M and we have our Financial Officer Gale Baullinger, to thank for leading us in the right direction. And thanks to Endowment Committee Chairman Suzann Stahl, there is now a form on the state website in the "Members Only" section that members can use to submit an arboretum/public garden/botanical garden to the Endowment Committee to be placed on the charitable contribution list. To be included on the list, the garden is required to hold 501(c)(3) status.

Whatever you do outside, enjoy yourself and let nature heal you.

**Dorrie Carr**  
**WSFGC President 2025-2027**

# SPRING BOARD MEETING RECAP

## “Exploding Stars and More” WSFGC Spring Board Meeting Little Creek Casino, Shelton WA

Chinook District hosted an educational and fun state board meeting at the Little Creek Casino Resort in Shelton, on March 3 and 4, 2026. Thanks to District Director Erin Gregory’s leadership and encouragement, many Chinook members pitched in to provide workshops, a speaker, entertainment, and centerpieces.



Photo by Erin Gregory

**Diane Franchini, Brynn Tavasci at the Felting Workshop;**

Communities and how you could improve the resilience of your home during wildfire season. Our first workshop was a hands-on felting project. Kandi Dodrill brought each attendee a kit and demonstrated how to create a

beautiful, felted picture of poppies. Kandi is the owner of Green Apple Alpacas in Auburn and holds workshops on various activities. She is a member of Enumclaw Garden Club. For our second workshop Meri Kay, also a member of Enumclaw GC, provided a table full of every color of bead imaginable and wands to create beautiful, jeweled planter pot stakes. Meri also had supplies to make a second project, providing clear goblets, mossy sticks, bird nests, and other crafty items to create a perfect decoration to “Welcome Spring.”

The after-dinner program “An Evening of Exploding Stars,” was a musical and magical, challenge design. Four nearly identical structures made from chair and table parts, croquet mallets, cat tree shelves, and more were provided for each of the designers. Gerbera, chrysanthemum, alstroemeria, bamboo, and foliage were provided in abundance. The stars of the evening were “Flare Star” Tory Bennett, “Clearly Cosmic” Teenie Dillinger, “Simply Stellar” Susan Nash, and the “Super Sparkler Twins” Dee Nash and Sheila



Photo by Erin Gregory

**Dorrie Carr and Brynn Tavasci dancing and singing to Erin’s playlist.**



Photo by Erin Gregory

**Chris Hill, Vicki Kammerer, Sherry Matthews at the Jeweled Plant Stakes Workshop.**



**Firewise Centerpiece held by Karen Arris.**

Photo by Erin Gregory

Shannon. Erin Gregory was the DJ, mixing the playlist for the program and creating a “Name that Tune” competition for the audience. She kept the designers

and the attendees singing, swaying, and dancing to the tunes. Organizer, Promoter and MC Brynn Tavasci was very proud of how her design stars lit up the night with their antics, en-

thusiasm and dance moves, all while holding plant clippers. Such a fun and memorable evening.

The “Firewise Fairy Garden” lunch centerpieces were created by Linda Haas, Nora Fisher, Pam Villwock, Carrie Asselin, and Erin Gregory. The all-greenery dinner centerpieces were created by Susan Nash, with the containers decorated by Nora Fisher and Erin Gregory. Special thank you to Nora Fisher for hosting the centerpiece workshop. Thank you to Chinook Director, Erin Gregory, for supporting our district in everything that we do.

—Brynn Tavasci,  
“An Evening of Exploding Stars”  
MC and Chinook District member

## EXPLODING DESIGN STARS

Photos by Carrie Asselin



**Susan Nash**



**Tory Bennett**



**Teenie Dillinger**



**Sheila Shannon and Dee Nash**



# CONVENTION NEWS

## 2026 WSFGC Convention--Leavenworth, WA, Hosted by Central District, Co-chaired by Terry Critchlow and Diane Franchini

The hills are alive--with Alpine Mysteries!! Central District is hosting the 2026 WSFGC Convention at Icicle Village Resort, June 9-11, 2026. Here are some FUN facts you need to know:

- Registration Forms are available on the WSFGC Website for you to complete and return to Diane Franchini, Registrar. The DEADLINE is May 6, 2026.
- Room rates for our event are \$179 with the same deadline of May 6.
- The Full Time Package plan is \$255 – BUT WAIT – Thanks to the WSFGC Endowment Fund all Full Time Package Plan attendees pay \$155 instead.
- Special meetings are going to be held June 9 throughout the day with an OPTIONAL Box Lunch that can be ordered ahead of time on the registration form. The first Pre-Convention meeting is also scheduled for that day.
- **REMINDER:** Convention Horticulture Competition--open only to WSFGC Districts. Preregister your exhibits by June 1, 2026--with Marva Lee Peterschick--email: [davidpeterschick@hotmail.com](mailto:davidpeterschick@hotmail.com).
- The Design Night (June 10) will feature TWO MYSTERY WOMEN from the Floral Design World creating floral magic right in front of our eyes and Awards Night (June 11) will give us TIME TO CELEBRATE the many wonderful individual, club, and district achievements from the past year.
- Don't forget the Alpine Star Quilt (measures 56 inches wide by 66 inches long) drawing tickets that are available until the last day of convention. Good luck. The lucky winner will be announced at dinner on June 11.

• And of course, there will be Door Prizes, Table Favors, and Centerpieces to be given away.



**WHO COULD ASK  
FOR ANYTHING  
MORE???**

Alpine Mysteries”

# Sunnyside Village Cohousing



**A home is more than four walls.  
It's the people who live beside you**

**At Sunnyside Village, people of all ages live, garden,  
and care for each other in harmony with nature.**



**Just 40 minutes north of Seattle, Sunnyside Village  
offers the best of both worlds: peaceful outdoor  
living by Puget Sound and easy access to the culture  
and energy of the city.**



**Learn more at  
[SunnysideVillageCohousing.com](http://SunnysideVillageCohousing.com)**

## 2026 WSFGC Convention--Leavenworth, WA, Speakers, Workshops and Tour

by Diane Franchini, Co-Chairman

We all know that convention is a time to learn about what every district in Washington is doing, as well as find out how to get involved in some of the committees. But convention is more than sitting in meetings. "Alpine Mysteries" will offer several opportunities to have FUN and expand your horizons.

In the creativity arena we are offering two fun and relaxing **WORKSHOPS**. On the afternoon of June 10, you can learn the art of yarn-woven basketry with instructor Hazel Broughton. Hazel is a member of Toppenish Garden Club and is active in the Yakima Nation Heritage Center. You will be able to craft a small woven basket using the supplies provided. If you have a special yarn you'd like to use, bring it along. Workshop limit is 25.



Yarn-Woven Baskets

On the afternoon of June 11, we are offering a hand-painted canvas bag workshop with Cathy Baldwin and Lindsay Osier (the painted gourd ladies). They will provide all the supplies; all you need to do is leave your stress outside the door and be prepared to have a lot of fun. The last time we saw Cathy and Lindsay, they were teaching us to paint a gourd suncatcher. Workshop limit is 35.



Painted Canvas Bag

If creativity is "not your thing," there's also a **TOUR** planned for the afternoon of June 10 where you can board a 15 passenger van and head out to Derby Canyon Natives Nursery in Peshastin. There you'll meet new owner, Melissa Asher, who will welcome us into the world of native plants. She says she had a passion for native plants since her first botany class in college. After hearing Melissa's story and doing a little shopping, the next stop will be the famous Aplets & Cotlets Factory in Cashmere, with a different type of shopping experience. You will be safely returned to the hotel in time for Happy Hour and Design Night Dinner. This tour is limited to 15.

Lunch **speakers** for the convention will be entertaining and informative. On June 10th CWU Geology Professor Nick Zentner ("Nick on the Rocks") will be speaking following a delicious lunch. Nick Zentner is an American academic who works as a geology professor at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Outside of his work with the university, he is known for his online videos covering the geology of the Northwestern United States and his YouTube series "Nick on the Rocks."

On June 11 Black Hills District and Friendly Neighbors Garden Club President,



# CONVENTION NEWS

Anne Stedham, will be taking us on an arm-chair tour of the “Hedgerows of England.” What a perfect way to travel.



## 2026 Convention Meeting Schedule/Timeline

- June 9** (Boardroom [or other small meeting room] until lunch, then Ballroom)
- 9-9:30 Budget Meeting
  - 9:30-10 Policy & Procedures meeting
  - 10-10:30 Organization Studies meeting
  - 10:30-11:30 Nominating Committee meeting
  - 12-4 Registration Open
  - Lunch on your own (or pre-order a boxed lunch on Registration Form)
  - 1-2 District Directors meeting
  - 2-3 Flower Show meeting
  - 3:30-4 Pre-Convention Board meeting
  - Dinner on your own
- June 10** (Ballroom) 8-noon Registration Open
- 8:00-11:30 Annual meeting (Credentials, opening ceremony, meeting #1)
  - 12-2 Lunch/Speaker (Nick Zentner, Geology Professor, CWU)
  - 2:30-4:30 Workshop #1 Woven Baskets with Hazel Broughton
  - 2:15-4:45 Tour to Cashmere, Aplets & Cotlets, Derby Canyon Natives Nursery
  - 5-6 Happy Hour
  - 6-9 Dinner/ “It’s a Mystery” Design Program
- June 11** (Ballroom) 8-noon Registration Open
- 9-11:30 Annual meeting, (credentials, meeting #2)
  - 12-2 Lunch/Speaker (Anne Stedham, “Hedgerows of England)
  - 2:30-4:45 Workshop #2 Painted Canvas Bags with Cathy Baldwin and Lindsay Osier
  - 5-6 Happy Hour
  - 6-9 Dinner/Awards Night (sine die)

# CONVENTION NEWS



## Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs 93rd Annual Convention – June 9-12, 2026 *“Alpine Mysteries”*

Icele Village Resort, 505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA 98826  
Telephone: 509-548-7000

Mention group code **WSFGC** for the special group rate of \$179 plus tax.

**Deadline May 6, 2026**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address for confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Garden Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

**BADGE INFORMATION – Please check all that apply:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WSFGC President                       | <input type="checkbox"/> WSFGC Board Member          | <input type="checkbox"/> WSFGC Life Member           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Director                     | <input type="checkbox"/> WSFGC Past President        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Director               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Life Member  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC President                         | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Board Member            | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life member             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant    | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club President       | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Delegate                       | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ***Spouse or Guests (Add Names) _____ |  |  |

\*\*\* Spouse / guests who are not garden club members, attending 1 or more meals only (No registration fee)  
Select meals below.

**FULL PACKAGE PLAN:** (Incl. Registration, 2 lunches, 2 Dinners) \$255 \$ 255

**Endowment Trust Fund for Full Time Attendees -\$100** - \$100

**FULL TIME TOTAL** \$ \$155

**REGISTRATION: (PART-TIME)** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 \$ 25

Meals:

Tuesday, June 9:	**Optional Box Lunch	\$ 45	\$ _____
Wednesday, June 10:	Lunch/Speaker	\$ 45	\$ _____
Wednesday, June 10:	Dinner -- Design Program	\$ 70	\$ _____
Thursday, June 11:	Lunch/Speaker	\$ 45	\$ _____
Thursday, June 11:	Dinner/Awards Night	\$ 70	\$ _____

**PART-TIME TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Will need a minimum of 20 orders to offer the Box Lunch \*\* Please complete Menu choices on next page

**LATE REGISTRATION FEE:** If received after May 6, 2026 (Add \$20) \$ 20



Name	Club
<b>OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS/TOURS:</b> (Convention Registration Required)	
<input type="checkbox"/> June 10 Woven Basket Workshop (Fee: \$15)	\$ _____
<b>OR</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> June 10 Tour (Cashmere, Aplets & Cotlets Factory, Derby Canyon Natives Nursery (Fee: \$20)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> June 11 Canvas Bag Painting Workshop (Fee: \$15)	\$ _____
Add any Optional fees to your total on page 1 \$ _____	

**Optional Boxed Lunch Menu Choices, June 9 only.** Boxed lunch includes your choice of sandwich or salad (below), pasta salad, chips, a house-baked cookie and bottled water.

Choose one (1) option only for Boxed Lunch

- JJ's House Salad** (mixed baby greens, cucumber, tomato, shredded carrot, red onion, house ranch dressing or balsamic vinaigrette (veg, gf)
- Roast Beef & Provolone Sandwich** (with horseradish honey mustard aioli, pickled onions)
- Chicken Caesar Wrap** (with grilled chicken, Caesar, savory spinach wrap)

**Special Diet Restrictions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No Refunds after May 24, 2026**

**Make check payable to "WSFGC Convention 2026"**

Mail registration and check to Diane Franchini, 153 Greenvale Drive, Ellensburg, WA 98926-9618  
 Contact: Diane Franchini, Convention Co-Chairman [franchinisd@gmail.com](mailto:franchinisd@gmail.com) or 253-653-0827

The 2026 Convention Committee extends a huge thank you to all of our members and guests who have traveled from all corners of the state (and out of state) to attend this convention..  
 We are sure that you'll have a great time as we explore.....

***"Alpine Mysteries"***



Photos by Leah Alden-Jaswal

## When Spring Moves the Calendar

Observations from the Changing Rhythm of Pacific Northwest Gardens.

Most gardeners who have worked the same soil, often for decades, develop a quiet internal calendar. Long before the seed catalogs arrive, we already know the rhythm of the garden year. Peas around St. Patrick's Day, tomatoes after Mother's Day. Lilacs bloom and suddenly the vegetable beds begin filling up.

For generations those simple rules served us well. But across the Pacific Northwest, many experienced gardeners have begun noticing something subtle. The calendar still says early March, yet the garden already seems to be waking up. Buds swell sooner; flowering cherries open earlier than expected. The soil warms enough to crumble easily between your fingers weeks before the traditional planting dates.



*Prunus* (deciduous early flowering cherry tree)

In my own garden, the soil felt warmer than usual, and by mid-February the crocus tips had already pierced the

frost. Usually, I am still staring at brown mulch, wondering if winter plans to leave at all. But this year the peonies were pushing up their red shoots weeks ahead of schedule. The garden felt impatient, as if winter had not quite finished its first cup of coffee before spring decided to get started anyway.

It turns out that we as gardeners are not imagining this shift. Longtime

gardeners often notice these changes first. When you have watched the same lilac hedge for 30 years, even a small difference stands out. Scientific observations support what gardeners are noticing. Data from the USA National Phenology Network and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) track shifts in seasonal plant development across North America. In parts of the western United States, spring leaf-out now occurs roughly one to three weeks earlier than it did in the late twentieth century. In other words, experienced gardeners are not imagining things. The plants really are waking up sooner. Unfortunately, they do not always coordinate that enthusiasm with the last frost date.

One of the most reliable indicators of spring in Pacific Northwest gardens has always been the bloom of flowering cherries and lilacs. These plants respond quickly to accumulated warmth, making them useful seasonal markers. Many long-time gardeners have begun noticing these familiar signals arriving earlier than they once did. Ornamental cherries in city neighborhoods often bloom ahead of schedule after mild winters. Lilacs that once reliably opened in mid-April may now begin earlier during warmer years.

Early bloom is delightful to see, but it also makes gardeners a little



*Syringa vulgaris* (common lilac)



nervous. When flowers appear weeks ahead of schedule, we start watching the weather forecast carefully, hoping a sudden cold snap does not arrive and freeze our buds off. Another early signal appears in the form of pollinators. Mason bees and early bumble-



**Mason bee on flower**

bees often emerge during warm spells in late winter. None of this means that spring has become perfectly predictable. It simply means the seasonal cues are shifting slightly forward.

Many seasoned gardeners quietly rely on a soil thermometer rather

than the calendar. Seeds respond to soil warmth, not dates printed on a calendar. Cool season crops such as peas, spinach, and lettuce often begin germinating once soil temperatures reach roughly the mid-40s Fahrenheit range. In recent years those temperatures may arrive earlier in late winter, especially after mild February weather. Garden beds become workable sooner, and the temptation to



**Soil thermometer in garden soil**

start planting arrives right along with it. Of course, many gardeners still rely on the traditional method of checking soil readiness by sticking a finger in the ground and announcing, “Well, it

feels about right.”

Unfortunately, the weather has not entirely agreed to cooperate with these earlier conditions. Late cold snaps can still appear in April or even May. The result is a longer early growing window, but also a trickier one. So, what should gardeners do as spring edges slightly earlier in the Pacific Northwest? First, pay attention to soil conditions rather than strictly following traditional planting dates. Second, consider experimenting with earlier sowings of cool-season crops. Third, remain flexible and be ready to protect young plants if cold weather returns. In short, the modern Pacific Northwest garden rewards observation more than rigid schedules. One of the enduring pleasures of gardening is that it teaches patience and attentiveness. The garden rarely shouts its instructions. Instead, it offers small signals: warming soil, swelling buds, and the first bees drifting through early blossoms.

Many long-time gardeners have already sensed that those signals are arriving a little sooner than they once did. Science is now confirming what careful gardeners have suspected for years. The garden is still reliable. Spring still arrives; but its rhythm is shifting slightly forward. Fortunately gardeners have always been adaptable people. After all, if we can keep track of dozens of planting dates, soil conditions, weather patterns, and the occasional mischievous squirrel, we can certainly adjust to a spring that arrives a week or two early.

The calendar may still say one thing, but as every gardener eventually learns, the soil always gets the final vote. And lately, it seems the soil has decided that spring would like to arrive just a little earlier than we planned.

# HORTICULTURE

**CLEMATIS-** Right Time, Right Place, Breathtaking Red, White, and Blue Along with Pink and Purple Flowers

Have you ever been traveling down a road when you spotted a clematis in full bloom on an arbor or a fence covered in superior blooms? Nothing stops traffic like an outstanding bloom in the air with dynamic colors. It's worth it to grow more than one for yourself! Most beauties are easy to grow and don't require a lot of pampering and prayer. Their needs are quite simple: sweet light soil; cool roots and consistent water. It's a good horticulture rule before planting to take time to prepare the soil site located in full sun or partial shade. Dig a hole that is at least 12 inches deep and wide, working compost or well-rotted manure into both the bottom of the hole and the backfill soil. Add a handful or two of bonemeal to the backfill.

What do we mean by sweet soil? (Not acidic) It is very important for a clematis to keep the soil alkaline annually by sprinkling a handful of bonemeal or a layer of wood ashes around it in late winter. It is just as important to keep the soil light. How do we lighten heavy clay like soil? One of the best ways to lighten soil is to cultivate a healthy earthworm population. Using organic fertilizers such as composted manures is like throwing out the welcome mat for earthworms.

Generations of gardeners pass this little trick down about keeping roots shaded and the healthiest clematis vines thrive because their flowers are in sun, yet their roots are cool in the shade. Ever wonder why your grandmother had a big rock sitting at the base of her clematis? It was one of the easiest ways to keep the roots cool, but a two to three-inch layer of good mulch will also do the trick. Because some mulches can spread the clematis wilt disease, it should never actually touch the clematis vines. You can also use a living mulch, which simply means shading the clematis bed with another low growing plant. Choose something that will not become invasive and take over the clematis bed. Dwarf evergreens work great, just make sure the label reads "Dwarf" so you don't end up pruning it back constantly. This gives some protection in severe winters also.

Keep it watered! Although you don't want to overwater clematis, the soil should be consistently moist throughout the growing season and feed monthly with a balanced fertilizer during the growing season.

**"Sprouts and Seeds, Never Mind the Weeds"**  
 An NGC Standard Flower Show  
 Presented by Chinook District of Garden Clubs

Auburn First United Methodist Church  
 100 N St SE Auburn WA 98002  
 May 6, 2026  
 Open 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
 Free - Open to the public





Pruning is very important and depends entirely on the flowering time of the clematis. It varies between hybrids and it helps to think of clematis in groups. Each group has specific pruning requirements:

Cut stems back to the first pair of strong, fat buds in early spring, just as leaves are unfurling. After their great burst of color, they will linger through the season with a few blooms.



Photo: Etsy.com

**Group 1.** (includes *Clematis Montana rubens*) These early blooming clematis initiate flower buds from last season's stems. Just thin out dead and weak branches immediately after bloom (photo above).

**Group 2.** (includes *Clematis lanuginosa* (cultivars 'Ramona' and 'Nelly Moser') Mid-season like June – July. These are the showstoppers with spectacular blooms. Flowers come from last year's stems, so be sure to prune with a light touch.



*Clematis lanuginosa* 'Ramona'

Photo: Bluestone Perennials



Photo: Bluestone Perennials

**Group 3.** (includes *Clematis x jackmanii* [photo above] and ('Ernest Markham')). Late bloomers, flowering in late summer and fall on wood that has just grown out during the current season. Prune these vines heavy every two to three years in late winter, cutting stems back to 12-18 inches above ground.

Once clematis vines are established, they will continue to grow regardless of the care, but to get the outstanding blooms, do give them a little basic attention, and be rewarded with loads of blooms!

—Marva Lee Peterschick,  
WSFGC Horticulture Awards  
Chairman 2025-2027

“A Little Bit of Magic”  
Sequim, November 12, 2025.

The Washington State Judges Council held a flower show at last year's State Board Meeting in Sequim. To my knowledge, this was our first State Design Specialty Flower Show, and it featured all Petite Designs. A Design Specialty Flower Show only displays designs and has no Horticulture Division. Similarly, Horticulture Specialty Flower Shows are an option to hold as well and display only Horticulture and no designs. Maybe we will host one of those next.

A huge **Thank You** to the Olympic Peninsula District members who worked tirelessly on this event. They had all that was needed in place to receive the entries, a beautiful theme-staged show room and willing volunteers! Great job!

It takes a lot of people to prepare for and produce a flower show. Planning begins months beforehand: rooms are reserved, schedules are written and printed, chairmen are procured, the event is publicized, and entrants are signed up. Best of all, once the show opens, it may even look like it was effortless, the illusion of all great social events.

Please enjoy the photos of the winning designs of this special event.

—Linda Maida & Debbie Spiller, Co-Chairmen, WSFGC Co-State Judges Chairmen



Class 6. “Now You See It, Now You Don’t”. 12” Transparency Design, Tory Bennett, Chinook District. Tory won a blue ribbon and the NGC Designers Choice Section Award. Tory used hydrangea and ivy, both dried and achieved a very creative line.



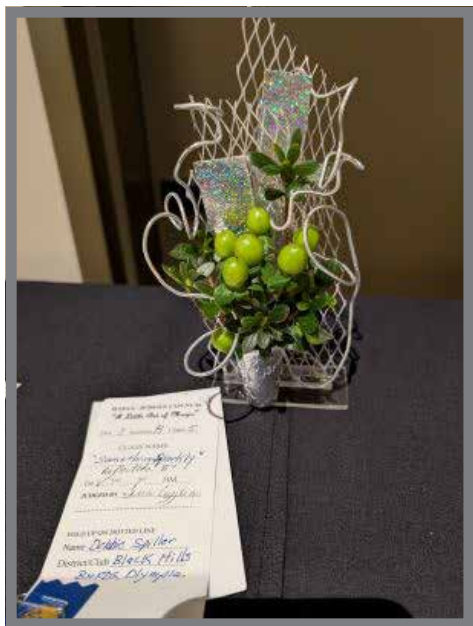
Class 12. "After the Show" 12" Exhibition Table Setting. Debbie Spiller, Black Hills District, won the NGC Table Artistry Award and PP WSFGC Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award. Debbie used dried painted annual poppy seed pods, evergreen honeysuckle and mini carnations in her design. (Photo on left)



Class 2. "Contortionist" 8" Angular Design, JoAnne Sandell, Black Hills District, blue ribbon winner. Her all-dried plant materials included: *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Miscanthus sinensis* and *Viburnum tinus*. (Photo on right)



Class 4. "Center Stage" Sherry Matthews, Hill & Dale District, won a blue ribbon on her design using a 3" hoop provided by show committee. Sherry used a fir twig that had moss and lichen on it and rose hips. (Photo on left)



Class 5. "Something Sparkly" Debbie Spiller, Black Hills District. 8" Reflective Design, blue ribbon winner. Debbie used evergreen azalea foliage and hypericum berries. (Photo on left)

Class 11. "What's in the Hat?" 8" Exhibition Table Setting. A blue ribbon for Jeanine Faulkner, Hill & Dale District. Jeanine used Louie Pine, Boxwood and *Pieris japonica* for her plant materials. (Photo on right)





Class 1. "Master Illusion" 5" Spatial Thrust Design. Kathy Johnson of Hill & Dale District received a red ribbon and the PP WSFGC Recycle Award. Her plant material was *Avena sativa* (common oats). Her recycled items in the design included: Plastic pill bottles, a chap stick lid and plastic straws. (Photo on left.)

Class 10. "Sarzerac" 5" Exhibition Table for cocktails, Sharon McKisick, Black Hills District, blue ribbon winner. A "Sarzerac" is a cocktail from a bygone era. Sharon used Sea Holly and Ting-ting, a rattan product. (Photo on right)



Class 7. "Sleight of Hand" Linda Maida, blue ribbon winner, Hill & Dale District. Linda used dried amaranthus in her creative line design.



Class 8. "Main Event," 8" A Creative Mass Design by Jeanette Pruin, Chinook District, blue ribbon winner. I believe Jeanette used dianthus (mini-carnations), variegated draecena and an unknown petite chrysanthemum variety in her design. (Photo on left)

Class 9." Something Up His Sleeve," Cascade Design, Sharon McKissick, Black Hills District, NGC Tri Color Section Award Winner. Sharon used orchid, sword fern, ivy, and gardenia leaves. (Photo below)



Class 1 "Masterful Illusion". Patty Wheatley, of the Olympic Peninsula District, Port Angeles GC. She received a blue ribbon. She used allium, bamboo, Japanese maple and ground orchid in her all-Dried Design. (Photo above)



Class 3. "Floating Maiden" 12" Horizontal Line Design. Our Show Winner by Diane Franchini, Central District. Diane received the NGC Award of Distinction-all dried section award, the NGC Award of Design Excellence and the PP WSFGC Ellen Swenson Award. Diane used several unique pieces of plant material: *Phoenix dactylifera* 'Date Palm' spathe, *Brachy-chiton populneus* 'Australian Kurrajong' Tree seed pod, *Cladonia rangiferina* (reindeer moss preserved), *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster Grass' (Feather Reed), and blackbeard wheat head.



"Contriving Petite Containers for Design" was Brynn Tavasci's winning Educational Exhibit. She was awarded the NGC Educational Award and the PP WSFGC Carol Klingberg Educational Award. Please notice that the Staging Panel in this display is also "petite" sized, as per NGC rules.

***It was a great show!***

# WSFGC NEWS

## Arbor Day is Coming Soon!

Here's hoping all WSFGC clubs will participate in celebrating Arbor Day this year by planting at least one tree. National Arbor Day is celebrated every year on the last Friday in April; this year that falls on **April 24, 2026**. Washington State celebrates its official, annual, tree-planting day on the second Wednesday in April, this year on **April 8**. However, trees can be planted any day in honor of Arbor Day.

This year's national theme is "Trees Are Terrific...In Cities and Towns!" and it is designed to increase knowledge about the benefits of trees in our communities. Many people plant trees to provide fruit, beauty or shade, but the benefits of trees go far beyond these, especially in cities and towns. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, trees provide these benefits:

"Fighting Climate Change: Climate change is the biggest challenge facing the health of our planet. And while it will take many solutions working together to make a difference, trees are the proven, affordable, natural way that can be implemented quickly to pull carbon dioxide out and return oxygen to the atmosphere today. Every tree planted is a step in the right direction."



Photo by Sarah Koss

White Ash tree in fall foliage at Lake Sacajawea in Longview, WA,

"Taming Stormwater: As urban development reduces tree cover, stormwater runoff increases, carrying pollutants into waterways and degrading the environment. Trees help manage stormwater by absorbing rainfall, filtering pollutants, and reducing erosion, leading to healthier ecosystems and more sustainable urban spaces."

—Sarah Koss, President,  
Kelso Garden Club

## MEMBERSHIP HINTS FOR YOUR CLUB.



At this point in the 21st century, a digital presence needs to include a website and a social media presence such as Facebook or Instagram. This means

another board necessary member who handles this responsibility.

Does your club have a trifold flyer? The content needs to include a contact name and email, meeting location and dates, Facebook or Instagram tag, and the website address for your district. Include your club projects or organizations, the grade schools you support. You can also include the number of educational endeavors and field trips you are taking.

- ◆ Do your club members have club business cards? Cards should include a contact name and email, meeting location and dates, and a website address.
- ◆ Does your club have a website? The **MOST IMPORTANT** thing is

keeping the website current. Ensure that the most up-to-date program is listed as the next event!

- ◆ Does your club have education at most meetings? Include at least one tidbit of education at every/most meetings. Make club meetings so interesting your members don't want to miss one! How about including the horticulture part in every meeting!
- ◆ Does your club have an identifying logo to add to your front pages?

Do you have yard sales, plant sales, flower shows? Share that with the public on your website, your Facebook page or your Instagram page.

Membership recognition is a good way to create loyalty to the club.

Ensure that nothing leaves your club digital presence, without having some identifying information included. Please be sure that all the information added has been proofread by another set of eyes!

—Judy Swartz,

WSFGC Membership Chairman



Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs



**Congratulations!**

LeAnna McMahan was just elected as WSFGC 2nd Vice President at the March 4, 2026 Board Meeting.

LeAnna is a member of the Illahee Garden Club in the Black Hills District.

# MARKETING

## Marketing & Outreach Committee

A new committee has been formed to increase public awareness of our organization and its activities. The Board approved its Policies & Procedures at the meeting in November. The Committee Chairman is Suzann Stahl, with representatives from many of our Districts throughout the state.



**You are all important spokes of the wheel that keeps the WSFGC active and growing!**

The purpose of the new Marketing & Outreach Committee is "to

help grow WSFGC and club visibility and to achieve its mission of a prominent position in the gardening community with increased recognition and revenue." We're dedicated to helping YOU promote, advertise and grow. The Committee is but one spoke of a wheel. It will take all of us to raise the visibility of the WSFGC, its Districts and Clubs and ensure our future. The "to-do" list is long, and the Committee has many projects it will be working on.

The Committee meets on Zoom on the last Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Any WSFGC member is welcome. If you're interested just let Suzann Stahl know and she'll send you the link (suzannstahl1@gmail.com).

Updates:

- A Facebook group has been developed that allows content contributions from followers. The FB group is WA Garden Clubs. WSFGC members and followers have been actively posting pictures, event announcements and more. If you use

Facebook and would like notification of postings, go to the FB group page and "follow." Join the fun, stay informed!

- To help the public reach the WSFGC website more directly, Chris Hill developed a QR code. When it is added to your printed publications, websites and Facebook pages, the user will be guided directly to [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com). Finding information about your clubs, events, and more will be much easier. It's available for copying and pasting from the WSFGC website on the home page at the very bottom. Let her know if you need help.
- A statewide brochure about our organization and all it has to offer will soon be available in print. Each club and district will receive an initial bundle, which you can share at your public events this summer. It will "drive" people to the WSFGC website, but clubs and districts are encouraged to enclose their own specific information sheet, business card or event flyers.

**Looking for input from our members!** WSFGC Website Editor Chris Hill has recommended that Marketing & Outreach Committee invite members from throughout the state to participate in a Tagline Contest! Since our Mission statement is a bit long, the Committee would like to have a tagline to accompany our logo in printed publications, media, etc. To enter the contest:

**You can enter as an individual, club or district. Submit your three-to-five-word tagline entry by mail to Chris Hill before May 15, 2026.** There is a prize being donated by our President, Dorrie Carr, and the winner will be announced at the



Awards Ceremony during the 2026 Convention. Dorrie offered a “Free Book Library” (like a small, protected box one would see on a post in a neighborhood to exchange books) or it could maybe be a seed swap. The winner of the tagline has options. Think of it also as a semi-permanent advertisement for your club or district!

**Update your club and district listing on the National Garden Clubs website:**

The National Garden Clubs and Districts listing is sorely out of date on their website. So, if anyone goes to the NGC website they will find only a few clubs. Would it be possible for the Directors to update these listings? Follow this link for easy editing (<https://gardenclub.org/club-locator/washington-state-federation-garden-clubs-olympia-wa>).

**Marketing and Outreach Dates to Remember:**

April 27, May 25, June 29: Marketing & Outreach Committee meetings on Zoom. Contact Suzann Stahl for the link. All members are welcome  
 April 29-30: Symposium, registration info at [wagardenclubs.com/symposiums](http://wagardenclubs.com/symposiums)

May 1: Deadline for your WSFGC Garden entry. Send to Chris Hill  
 June 9-11: WSFGC Annual Convention, Leavenworth, WA (information in this issue)

**ENDOWMENT FUNDS NEWS**

Your Endowment Funds are building new friendships. Once a year, the Endowment Fund Committee makes charitable contributions to public Washington arboretums/public and botanical gardens or other non-profit organizations with a conservation or environmental focus – up to \$5,000.00 each year after all other financial commitments have been met by the Endowment Fund. Entities

must have 501(c)3 status. These are the recipients of the 2025 Charitable Distributions and first group of new Honorary Members of the WSFGC:

- Dunn Gardens ([dunngardens.org](http://dunngardens.org))
- Lakewold Gardens, Lakewood, Washington ([lakewoldgardens.org](http://lakewoldgardens.org))
- Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, Washington ([parkstacoma.gov](http://parkstacoma.gov))
- Bellevue Botanical Gardens, Bellevue, Washington ([bellevuebotanical.org](http://bellevuebotanical.org))
- Sehome Hill Arboretum, Bellingham, Washington ([cob.org](http://cob.org))

A \$1,000 check was presented in person to each organization. They also received a listing of benefits their organization will receive as an Honorary Member for one year. After one year, they will be invited to purchase an Affiliate Membership.

To our members in clubs and districts – if these gardens are local for you, **we encourage you to become acquainted with them** and begin to build relationships. These partners could be new members for your club, visitors at your flower show or purchasing attendees at your plant sales. The opportunities are endless! For example, the WSFGC has already received an invitation to participate in the Point Defiance Park Festival in June! It will be a valuable opportunity to connect with hundreds of other gardeners.

Also, members are invited to refer a potential donation recipient (park, garden, arboretum) to the Endowment Committee for the year ending June 26, 2026. Donation request forms are available on the website. Once completed, it should be submitted to Suzann no later than May 1, 2026, for consideration by the Endowment Committee.

—Suzann Stahl, Chairman Marketing & Outreach Committee

# DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS

The Olympia Garden Club (OGC) has had a wonderful time learning from our recent programs. President of the Pacific Northwest Peony Society, Steve Smith, spoke at our October meeting, kindly gifting the club two beautiful peonies to gift to members at our Christmas luncheon. He shared the many do's and don'ts for successfully planting and growing peonies, gathered from his vast knowledge in growing over 170 varieties in his 1/4-acre garden.



(Photo on right) Club members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon to celebrate the holidays. Members enjoyed an abbreviated program focused on horticulture and



birds. Debbie Spiller and Jackie McCoy made "Christmas crackers" for each table setting and conducted the great giveaway of wonderful prizes to those with the winning numbers found within those crackers. (Photos above.) Every member also received growing kits that were donated to us by Lowes Home Improvement.

Photos by Sharon McKissick



Our club recently accepted the Gerry L. Alexander Award for Outstanding

Achievement in Heritage from the Olympia Historical Society in honor of OGC's 100th Anniversary. (Photo on left)

Several club members attended the ceremony and had the opportunity to view the Bigelow House, a beautiful historic home in the city of Olympia.

In January, our club historian, Laura Little, was honored with an award from the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs for the 24/25 OGC Yearbook.

The club also took the opportunity to recognize Laura for her



hard work putting together the latest OGC Scrapbook by presenting her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedicated effort. (Photo above)

Our club is looking forward to many more exciting programs in the coming months.

—Tara Keen, President,  
Olympia Garden Club





The **Enumclaw Garden Club** held its 61st annual *Breakfast for the Birds* on February 18. This year's theme, "**Celebrating the Pollinator Parade,**" set a lively and colorful tone for the event. Guest speaker Lisa Taylor delighted attendees by sharing her humor and expertise, inspiring everyone to create their own backyard pollinator paradise.

Thanks to the generous support of our community and the dedicated



Hat Parade Winners

efforts of our members, we were able to offer more than 60 items in our raffle and silent auction. A 50/50 raffle added to the excitement, with the lucky winner taking home \$830. The plant sale was once again a highlight, featuring more than 125 plants to choose from. Participants in the hat parade fully embraced the pollinator theme, buzzing with creativity and enthusiasm. Breakfast was provided by Darci Anderson of Hanny's Homestyle Catering.

The event raised more than \$3,500, which will be used to support youth conservation projects in both the Chinook District and the Enumclaw community. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this event. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

—Marilyn Cooper,  
Enumclaw Garden Club

## Hill & Dale District of Garden Clubs

# PLANT SALE



plus  
YARD  
ART

**Vegetables, Annuals,  
Perennials, Houseplants**

**SATURDAY APRIL 25 8-3**



**UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**1919 West Pioneer  
Puyallup**

# DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS

Photos by Roberta Cunningham Hoskins

## Meet the “Sunshine & Rain Garden Club”



Sunshine & Rain club president Roberta Cunningham Hoskins (right) with Jayme Williams. Vivian Moore and Paul Becker are in the background.

The Hill & Dale District of Garden Clubs has been working to grow membership, and we are thrilled that within the district, two new garden clubs have been established. The Grit City Club (Tacoma, WA) is pretty unique among garden clubs, in that currently, 70 percent of the club members are male! We hope that they will pave the way for additional men to join other clubs in the future. The other new club – named “Sunshine & Rain” – met for their sixth time yesterday, with two new prospective members in attendance. This club meets at the Evergreen Church in Graham, WA, a beautiful spot with a stunning view of Mt. Rainier.

Sunshine & Rain club members are off to a great start. Club President Roberta Cunningham Hoskins (on right) is a bubbly, outgoing, optimistic, ball of energy, and she brings great organizational skills and good ideas to the club. Secretary/Treasurer Janey Zetterstrom is doing a stellar job keeping minutes and setting the club up on a solid financial footing. The members have developed a close-knit sense of community amongst themselves in a very short period of time and you can see the strength of their bonds when they are together.

Member Vivian Moore was instrumental in helping to secure the meeting place. Vivian and her husband have been members and volunteers at

the church for many years and when we approached the church to explore using the facility as a meeting place, Vivian was incredibly supportive. Although we did not know it at the time, the church has a fantastic community garden, and Vivian is the garden coordinator! The garden has 30 raised beds, built years ago as an Eagle Scout project, and is surrounded by a tall fence to keep out the deer. Water and access to tools provides community gardeners almost everything they need to get started.

The club truly lives up to its name,



Sunshine & Rain members from left to right: Vivian Moore, Amber Branchini, Janey Zetterstrom, Carol Bower, Susan Becker, Jayme Williams, and Debbie Sherer.

as well. Following their morning meeting on March 11, members were not deterred from going outdoors to clean out and prepare two of the raised beds for the club’s garden project. Keep in mind that outdoor temperatures hovered near 40 F, with winds gusting 20-25 miles per hour, making it feel much colder. Not to mention that it was raining, with the wind blowing the rain near sideways at times! The spirit of camaraderie, adventure, and can-do attitude these club members demonstrated is inspiring and there is no doubt that this club will do great things for the district and gardeners everywhere in the future.

—Mary McBride, President, Root and Bloom Garden Club



## VISION OF BEAUTY

**YOU ! are invited to send photos and entry forms to the VOB CALENDAR Chairman by August 15.** All types of designs are requested: Traditional, Contemporary, Botanical Artists Crafts, New Trends and those appropriate for seasons of the year and holidays. Photos of a small area of your garden are encouraged. This year we will accept photos and entry forms for a Horticulture Display. A display is defined as a collection of specimens exhibited with a strong overall artistic effect. Refer to page 60 of the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows* for full description.

**REQUIREMENTS to enter a picture for the VOB CALENDAR.** A completed entry form TYPED with complete email, mailing address, and garden club membership. NO handwritten entries PLEASE!

**A 5" x 7" print and a digital JPEG image is sent to the Chairman at [vob@gardenclub.org](mailto:vob@gardenclub.org).**

Designs must be photographed in front of a blank, seamless background

free of wrinkles, patterns and creases between background and underlay. Do not include pictures with flower show ribbons or entry cards. All entries will be judged by the same criteria used to judge National Garden Club, Inc. Flower Show Designs. All decisions of the judges are final. Please see the judging criteria found in the recent edition of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*. Once submitted, photos become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Notification will be given if the entry is used. No entries will be returned. NGC is not responsible for any lost, late, delayed, or misdirected entries. Entries that do not comply with these guidelines cannot be considered.

### Official Entry Form

The official Entry Form can be found on the NGC Website. When you sign in, go to the Forms Library, and scroll down to the bottom of the list.

—Nancy Voyles, Chairman,

Vision of Beauty, [nvoyles62@aol.com](mailto:nvoyles62@aol.com)

**The Pine Lake Garden Club Yearly**  
**Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm  
 In the Sammamish Presbyterian Church parking lot  
 22522 NE Inglewood Hill Rd, Sammamish

A wonderful variety of perennials, biennials and unusual plants.  
 Most plants are grown with care from our members' gardens.

Check out our new Treasure Table — Quality garden art & décor perfect for Mother's Day!

Knowledgeable gardeners available to answer your questions.

**Beautiful plants at beautiful prices!**

For more information please go to [www.pinelakegardenclub.org](http://www.pinelakegardenclub.org)



## **“Red, White, & Bloom, America”**

**An NGC Standard Flower Show  
Presented by  
Washington State  
Federation of Garden Clubs**

**August 22, 2026, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
August 23, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Free and open to the public**

**Bellevue Botanical Garden  
12001 Main St.**

**Bellevue, Washington 98005**

*“The Bellevue Botanical Garden is 53 acres of cultivated gardens, restored woodlands, and natural wetlands. The living collections showcase more than 3,000 varieties of plants that thrive in the Pacific Northwest. As you explore the Garden, you’ll discover what makes our region unique, ideas for working with the landscape to create your own beautiful garden, and ways to be responsible stewards of the Pacific Northwest environment.” -bellevuewa.gov*

*For more information go to:  
Bellevue Botanical Garden website, [https://  
bellevuebotanical.org/](https://bellevuebotanical.org/)*

*Plan to attend with your friends and family.*

*Enter the flower show!  
The schedule is on the state website:  
[www.wagardenclubs.org](http://www.wagardenclubs.org)*

*WSFGC is a member of  
Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Pacific Region of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

## Quail

There are six native species of quail found in North America. Bobwhite Quail, Gambel's Quail, Scaled Quail, Mearns Quail, California Quail and Mountain Quail. Similar in size, quail species throughout the United States differ greatly in preferred habitat conditions.

Bobwhite Quail has the largest range of non-migratory upland birds in America. The most common species of quail, the Bobwhite is often referred to as the #1 game bird of the eastern and southern United States. The name bobwhite derives from the characteristic whistling call. Males have a white throat and brown strip bordered by black compared to brown colored females.

Gambel's Quail are also known as the Desert Quail. Located in the dry regions of the southwestern United States. Easily recognized by their top knots and scaly plumage on their undersides. They have gray plumage on their bodies and males have copper feathers on the top of their heads, black faces and white stripes above their eyes. (Photo below)



Photo: Elroy Limmer ([audubon.org](http://audubon.org))

Scaled Quail are commonly called Blue Quail. They are known for their blue-scaled appearance. The birds are easily identified by their white crest

that resembles a tuft of cotton.

Mearns Quail are also known as the Montezuma Quail. The smallest range in the United States. The Mearns Quail are found in New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico. The birds live in the mountain areas populated with oak and juniper trees as well as grass lands. The unique coloration of feathers aids in their means of camouflage.

California Quail are also known as Valley Quail. The birds have a curving crest made of six feathers that droop forward. Black in males and brown in females. The flanks are brown with white streaks.

Mountain Quail are the largest species found in the United States. Mountain Quail possess a unique characteristic of two straight feathers that arch over the back. Easily recognized by their top knots, shorter in the females. Brown face and heavily white-barred undersides. Mountain Quail are found in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and parts of Nevada.

Quail are typically found in small flocks known as "coveys." In late spring and early summer, coveys begin to break up as paired bonds form between individual males and females prior to the breeding season. Quail spend most of their lives in a relatively small area with groups of eight to twenty-five birds. Flight speed is 30 to 40 mph. Quail usually forage for food twice a day, early morning and mid to late afternoon. Quail eat a variety of foods including seeds, leaves, berries, waste grain and insects. Young Quail feed heavily on insects, gradually shifting to a greater proportion of seeds as they near adult size. Nest initiation happens in early summer. The length of incubation is 23-25 days, and the average first hatch is

# BIRDS

the end of June. Brood per year is one to two. The average rate of chick survival is 40 to 50 percent. The major nest predators are raccoons, opossums, snakes and skunks. The major adult quail predators are humans, hawks, foxes and owls. The average life span of quail is less than one year. On average 70 to 80 percent of the nation's quail population is lost each year. This huge mortality rate is off set by the large broods of wild quail.

Washington State has two Quail species. The common California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) (pictured below) which is also known as the California Valley Quail and the rarer Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*).



Photo: Rick Derevan  
([audubon.org](http://audubon.org))

forward-curving head plume-black in males and brown in females. Quail are ground dwelling birds. Valley Quail are more slender than other quail. Their length is 9 to 11 inches. Light breast with scaled pattering, white streaks along brown sides and black and gray scaling on the nape of the neck. The female has a tan head with a small feather plume. The male has a bold black face outlined in white with a brown crown and pendulous feather plume hanging forward from his forehead. The quail are known for the "chi-ca-go" call. The birds are found on the edge habitat with food producing plants and shrubs for cover, brush thickets, near streams, farm lands

and urban parks. Predominantly ground dwellers but the male spends much of the time off the ground in bushes, trees and man-made structures especially when calling. Their diet consists mainly of seeds, especially those from legumes but they also eat leaves, fresh shoots, berries, acorns and insects. They build their nests under shrubs, brush piles or next to logs where they find cover. The birds build a shallow depression lined with grasses and leaves. Females lay and incubate a clutch of 10 to 16 eggs. The young are able to walk about and feed themselves almost immediately after hatching. Both parents tend to the chicks, the female brooding them at night and in cold weather. The male acts as a sentry, watching out for danger. Valley Quail were introduced to Washington from the Southwestern United States. The quail have adapted well to encroaching human population and are often found in wooded suburbs and city parks.

Valley Quail are the more abundant of the two quail species in Washington. The birds are found on both sides of the Cascades although the largest population is found in Eastern Washington. The quail are found in the Puget Trough to the Willamette Valley, in the San Juan Islands and on the Olympic Peninsula. In Eastern Washington the birds are found in most areas with water below the lower tree line. In the Blue Mountains the species is expanding up creek and river valleys. The quail are absent from the vast tracks of dry wheat and from the moist river valleys in the Northeast corner of the state.

Mountain Quail have been introduced in areas along the Puget Trough, the eastern Cascades, the Wenatchee Mountains and in the southwest as far east as Vancouver. A



chunky, ground dwelling bird with a short tail, grayish brown in color with bold white bars on its side, rufous undertail coverts and a brown throat patch bordered with white. Males and females appear similar but females are duller. They are 10 1/2 - 11 1/2 inches in length. Both quail have a long straight feather plume rising atop their heads. Their habitat is dense cover with scattered open areas on slopes in foothills and mountains. The birds use the dense thickets resulting from fires or clearcuts and are seldom found far from this cover. Scotch



Photo: Robert L. Kothenbeutel ([audubon.org](http://audubon.org))

among leaf litter, use their feet to dig for bulbs, climb in shrubs and trees to pick berries and leaves and jump up on low plants to reach berries and seeds. Mountain Quail nest on

broom thickets and alder thickets along streams provide ideal cover. Mountain Quail have a variety of foraging techniques. The birds pick up items from the ground, scratching

the ground in dense cover in shallow depressions lined with needles, leaves and feathers. Females lay 9 to 10 eggs and both parents incubate the eggs. Shortly after hatching, the young leave the nest. Both parents tend and actively defend the young. The parents lead the chicks to food sources where they feed themselves. Mountain Quail regularly migrate short distances on foot, descending to lower elevations in the winter. The birds return in the spring singly or in pairs. This migration pattern could allow the birds to exploit higher elevations than other quail. Mountain Quail are the most elusive quail in Washington. On the east side the quail are found in Yakima, Grant, Douglas and Okanogan counties. On the west side the quail are in the Cascades and Olympic Peninsula. The birds are secretive and stay close to dense cover usually associated with streams. Loss of habitat to development, intensive agriculture and over grazing is a major threat to the Mountain Quail in Washington. The population in the Blue Mountains and near the Washington/Oregon border may be native population but other Mountain Quail in the State have been introduced.

Advertise your next district or club event in your magazine, *Washington Garden and Design*. Download information from [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com) or from your *WSFGC Program and Meeting Guide*. Half-page advertisements in *WG&D* for Clubs and Districts are now **FREE**.

# BLUE STAR MEMORIAL NEWS

## Des Moines Memorial Drive is Now a Blue Star Memorial Highway

February 16, President's Day 2026 was the day of the Blue Star Memorial Marker dedication on the corner of 216th and Veteran's Memorial Drive. The day began with a few snow flurries, a cold breeze, along with the sound and view of passenger jets taking off every 30 seconds.

The Des Moines Garden Club members gathered along with WSFGC President Dorrie Carr, Dedication Chairman and co-president of Des Moines GC Christine Dillinger, along with Judy Swartz all of whom spoke to those present. The mayor and deputy mayor of Des Moines were in attendance along with a representative of the King County Council.

This historic corner of Veteran's Memorial Drive is now part of the National Blue Star Memorial Highway system. Dorrie Carr read a resolution to be placed in the club minutes, and it was presented to the City of Des Moines. Des Moines GC has a by-way

marker on the downtown waterfront as well. Thanks to the Des Moines GC, the City of Des Moines is a patron of the Veterans of the United States.

The caretakers of the WWI Veteran's Memorial Drive represented all veterans and performed the flag ceremony for the event. Along this eight-mile *Road of Remembrance*, there are historic markers placed flat on the way naming those lost during WWI. This area is truly dedicated to those who have served in the military and honors those who lost their lives, a nationwide legacy of the National Garden Club.

A luncheon reception hosted by Des Moines GC was held at Wesley Homes. Jeanette Pruin, Des Moines GC member and former state president, was there to greet everyone.

—Judy Swartz,

Chairman, Blue Star Memorial



Blue Star Marker with angel wing wreath lain at the foot of the marker. Photo: Carrie-Aselin



Judy Swartz, WSFGC Blue Star Marker Chairman

Photo by Chris Plyman



Former President Jeanette Pruin and President of WSFGC Dorrie Carr; Photo: Judy Swartz



Officials in front of the marker (l-r Chuck Rangel (American Legion), Christine Dillinger (Des Moines GC), Judy Swartz (WSFGC Blue Star Memorial Chairman), Dorrie Carr (WSFGC President), Gene Achziger (American Legion), Stephanie Fain (King County Council), and Yoshiko Grace Matsui (City of Des Moines Mayor). Photo: Chris Plyman



## America 250 Celebration

There are just over 1,300 words in the Declaration of Independence. This document is the basic foundation that created our nation and has withstood the test of time with American ideals of democracy, liberty and freedom. This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. As a reflection of our birth, and growth of the past, one can also see this as a call to action to stand up to honor, preserve and protect the great nation for our future.

Many garden clubs and districts have placed Memorial Markers near roadways, highways, parks, etc. to honor our military. The Blue Star Memorial Marker honors all men and women who have raised their hand and swore to protect and serve, or have served, in the United States Armed Forces. Through our growth as a nation, we have had many brave military men and women give their lives so we may enjoy the freedom promised to us by the Declaration. The Gold Star Highway Markers stand to honor those who gave all and serve

as a remembrance for families of the US Armed Forces who have lost a loved one.

The Bogachiel Garden Club would like to challenge all garden clubs or districts to show your patriotism

during the America 250 initiative, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and culminating on July 4, 2026, to provide a wreath on or near any Blue Star or Gold Star Memorial Highway Marker, for Memorial Day and the 4th of July, and Veterans Day!

In addition, if your club or district does not have a Memorial Highway Marker, we challenge all to place one in an appropriate space for all travelers to see. Please don't forget the call from NGC to plant red, white and blue flowers to grow at the base of these markers to celebrate this anniversary. It is a lovely idea and shows just a glimpse of everything a Garden Club does.

The Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker (on left) was placed years ago by the Olympic Peninsula District of Garden Clubs in Cooperation with the City of Forks, and the Bogachiel Garden Club.

The Gold Star Memorial Highway Marker was sponsored by the Bogachiel Garden Club in cooperation with the City of Forks.

Both Markers are located at Clallam Transit located at 551/553 S Forks Avenue in Forks, Washington.

—Janet Hughes,  
President,  
Bogachiel Garden Club





Greater Seattle District, WSFGC  
Presents

## **"It's a Wild World After All"**

**October 1, 2026**

Donation: \$30.00  
Doors open at 11:00

**Watch 10 NGC designers create amazing designs  
with sculptures and materials presented to them minutes before they  
begin! Go home with a finished design & sculpture from the auction!  
Don't forget we also have design items for sale!**

Let them compete for the coveted title of  
**Designer of The Day!!**

**Everyone in attendance gets one vote!  
Join Us for a day of design, food and friendship.  
There will be lots of fun, laughs and education all rolled into one...  
(Relax, enjoy a glass of wine and a delicious lunch.)**

Tickets available from  
Carolyn Erickson  
Carolynerickson1@comcast.net  
206-949-2854

Location: The Cove  
1500 SW Shorebrook Drive  
Normandy Park, WA 98166

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

## Firewise Communities

Firewise Communities is the special project of Pacific Region of Garden Clubs Director, Tanja Swanson. Firewise Communities is a national program sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, whose goal is to encourage property owners to undertake fire prevention measures to protect their property, whether home or business. Washington currently has 155 Firewise communities, the majority of which are neighborhoods. Firewise communities in Washington is currently the purview of the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Homes may not have to be in the path of a fire to be vulnerable. Most wildfire damage to homes is caused by firebrands (sparks or embers). Our speaker at the recent WSFGC Board meeting, Jesse Duvall, from WA DNR told us of a fire in Oregon that jumped the Columbia River and ignited fires in Washington. Embers can be carried by winds over one mile!

How do we protect our homes? One way is by our plant choices. Things to consider are: high moisture content in leaves; little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation; open branching habits to provide less fuel; fewer total branches and leaves; slow growing; non-resinous plant materials. Oily or waxy plants like junipers, pines, spruces and firs are resinous and can be highly flammable. Fire tends to burn downhill, so if a home is on a slope, shrubs and small conifers should not be spaced close to each other. The distance between them should increase as the slope steepens.

According to *Fire-Resistant Plants for Eastern Washington*, which is very applicable to Western Washington, fire-resistant plants (note: no plants are fireproof) are: low growing; have herbaceous plant parts, an open configuration; high moisture content/succulent parts; water-like sap; broad leaves; low accumulation of dead materials and tight bark. As gardeners, we can spread the word about safer gardening practices in relation to fire resistance and practice them ourselves. To get a confidential assessment of your personal fire risk, contact <https://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov/> - Wildfire Ready Neighbor Sign up Page to receive a home visit from a wildland fire professional.



Zone by Zone Defensible Space  
Source: DNR

# IN MEMORIAM



*Mary Dahlgren* was a joyful member of the Hill 'n Dale Garden and the Avant Designers Clubs of East Lake Washington District. She was a generous caring exacting woman who served in many capacities for the district. Mary also served as the ELWD Membership Chair. She knew everyone!

Mary shared her talents with the WSFGC. She served in many capacities. They include being the Directory Editor 2007-09, Program Guide Chairman 2007-09, Treasurer 2009-11. She served as Civic Beautification Chairman, as Illustrated Lectures Chairman and was a member of the Policy and Procedure Committee. After years of being a Master Flower Show Judge, where she encouraged every student judge, she became an Emeritus Master Flower Show Judge and Emeritus Landscape Design Consultant.

She was honored as a WSFGC Life Member. Everywhere Mary Dahlgren went, she greeted people with a smile.

She was the epitome garden club member. This helpful, talented, generous, kind and caring woman will be remembered and always missed by garden club associates state-wide.



This is a tribute to my mom, *Lois York*. It is made up of comments from people who knew her and me.

My mother was a member of O'Brien Garden club since 1962. She passed away January 31st of this year. She had been club President many times. She loved her garden; never met a plant she didn't want to have.

Lois, along with Ann Kinsley, played an integral role in starting Chinook District 'Flower Gals' horticulture group. She brought in seeds and plants to teach us about her favorite plants. She especially loved Orchids, *Brugmansia* and Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*).

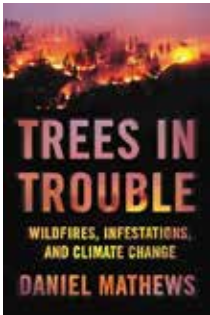
She hosted the O'Brien Club plant sale for many years in her garden; her greenhouse was overflowing with healthy plant starts including the many starts of tomatoes that O'Brien Club members had propagated.

We've lost a key member of our gardening community and a cherished mentor. We plan to have a service at the Tahoma National Cemetery in spring when the weather is better. If you wish to honor her in some way, please donate to the WSFGC scholarship fund. I'm sure she would be very happy to know that she was leaving young gardeners as a legacy.

—Susan Nash, WSFGC Treasurer



# BOOK REVIEWS



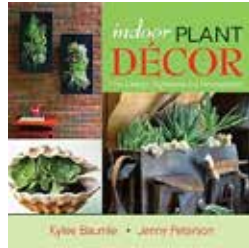
**Trees in Trouble  
Wildfires, Infestations, and Climate Change**  
Daniel Matthews  
2020 Counterpoint Press  
\$26.00 Hardbound

Pine trees are in trouble in the North American West. This author brings you to the aromatic smell that we all know, then discusses the growing habits of the multiple species of pine. He takes us to other experts to tell the tree ring and fire history with examples of the kinds of beetles that come too. Very informative information that brings up many questions on what people can do to help.



**Deerproofing Your Yard & Garden**  
Rhonda Massingham Hart  
2005 Storey Publishing  
\$14.95 Softbound

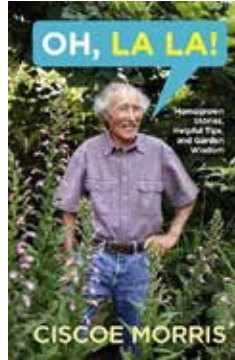
Do you have deer browsing your garden or farm? The author provides a group of strategies that work most of the time to help you live with your visiting deer, elk or moose. It helps for you to try to understand why deer are ravaging the growth around your home, their food needs by season. Then try different garden designs with certain plants to repel and other plants that tempt, deterrents, and fences. Deer mostly follow the same path to your garden.



**Indoor Plant Decor  
The Design Stylebook for Houseplants**  
Kylie Baumie and Jenny Peterson  
2013 St. Lynn's Press

\$16.95 hardbound

What's your decor style and how can you incorporate houseplants. The authors are trying to inspire us to create green interiors that are stylish and have health benefits. They have provided picture examples of multiple styles...is one yours? Plants have personalities that you will get to know their characteristics. Start with something simple and get growing.



**OH, LA LA!  
Homegrown Stories, Helpful Tips, and Garden Wisdom**  
Ciscoe Morris  
2020 Sasquatch Books  
\$19.95 Paperback

This area loves to hear Ciscoe at our garden events. He is such an entertaining fellow, and his book is just like him. It is about fifty experiences that only he, the great storyteller, can tell us how gardening can be so much fun. Enjoy learning great tips on pruning pines or how to grow potatoes in an old waste can or stories of his life. A good read with laughter that makes you feel good.

# WASHINGTON Garden & Design

## FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Garden Club Members!

Welcome to Spring! It has indeed arrived. It doesn't seem long ago while out driving around the buds on several deciduous plum trees were about to burst open. And before I knew it, the flowering cherries were in full bloom. It is such a pleasure to take in all that new beginning.

Of course, with spring comes work, gardening work that is. Beds need to be cleared of weeds, and last year's winter dieback taken away (I don't clean much in winter—I tell myself it's for the birds). Shrubs need to be pruned (but make sure you wait until after their flowering period has concluded) and dead branches removed from trees. But don't rush, remember it is still early and the soil is still cold, although a warm afternoon can fool us into planting too early. However, go ahead and tidy some paths, add some mulch where it has thinned, and get your containers ready for planting.

After reading about all those new plants in the gardening magazines during the winter break, I'm excited to see if any of our local nurseries have them for sale. If not, there is always the option of ordering from online sources. If you do find a new favorite at the nursery (or discover a great online source), consider sharing it with your club—either by bringing a photo, a cutting (when appropriate), or simply a quick description of what you're trying and why. It's one of the best parts of belonging to a garden club: we learn from one another, and we get inspired to try something new. And when Flower Show time arrives, that shared enthusiasm is what makes our exhibits so enjoyable for the public.

Here's to a season of fresh growth, good gardening days, and plenty to talk about when we gather again!

Veronika Dunnam  
Managing Editor

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[www.wagardenclubs.com](http://www.wagardenclubs.com)



# EVENTS

- April 17 **Black Hills District Meeting and NGC Flower Show “Under the Sea,”** open to public 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thurston County Fairgrounds, Sokolik Bldg., 3054 Carpenter Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503
- April 29-30 **Symposium 2026,** Indian Summer Golf Course, 9500 Troon Lane SE, Olympia, WA
- April 25 **Hill & Dale District Plant Sale**
- May 2 **Kelso GC Plant Sale,** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 2715 Northlake Ave., Longview, WA
- May 4-6 **Garden Clubs 2026 National Convention,** St. Louis, MO, “Meet Me in St. Louis, Where the River Bends and The Arch Reaches the Sky!” (see [gardenclub.org/events/2026-national-convention](https://gardenclub.org/events/2026-national-convention) for details)
- May 26 **Hill & Dale District NGC Flower Show & District Meeting**
- June 8-11 **WSFGC Annual Convention, “Alpine Mysteries”** Icicle Village Resort, 505 Highway 2, Leavenworth, WA
- July 22-25 **Cowlitz County Fair, “American Made/County Raised”**
- Jul 30-Aug 2 **Thurston County Fair,** Lacey, WA
- Aug 13-16 **Pierce County Fair,** Puyallup, WA
- August 21-23 **2026 WSFGC Flower Show, Bellevue Botanical Gardens,** Flower Show Theme: “Red, White & Blue;” celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the USA! Program details pending.
- Sep. 12 **Kelso Highlander Festival** with Kelso GC Flower Show, Tam O’Shanter Park, Kelso, WA
- October 12-14 **Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. 2026 Convention,** Palm Garden Hotel, Thousand Oaks, CA. Hosted by the California Garden Clubs, Inc. Contact: Robin Pokorski Email: [cgcirobin@gmail.com](mailto:cgcirobin@gmail.com)



BY LANA FINEGOLD (OLD AS MOLD)

# POETRY CORNER

**OH, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN!**


Fell again yesterday,  
Balance issues on display.  
Dining room was the place,  
Didn't suffer too much grace.

Chair tipped over, one box fell,  
No great pain, no story to tell.

Took a while, I'm not buff,  
Must remember I'm enough.

Al came in to lend a hand,  
Took my time to rise and stand.  
Must be careful in the future,  
So I do not need a suture.

**Black Hills Flower Designers**  
and  
**Friendly Neighbors Garden Club**  
PRESENT  
**"UNDER the SEA"**



**A NGC Standard Flower Show**  
April 17, 2026 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Open to the Public - Free Admission  
Thurston County Fairgrounds  
Sokolik Building  
3054 Carpenter Rd SE, Lacey WA 98503



# BOARD MEETING



## WSFGC 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Status as of 1/1/2026 - More details will be announced

Mark your Calendar and plan to join in the FUN!

<u>2026</u>			
June 8-11 Convention	Leavenworth, WA	Icicle Resort	See pages 6-10
Fall	Date and Location TBD		



## 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.

### Summer Deadline: June 1

All electronic articles should be e-mailed to  
 Managing Editor  
 Veronika Dunnam,  
*vdunnam1950@gmail.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