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PROMOTING...

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President's Desk

Dear Members,

It is summer according to the calendar. We need rain and I hope the deluge we have been having will help protect us from the wildfires the state has endured the past years. Now it is time to really enjoy the outdoors. I cannot wait to put the cushions on our deck chairs and enjoy the bucolic view we have of the west side of Whidbey Island and Vancouver Island.

Recently I attended the Pacific Region Convention in Las Vegas NV and National Garden Club Convention in Orlando FL. What an inspiration with all the positive energy. Below is a picture of me modeling the coat that Brynn Tavasci made for me out of destuffed toy animals. It was gorgeous. She even lined it. I was a shield maiden. Only Brynn could make something so unique out of recycled items.

We are trying extremely hard to reconnect with each other. NGC has really upped their game with their website. They have included a tremendous amount of information in the Members Resources Section. One of the best parts is the Video Café. NGC also has videos on YouTube.

The WSFGC Fall Board Meeting will be in Ellensburg on August 22 to 23 at the Windrow Hotel. We will be together again. I have very much enjoyed the visits I have made to different districts. If you would like me to attend one of your club or district meetings, email Julie Darby, *kungfujulie@comcast.net.*

I hope by the time you read this, much of the *WSFGC 2021-2023 Directory* will be on WSFGC's website in the Member Resources Section. Contact any board person for the private password for this "Members Only" section. See you soon.

Photos by David Sullivan

At Pacific Region Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

–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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JUL AUG SEP
Volume 48, Number 1

On the Cover

Photo and information from The Magnolia Company at *themagnoliacompany.com.*

Three benefits of Southern Magnolia Trees that are important are as follows:

Flowers & Greenery
Seeing the Fragrant White Flowers laying on the verdant green branches is a sure sign that spring has arrived and summer is near.

Wildlife Refuge
The beautiful white magnolia flowers are pollinated by honey bees, butterflies and many types of night loving beetles!

Container Plant
Southern Magnolias can make great container plants for the front or back porch.

WSFGC Awards: 2021
Terry Critchlow, Awards Chairman

Congratulations to all the winners and to all who participated in the 2021 award year. The winners of the WSFGC, PRGC, and NGC awards were presented at the WSFGC visual/ZOOM meeting held by President Anne Sullivan on June 13. As garden clubs and districts once again become more active in their communities, the number of applicants increased as well as the quality of the projects. WSFGC clubs and districts did well competing with clubs from all around the region as well as at the National level. (Note: CAL refers to Clubs At Large.)

ARBOR DAY: Kelso GC, CAL.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENHANCEMENT:

Community Garden: Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

Permanent Community Improvement: Seattle Civic GC, Greater Seattle District.

Veteran's Housing: Hill & Dale District.

Food Bank Donations: Maple Trails GC, Chinook District and Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL.

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION: Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL.

COMMUNITY PROJECT WITH NATIVE PLANTS/WILDFLOWERS: 1st, Seattle Civic GC, Greater Seattle District; 2nd, Evergreen GC, Cross Sound District.

BLUE STAR MARKER LANDSCAPING: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District; 2nd, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

GARDEN CLUB GROWING PROJECT: 1st, Root & Bloom GC, Hill and Dale District for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Cactus: *Schlumbergera truncate, Schlumbergera x buckleyi, Cacaceae gaertneri.*

LANDSCAPE: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District. Awarded the Washington Consultants Council award of $25.

THERAPY GARDENS FORMERLY GARDEN THERAPY: 1st, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

HORTICULTURE ESSAY AWARD: Cindy Swanberg, Root & Bloom GC, Hill & Dale District, for *My New Old Garden.*

WSFGC HONOR CLUBS: 1st, Root & Bloom GC, Hill & Dale District; 2nd, Des Moines GC, Chinook District; 3rd, Glove & Trowel GC, Hill & Dale District.

SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE: 1st, Root & Bloom GC, Hill & Dale District; 1st, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL; 1st, Greater Seattle District.

PUBLICATIONS:

Newsletters: 1st, Illahee GC, Black Hills District; 1st, Des Moines GC, Chinook District; 1st, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District; 1st, Cross Sound District; 2nd, Central District; 3rd, Hill & Dale District.

MEMBERSHIP AWARENESS:

Brochures: 1st, Enumclaw GC, Chinook District; 1st, Greater Seattle District.

Fliers/Rack Cards: 1st, Mt. Cleman Garden Club, Central District; 2nd, Illahee GC, Black Hills District; 3rd, Seattle Civic GC, Greater Seattle District.

Educational: Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Blue Star Marker Memorial publications: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District.

Yearbooks: Class 1: 1st, Rosalia GC, CAL; 2nd, Des Moines GC, Chinook District; 3rd, Aster Nots GC, Hill & Dale District. Class 2: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District; 2nd, Issaquah GC, East Lake Washington District; 3rd, Illahee GC, Black Hills District. Class 3: 1st, Friendly Flower CG, Black Hills District; 2nd, Dogwood GC, Hill & Dale District; 3rd, Nordland GC, Olympic Peninsula District. Class 4: 1st, Auburn GC, Chinook District. Class 5: 1st, Olympia GC, Black Hills District. Class 6: 1st, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL. Class 7: Chinook District. Class 8: Affiliates, Black Hills Floral Designers.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS:

Lois Donahue Award of Achievement: To Billie Fitch. WSFGC's highest individual award. Awarded to the member that has made a noteworthy contribution toward NGC objectives. Nominated by the Olympic Peninsula district, Billie is a leader in her club, district and state.

Violet Rose Club Achievement Award: Top Honor Club, Root & Bloom GC, Hill & Dale District.

Shirley Monger Wildflower Award: Seattle Civic GC, Greater Seattle District.

Cerita Goody Civic Achievement Award: Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL.

Jeanette Pruin Youth Awards:
One-time program: Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.
Year-long program: Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

PUBLICATIONS:

Marion Larson Club Newsletter: Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Margery V. Bardon District Newsletter: Cross Sound District.

FORMER PRESIDENT'S FLOWER SHOW AWARDS:

Horticulture: Betty Belcher Horticulture Excellence: Gale Baullinger, West Sammamish GC, East Lake Washington District.

Marva Lee Peterschick Arboreal Flowering Shrub/Tree Award of Excellence: Julie Darby, Black Hills Designers, Black Hills District.

Design: Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award of Excellence: Debbie Spiller, Black Hills Floral Designers, Black Hills District.

Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Floral Design: Debbie Spiller, Black Hills Floral Designers, Black Hills District.

Judith Juno Petite Design Award of Excellence: Sherry Matthews, Black Hills Floral Designers, Black Hills District.

Ellen Swanson Flower Arrangement Award of Design Excellence: Judy Boxx, Tulip Valley GC, CAL.

Carol Klingberg Educational Award of Excellence: Joanne Sandell, Black Hills Floral Designers, Black Hills District.

Brynn Tavasci Recycling Award: Sherry Matthews, Glove & Trowel GC, Hill & Dale District.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT: 1st, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

Pollinator Conservation Garden: 2nd, Dogwood GC, Hill & Dale District.

Horticulture Activity: 1st, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Conservation or Recycling Project: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District.

Youth Flower Show and Activities: Hill & Dale District, "Flower Fun!"

POLLINATOR POWER POSTER CONTEST AND SMOKEY BEAR POSTER CONTEST WINNERS were announced in the previous issue, *WG&D*, Vol. 47, No. 4, pages 15 to 17.

WSFGC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS are noted on pages 16 and 17 of this issue.

THANK YOU to the following **SCHOLARSHIP BOOSTERS** for their donations: Dogwood GC, Hill & Dale District; Illahee GC and Olympia GC, both Black Hills District; Queens of Spades CG, Blue Mountain District, and Central District; Hill & Dale GC and Issaquah GC, both East Lake Washington District; Parkside GC and Des Moines GC, both Chinook District. Individual boosters are Jeanette Pruin and Esther Banholzer.

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*.

PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS 2021 AWARDS

Member of Honor: Billie Fitch, Bogachiel GC, Olympic Peninsula District, Washington State.

Civic Achievement: 1st, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL; 3rd, Evergreen GC, Cross Sound District; HM, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

Civic Service—Native Flora Education: 1st, Seattle Civic GC, Greater Seattle District.

Blue Star Marker Landscaping: 1st, Queens of Spades, Blue Mountain District.

PUBLICATIONS:

Newsletters: 1st, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District; 1st, Cross Sound District.

Yearbooks: 2nd, Rosalia GC, CAL; 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District; 3rd, Friendly Flower GC, Black Hills District; 3rd, Auburn GC, Chinook District; 3rd, Olympia GC, Black Hills District; 2nd, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL. District: 2nd, Chinook District.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Membership Related: 1st, Enumclaw GC, Chinook District; 1st, Greater Seattle District; 3rd, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Website: 2nd, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL; 1st, WSFGC.

Garden Therapy: 1st, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

YOUTH:

Horticulture: 1st, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District, "Brown Knees and Dirty Fingernails"; 1st, Hill & Dale District, "Flower Fun."

Environmental: 1st, Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District; 2nd, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District.

USFS Smokey Bear poster contest: 1st, Evelyn Snyder, Grade 4, Marine Hills GC, Chinook District, WSFGC.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. 2021 AWARDS

Member of Honor: Billie Marie Rochelle Fitch.

Community Enhancement: 1st overall, Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL, $100.

Publications—Newsletter: 1st overall, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Awards Booklet: 1st, WSFGC 2021.

Certificates of Appreciation—Newsletter: Cross Sound District.

Membership Brochure: Greater Seattle District; Enumclaw GC, Chinook District.

Blue Star Marker Program: Queens of Spades GC, Blue Mountain District.

Membership: Flyers/Rack Cards/Bookmarks, Mt. Cleman GC, Central District.

Membership Awareness: Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL.

Social Media/Website: Edmonds Floretum GC, CAL; Greater Seattle District; Hill & Dale District.

WSFGC NEWS

Symposium

The *WSFGC Symposium* was held on May 31 and June 1 at the Dryer Masonic Center in Tacoma. There were 73 participants; 21 judges did point score testing. Fifty-six judges came from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Florida and Arizona. We had 17 participants from local garden clubs as well as flower show judges.

NGC Design instructor Shirley Tetreault, from Albuquerque NM, taught about Multi-Rhythmic and Angular Design. NGC Horticulture instructor Jan Griffin, from Florida, taught about conifer and dogwood trees. Everyone agreed that they were excellent instructors. Each day was made up of two hours instruction of the topics, one hour about an allied topic, and two hours of practice point scoring. After a short break, some judges took the required point scoring test as part of maintaining their credentials.

The Hill and Dale and Black Hills Districts provided a wonderful lunch each day. Many participants also brought in beautiful horticulture specimens from their gardens that were displayed and used in designs and horticulture instruction. Some sales tables had design components and containers for eager shoppers.

Thank you to all our volunteers who made the symposium possible, starting with Dorothy Bertram, Linda Maida, Debbie Spiller and JoAnne Sandell who were involved in planning and most of the work. We had help with the master panel from Gale Baullinger, JoAnne Sandell, Patricia Grimes and Phyllis Olson. Test proctors were Linda Maida and JoAnne Sandell. Assistants were Vicki Kammerer, Suzanne Stahl, Julie Darby, Jeanine Faulkner and Jane Sercombe. Wonderful designs were provided for practice and testing by twelve of the master judges.

—*Gail Gibbard,* Symposium Chairman

Emeritus Judges

Several NGC Flower Show Judges have gone Emeritus this year, and we thank them for all they have done for us.

Joyce Johnson from Mount Vernon has been an NGC Flower Show Judge since 1986. At the age of 103 she has decided it is time to retire. She has been a member and past president of the La Conner Civic Garden Club for 40 years, and member and past president of Floral Arts Garden Club, both of Chuckanut District. Joyce was Chuckanut District Director from 1989 to1991 and 1991 to 1993. She has served WSFGC for many years as a member of the WSFGC Nominating Committee, Board Meeting Credentials Chairman and writer of poems for the state magazine, *Washington Garden & Design*. Joyce also judged for 15 years at Skagit County Fair in the Floral Department. July 7th will be her 104th birthday. We wish her well.

Former WSFGC president *JoAnn Goldman* (1993 to 1995) has been an NGC Flower Show Judge since 1978. She is an NGC Four-Star member, having completed all four schools. JoAnne was WSFGC Scholarship Chairman for many years. She is a former Greater Seattle District Director and held many positions in the District in addition to being a former President of Lakeshore Garden Club.

Former WSFGC president *Carolyn Erickson* (2009 to 2011) has been a judge since 2002. She is a Gardening Consultant. She has held many WSFGC chairmanships including Gala Chairman for several years. Carolyn is a former Greater Seattle District Director and held many positions in the District in addition to being a former President of Lakeshore Garden Club.

—*Sherry Matthews,* Credentials Chairman

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

More Scholarships Are Given

Blue Mountain District gives a $4,000 scholarship annually to a junior or senior pursuing courses in ornamental horticulture, horticulture, agriculture, and related subjects.

—*Alice Ver Steeg,* District Director

Chuckanut District (inactive) established a perpetual scholarship at WWU School of the Environment, resuming in 2023 with a hiatus of four years during which $25,000 was raised to establish the scholarship in perpetuity. The amount given will be between $1,000 and $1,500 annually. This scholarship, established in 1970, is the oldest at Western Washington University, College of the Environment which was established in 1969. The faculty scholarship committee selects the recipient.

—*Gerry Douglas,*
Scholarship Chairman

Cross Sound District gave two scholarships of $1,500 each to Addilyn Vanick and Chloe Ank. High school seniors make a booklet of their accomplishments including GPA, specific studies, extra curricular activities, community involvement, college acceptance, and plans of study. The high school advisor then sorts the booklets and makes a list for each club giving scholarships. We review the booklets and make our selection from them. Our criteria are studies in line with our conservation pledge.

—*Loretta Lukkasson,*
District Director

Mukilteo Way Garden Club has awarded its $1,000 Horticulture Scholarship for 2021-22 to Marina de la Cruz. The Lake Stevens graduate will be completing her Bachelor of Science degree at Washington State University, Everett Campus, in spring of 2022. Her degree will be in Organic and Sustainable Agriculture with a minor in Soil Science. She has always had a passion for plants, which has driven her previous educational accomplishments including an Associates Degree in Environmental Horticulture from Western Washington University. Along with sustainability, she has a deep interest in food justice. She feels strongly that everyone has the right to fresh food.

The club has awarded its Horticulture Scholarships annually since 2007; this is funded by proceeds from the *Mukilteo Garden and Quilt Tour*. The next tour will be July 16-17. For details, see page 30, Events.

—*Cathy Carter and Barb Moore,*
Mulkiteo Way GC Co-Presidents

Olympic Peninsula District: Nordland Garden Club gave out two $1,000 scholarships.

—*Cynthia Rowe and Leslie Watkins,*
Nordland GC Co-Presidents

PACIFIC REGION NEWS

Thoughts To Ponder for Inspiration

When I was younger I wondered where confidence came from, and I thought it just magically happened at a certain age. I learned that confidence is a gift that one works towards. Also, I have learned that I am not the only one to choose leadership to bolster self-confidence. Life is a journey, and we each need to enjoy the ride. Garden club gives me chances to be creative, and it has been a lifetime of learning. My garden is where I want to be. It sustains me with its beauty. There is always the new flower, the new leaf, the new experience, the power to grow. Confidence is the mask I wear to hide my **GROWING CONFIDENCE**

I'm not afraid of leadership.
I practice all the time
And if I'm very fortunate, my words
come out in rhyme.
I write my speeches word for word,
so goals are clearly met.
I practice many times to see if
timing's clearly set.
I've learned to listen for the sound
when microphone I use.
I make mistakes but people help me
when I am confused.
So try your hand at leadership.
You can succeed, I know.
You'll find each job rewarding.
Surprise yourself and grow.

ONE GREEN WORLD—POLLEN PUSHERS

Nearly one year into this 2021-23 term, I am most proud of PRGC for awarding three scholarships to deserving college students. *YOUTH are our gardening future* as climate change threatens us everywhere. At the recent NGC convention, the message was clear. *BIODIVERSITY* is an answer. Integrating wildflowers with crops to attract pollinators makes sense. Will it become the thing to do? Can we save pollinators?

If each of us tries, we can achieve success. I know that my yard has many different songbirds and recently I saw a bunny, ducks and a squirrel. Grow your own backyard park. Invite your neighbors and share your skills. Every time I put free potted plants at the end of our driveway, they disappear. Spread plants in your neighborhood. What we do can help green our world.

To join Pollen Pushers, go to the PRGC website. Pick a donation level. All of your donation will support PRGC Scholarships. AND if you donate to Pollen Pushers, you will receive a beautiful brief newsletter in the months when there is no WACONIAH, the voice of Pacific Region.

What WE do today will impact tomorrow. Together we build ONE GREEN WORLD.

Save the Dates: 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.

Tours, workshops, speakers and entertainment are being selected and planned with anticipation of a fun and educational event. Brynn Tavasci, Diane Franchini, Dorrie Carr, Jeanette Pruin and Terry Critchlow have already been planning and researching diligently to provide the best convention ever for you to enjoy. Volunteers will be needed in many different areas. Contact us! Please plan to attend and enjoy the special camaraderie of our region's eight states and support our region and our Director, Lana Finegold and her mission of *One Green World*.

—*Team Tavasci*, PR Committee

NGC Convention

Attendees at the NGC 2022 Convention held in May in Orlando, FL were former WSFGC presidents Jeanette Pruin, Lana Finegold (also Pacific Region Director), Terry Critchlow and current president Anne Sullivan.

Video Café

National Garden Club's Video Café is open for business. This friendly learning and entertainment establishment is open 24 hours a day for your convenience. There are several doors to enter such as going to the National Garden Club website, *gardenclub.org*, clicking on Member Resources on the top selection bar, right next to Donate. Then scroll through the list of resources, click on Video Café, and here you will find the menu. You can select from many topics ranging from gardening tips, floral design, tech tips and many more, playfully organized with café beverage names. Also available are tours and webinars, each letting you know how long the video is before you start, to help you in your selection.

Another way to access some of these videos is to go to the National Garden Club's YouTube channel. Connect with the channel by clicking on the arrow icon at the bottom of the Home Page of the website. Once you are on their channel, click on Videos and you will find a selection of videos to scroll through. At this time the offerings here are not as widely varied as what you will find offered directly on the NGC website.

In the website Video Café, you will also find the videos of the popular Membership Mondays series. You can browse through the list including Recruit, Retain, and Revitalize, watch again, and share with your club membership. These inspirational videos will not only give you helpful hints but also energize you to find creative ways to achieve membership goals in your club.

Since the Video Café is open 24 hours a day you can have a Mocha Grande, Espresso, or Herbal Tea at any time. You can view them in a coffee cake binge or with a dainty bite of biscotti. These handy resources are yours to enjoy when the time is right for you. The Video Café's doors are always unlocked and open. Don't just peek through the window, do venture on in and enjoy the warmth, companionship, and education that NGC can provide.

—Brynn Tavasci,
Former WSFGC President 2013-2015

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.
– Anonymous

Photo by Judith Juno

Observing guest, Black-tailed mule deer *Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*, in front yard with native Western Sword Fern: *Polystichum munitum, Rhododendron* 'Teddy Bear' and *Camassia Leichtlinii* (native Camas Indian Lily) bloom.

DISTRICT NEWS

Blue Mountain District Activities

Winter wanted to linger this year by teasing our district with late snow. Seven inches in mid-April was just a bit much. Spring finally arrived on the east side of the Cascades. Daffodils, tulips, snowdrops, crocus, witch hazel, forsythia and lilacs put on their show, each taking their turn.

Our three garden clubs have been steadily picking up where we left off before Covid and found some new ways to get together. The April Blue Mountain District General Membership Meeting provided members with a flower show, a Country Store that included an old-fashioned bake sale, and a fabulous program on *Growing Lilacs* with Marva Lee Peterschick.

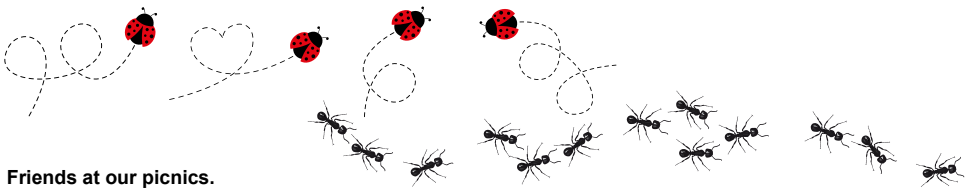
We are gearing up for a July FUN-draiser with a picnic at Leanne Jewett's lake property on Hwy 410. We are inviting guests to join in the fun and will have raffle baskets provided by past district directors and a live auction with fabulous desserts. Our July General Membership Meeting program is about *Bugs in Your Garden.*

All our garden clubs held very successful plant sales in May. Toppenish and Mt. Cleman both reported having lots of people show up ready to buy. Queens of Spades was overwhelmed with the community support this year. They sold close to 2,000 plants (with only 20 left at the end of the day) and had proceeds totaling $7,000, most of which goes back into the community. The Kids Grab-n-Go Book Bag Project exploded this year. In 2021, 60 book bags with activities were handed out. This May, 150 book bags (thanks to a WSFGC Endowment Fund Project Grant) were given out in the first two-and-a-half hours.

Looking to the future, Toppenish Garden Club planted an annual tree at the Visitors' Center, started their growing project, talked with the manager of the Toppenish Community Gardens to see how they can help, and looked into field trips closer to "home" with the rising cost of fuel. Mt. Cleman members have a trip planned to the Yellow Rose Nursery in Prosser and are planning their "Summer Run-Away Tours." Queens of Spades planted an Arbor Day tree honoring a retiring City of Ellensburg arborist, had a garden tour planned for June at a beautiful rose garden, installed new officers, and look forward to their annual summer picnic in July at Carol Cummings' home.

It feels good to have our clubs returning to "normal" activity and looking forward to fun summer activities.

—Diane Franchini,
District Director



Friends at our picnics.

CROSS SOUND DISTRICT

To begin, I humbly thank the Cross Sound District Garden Club Presidents and all our Committee Chairman for stepping up and making this an exceptionally fun-filled year. It has been our pleasure to welcome many visitors from WSFGC Officers and Districts.

Over a six-month period our garden clubs together collected 540 pounds of polyethylene plastic during our NexTrex Recycling Project; this should produce a bench from NexTrex that will be placed at Retsil Veterans Home, Port Orchard.

Each of our garden clubs hosted a District meeting and put on an NGC Standard Flower Show. We had *Heroes*, *Remembering Eighty Years*, and *Rain, Rain Grow Away*, all with terrific participation. Our judges did a terrific job in judging and explaining some of our errors.

We continue to strive to educate, beautify, and otherwise assist our communities in furthering conservation of our natural resources. Central Valley Garden Club gave monetary awards to participants of the County Science Fair, and Evergreen Garden Club gave scholarships to two Belfair graduating seniors.

Plans for next year will be scaled back somewhat. Our general meetings are changed to the second Monday of September, November, March and May to accommodate scheduling issues. We will have great programs and/or workshops. At our September meeting, we will have our auction which is our fundraiser for the year. In closing, I extend an invitation for all to visit.

—Loretta Lukkasson,
Cross Sound District Director

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*.

Mukilteo Way GC Activities

Mukilteo Way Garden Club (CAL) had a busy start to the calendar year 2022. Like everyone, Covid affected meetings and attendance. However, we are back to meeting in person the third Tuesday of each month. The club currently has 38 members.

In 2020 the club received a matching grant of $2,100 from WSFGC that helped to support our Mukilteo Community Garden. Due to erosion and wear, the greenhouse and some garden beds required some major repairs. The grant funds allowed us to give all the funds to the community garden for the repairs. A report was sent to the state with pictures of the work accomplished. The club is grateful for these funds to support our local community garden which also supplies food to our local food bank.

2021 Programs:
September: *Growing Fabulous Dahlias* was presented by our own Susan Davison at an outside meeting enjoying her seven raised beds of dahlias.
October: Field trip cancelled due to inclement weather.
November: Judith Jones of Fancy Fronds Nursery shared her expertise on *Growing Fabulous Ferns*.
December: Holiday Luncheon at the local golf club with a holiday reading by secretary Olivia Getz, cookie takeaway presented by the club board, and Amaryllis bulbs gifted to all attendees by the board, and member gift exchange.

Photo courtesy of Cathy Carter

Members enjoy their tour to Farmer Frog in Woodinville.

2022 Programs:
January: Cancelled.
February: Janet Egger of Terra Nova Nursery Breeder presented *How Your Perennials are Created.*
March: *Farmer Frog: Cultivating Programs, School Gardens and Hands on Learning* by Zsofia Pasztor. A moving presentation of a working farm near the Woodinville area.
April: Joe Abken, Executive Director of the Kruckeberg Botanical Gardens, presented slides on the gardens.
May: Field trip to the Farmer Frog location. Tour of the farm included the animals, plantings, various water gardens and how the systems support each other.
June: A Tour Prep meeting for our *Garden and Quilt Tour* which is a collaboration of our club with the Lighthouse Quilt Guild that will be on July 16 and 17. We are glad to see its return. Please see the tour web site listed on page 34, under *Events* for more information concerning tickets and the event itself.

Funds from our *Garden and Quilt Tour* support scholarships to local state colleges/universities in horticulture, architectural garden design and other related activities. Two scholarships were awarded from our last tour in 2019. Additional funds from the tour go to support two gardens in our local community with plantings (funds used for these) and volunteer labor by our members. Proceeds are split evenly between the two clubs for each club's benevolent activities back to the community. Thanks to all at the state level who support national efforts.

—Cathy Carter and Barb Moore,
Co-Presidents Mulkiteo Way GC

Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour

July 16 & 17, 2022

mukilteogardenandquilttour.org

Partially funded by Lodging Tax and Community Support Grants from the City of Mukilteo

SCHOLARSHIPS

The WSFGC Endowment Fund and WSFGC members sponsored seven scholarships of $2,000 each. Recipients were selected by their department chairman.

— *Jeanette Pruin*, WSFGC Scholarships Chairman

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

College of the Environment
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences
Violet Nevitt Gose Scholarship

Alexander Avila is a senior studying Natural Resource and Environmental Management with a minor in Ecological Restoration. He is currently gaining practical experience in ecological restoration through a capstone project in the Union Bay Natural Area. His goal after graduating is to pursue a career in the field of wetland and riparian restoration.

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Biology
May Garrett Hayes Scholarship

Ava Kloss-Schmidt is an undergraduate senior studying Plant Biology. She became interested in plants at an early age and has developed a deep appreciation for plants through her studies. Ava is an undergraduate researcher in the Steinbrenner Lab and plans to continue plant biology research in a graduate program.

College of Built Environments
Department of Landscape Architecture
Vera J. Weiler Scholarship

Camille Freeman has an undergraduate degree in horticulture and botany and hopes to bring more of a botanical and ecological focus to the Landscape Architecture field. She is constantly fascinated by and discovering how plants create our landscapes and influence our cultures. She wants to bring and encourage human interaction with our local ecosystems.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

College of the Environment
WSFGC Scholarship

Sienna Taylor grew up in the Tetons where her work with the nonprofit Slow Food in the Tetons made her a lover of sustainable agriculture. She is studying Environmental Studies with a Policy Emphasis, Political Science and Climate Leadership. She hopes one day to be a part of the policy making and implementation process of critical climate legislation.

PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC. $1,000
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB, INC. $4,000

Kyle Johnson is a junior at Washington State University. He has been accepted to the WSU College of Education to pursue a degree in Agricultural Education with a minor in Agricultural Technology and Production Management. Next semester he will be practice student teaching at Asotin High School, and then spring of 2023 he will be student teaching full time. He is on track to graduate in May of 2023. He plans to use his degree to become an agriculture education teacher in an underserved community. This will allow him the opportunity to spread the word and knowledge of agriculture to younger generations, and to do so in communities that may not have a strong agricultural program if any at all.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Design and Construction
Landscape Architecture Program
WSFGC Scholarship

Lorena Zepeda-Fuertes is a junior in Landscape Architecture. After graduation she plans to work for a firm to enhance her design skills and then start her own business that focuses on restoring landscapes in a sustainable way for residential houses and neighborhood.

College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
Department of Horticulture
Mrs. Frank Greeley Scholarship

Erik Van Dyke is a junior with a double major in Fruit and Vegetable Management and Landscape, Nursery and Greenhouse Management. He lives in Lynden where he has worked for Enfield Farms. After graduation he will be returning to Lynden to begin working full time as an agronomist. Erik looks forward to bringing a fresh perspective on how to make the best decisions to maximize yields as well as maintain and build the health of the field's ecosystem.

College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
WSFGC Scholarship

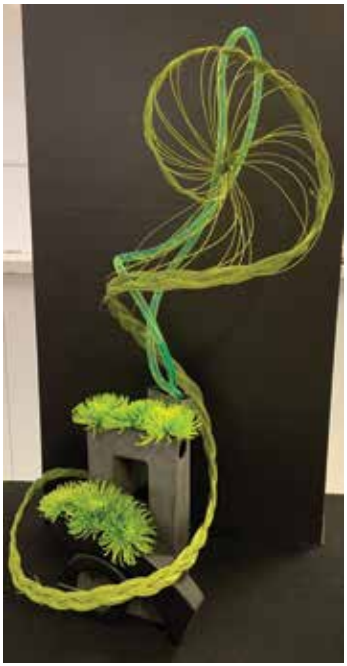
Shauna Flores is a junior pursuing a degree in Agricultural Biotechnology. She has begun plant research through an internship with the Kirchhoff Lab. The main focus of the lab is to quantify different pigments and proteins in the process of photosynthesis. She plans to attend graduate school and obtain a PhD.

DESIGN

Symposium Design Highlights

Symposium was held May 31 and June 1 in Tacoma. NGC Designs Instructor Shirley Tetreault, from Albuquerque NM, presented *Angular Designs* and *Multi-Rhythmic Designs*. She used a variety of plant materials and containers to illustrate the concepts. Plant materials were provided from the gardens of attendees. Containers were provided by local designers and Flower Show Judges.

Photos by Linda Maida



HORTICULTURE

Choice Plant Picks

Most of us enjoy unique plants, but one cannot select too many plants for their uniqueness alone. To earn a place in the garden one tries to select plants that bloom for an extended period of time or have foliage that holds their place instead of flowers. Even plants that bloom well cannot have foliage that dilapidates as the garden season advances to fall. I want to report on some plants recommended previously that have unquestionably earned a spot in the garden.

Kalimeris mongolica 'Hortensis' was a delightful addition of spring 2021. It is a deciduous perennial with delicate interwoven stems, apple-green serrated foliage that forms a dense patch 20 inches tall that covers itself with one-inch, white, chrysanthem-esque flowers that just bloomed almost all summer. Planted in a fairly sunny spot, it breezed through the blistering temperatures of last summer. Another winner from 2021 was *Calylophus berlandieri* 'Butter Cream'. Subjected to our harsh sun and temperatures, it continued to pump out creamy yellow flowers for an extended time. The delicate linear green leaves were not fazed and looked good into late fall. Both plants will spread slowly as do most perennials. Kalimeris is 20 inches tall and Zone 6a to 9b. Calylophus is 12 inches tall and Zone 7a to 9b.

Anemone americana, also known as *Hepatica americana*, (round-lobed liverleaf) is a wildflower native to a large part of the United States. It is one of those dainty ephemerals of spring that is difficult to not have once you have seen it in bloom. The flowers are one-half to an inch wide and generally a light lavender-blue but can be white or pink too. The flowers pop up first early in the spring with the foliage to follow in about a week. It prefers a shaded woodland-like setting and be careful that it is not overrun by a too robust neighbor plant. All too quickly as summer begins to heat up, the hepatica here goes dormant until it unfolds its show the following spring. In a cool summer climate, the leaves can be evergreen. The common name of round-lobed liverleaf is appropriate because the bright green leaves of the plant are shaped like the human liver and have three lobes. The flowers are star-shaped with a ring of yellow stamens in the center that attracts bees. The six dainty "petals" are actually modified sepals. There are other species of this anemone that are similar in size and flower color but may need a little bit different culture for growth.

Very attractive companion plants for *Anemone americana* would be a few of the Mini Mouse Hostas. *Hosta* 'Blue Mouse Ears' is as cute as its name implies, and like all those in this series it has slug-resistant

Photos courtesy of Ellen Rector.

foliage. *Hosta* 'Mighty Mouse' has leaves of blue-green with a bright creamy margin. Lastly there is *Hosta* 'Monster Ears' which sports leaves of bright green. These three all stay under ten inches or less. Another not as well known mini-plant is *Polygonatum hookeri* which is a delicate four- to five-inch tall Solomon's Seal. The open-faced lavender pink flowers at ground level are presented in the mid-spring followed by the pint-size foliage. It is hardy to Zone 6.

Salvia pachyphylla (Giant Purple Sage) is a native to southern California. This plant will thrive in the hottest, driest, sunniest spot in your garden. The foliage is a lovely blue-grey and a fabulous contrast to the purple-pink flower bracts. When mature and in bloom, it is approximately 24 inches tall and 30 inches wide. The cultivar 'Blue Flame' has been selected for its larger flower spikes and longer bloom time. It is a very drought-tolerant plant and will even do well here in the lower Columbian Basin with minimal irrigation. It must have soil with good drainage in order to thrive and is hardy in Zones 5 to 9. Another choice for that sunny, well-drained site is *Agastache cana* (Pink Hummingbird Mint). It is a prolific bloomer and blooms most of the summer into fall. It can grow three feet tall and two feet wide and is hardy in Zones 5 to 10. It may need to be trimmed in the spring to keep it compact. Both these plants will not need much water once established and will need fertilizer once every year or two. Our native *Sedum divergens* (Old Man's Bones) would be an excellent companion plant for these two plants. It also thrives in sun and is drought tolerant. This is a sprawling succulent with branched stems and glossy green or reddish leaves. Flowers are star-shaped and yellow. They usually appear in mid-summer and would provide a nice contrast to the pink and purple-pink flowers.

Have you seen the new color breakthrough for hellebores? *Helleborus* 'Mango Madness' is an incredibly unique color strain for hellebores. It is similar in color to the flesh of a ripe mango; the flowers range in color from mango yellow to apricot with rose speckling and veining. It is also especially floriferous with a mature plant producing up to 50 to 60 large two- to three-inch blooms. It is in the Winter Thriller Series so has their beautiful dark green leaves and bushy shape. This is a plant that has easily made it to my "must have" list as Hellebores are one of the most reliable plants for their performance of both bloom and foliage! Selecting new plants is always a pleasure. It is one of the things that makes gardening so appealing. You never exactly know how they might grow in your garden until you try.

Diane Franchini, President Queens of Spades GC

YOUTH PROJECTS

Kids + Free Book Bags = WIN!! WIN!!

One of the key elements in the By-laws Objectives for the Queens of Spades Garden Club and National Garden Clubs is to provide education, resources and networking opportunities for members while promoting the love of gardening. Queens of Spades Garden Club has developed a long history of connecting with our community through a spring plant sale. About five years ago we began using the plant sale as a venue to connect with children by having them create their own miniature planting in a creative container (shoes, tiny pots and pans, etc.) to take home and nurture. This was a project that grew each year as kids arrived anticipating a "hands-in-the-dirt" project. Then 2020 arrived and both our 2020 plant sale and kids growing project were cancelled. If we've learned just one thing about ourselves during a pandemic, we know that garden club members have found ways to adapt and keep growing.

In January 2021 the club was given the okay by the county to move forward with an in-person plant sale. Discussion was lively trying to decide how to safely connect with kids during such uncertain times. Following a decision to cancel the kids project for a year, a newer member and retired elementary teacher stepped forward to find a way. Initially we were going to put together a "grab-and-go" planting project that they could do at home. But that idea just took on a life of its own when Project Chairman Kathy Cole volunteered to chair the project AND to add an appropriate book in the bag for kids. Sixty bags were handed out in the first two hours of the 2021 plant sale.

Pictured are just a few of the books that were collected and put into bags with appropriate lesson plans and activities.

Following the sale day, Kathy wrote in our Central District Newsletter *Garden Gossip* what had transpired. The Ellensburg Queens of Spades Garden Club gave sixty garden-based book bags out at their annual plant sale in May for FREE! The book bags were an excellent way to introduce young children, ages one to twelve years, to gardening. Each book bag included hands-on follow up activities that were age or grade level, and each book had something to do with some aspect of gardening.

Every book bag had S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, art or math) lesson plans. Additional enrichment included music, gross motor skills or imagination suggestions.

Other surprises in each book bag included flower or vegetable seeds, garden riddles, simple cooking recipes, 'Zoo book' or 'Ranger Rick' magazines with a variety of garden critters in every issue. Bee finger puppets, bug boxes, garden games, magnifying glasses, garden tools and/or terra cotta pots with soil were handed out.

Sixty children were thrilled to get

their free book bag and they were invited to return the following year for another book bag. We had plans to give 100 PLUS book bags away in May 2022!!!

Thus, from May 2021 until May of 2022 the idea of the Kids Grab-and-Go Book Bags was a topic at each of our meetings. The parts of the book bags were being gathered and more "pieces" were being collected to include according to the book's content, child's age, or reading level. At our 2022 May plant sale, 150 Kids Grab-and-Go Book Bags in either English or Spanish were distributed in the first two-and-a-half hours. For the rest of the day, we talked to kids and their parents about the free book give-away and encouraged parents to bring their children early next year.

Funding at first came from donations but additional funding has been added into the Queens of Spades yearly budget to support this activity. The club also applied for and received a WSFGC Endowment Fund Project Grant for 2022.

This project has not only touched the young children in our community but also has touched the parents and grandparents as well. Of course, this is one way to increase the garden club's visibility in the community as well as help to increase our membership. For our club members, it has been one of the most rewarding projects that we've done in our community. Now, in addition to digging, dividing, and potting up plants from our yards, we are finding items to donate to the Kids Grab-n-Go Book Bags. It all started with a pandemic, but the results are still amazing our members and our community.

Photos by Diane Franchini.

Chairman Kathy Cole talks to a young reader and her mother about the book bag project. Kathy made sure that each book was in some way related to gardening.

Pictured (left) a young mother with two toddlers shops for plants at the plant sale. On their way to the cashier station, they are met by Chairman Kathy Cole, who gives each child a book bag to take home. She explained some of the lesson plans for parents to help the children fully enjoy their Grab-and-Go bags.

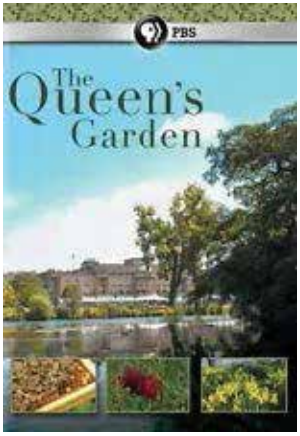
The pictures above show some of the books and their components. With multiple copies of the same titles not every bag will have the same component pieces.

1.The Bug Hunt may contain a pith helmet for kids to use while exploring the outside world, a magnifying glass, a ladybug or bee tutu, and several activity cards.

2-3. Books with the same title, may be in either English or Spanish, and include the appropriate additions like cooking recipe cards, games, and cooking utensils in addition to the lesson plans and activity sheets.

4. The Ugly Vegetables is a multicultural book about an Asian family that grows only vegetables and a non-Asian family that grows only flowers. In the end both families are sharing each other's culture. The book bag contained both vegetable and flower seed packets and an herb growing bag.

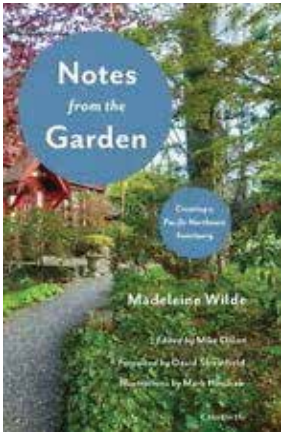
BOOK REVIEWS



The Queen's Garden

PBS video DVD
55min $19.99
https://www.pbs.org/show/queens-garden/

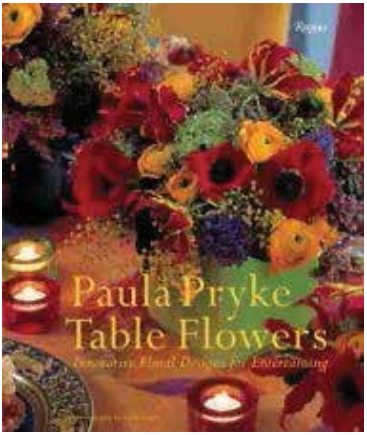
This DVD presents 500 years of the gardens. It started as the hunting ground for Henry VIII. Now, Buckingham Palace has a garden of 39 acres; the rest is the city of London. This film takes you into the three areas and describes the multitude of plants, birds, insects and fungi growing there and stories of who planted trees. Since the Queen has a fondness for the wildlife, she even has camera traps to see animals both night and day. Wouldn't it be fun to be invited to one of the garden parties at the Queen's garden.



Notes from the Garden Creating a Pacific Northwest Sanctuary

Madeleine Wilde
Edited by Mike Dillon
2021 Chatwin Books
$17.00 Paperback

This is a charming book bringing the thoughts of a gardener to life over the course of a year. Madeleine wrote these essays for a local newspaper to share insights of how she enjoyed the plants of her garden around her. A bit of landscaping, a bit of history of roses, plant species choices, advice for a newbie and tasks for all, harvesting her vegetables. It is good for all of us to reflect on our need for digging in the dirt and to savor all the seasons.



How to Plant a Tree...Upside Down Glacier Gardens Rainforest Adventure

Steve & Cindy Bowhay
2011 Scott Company Publishing
$12.95 Paperback
Plus Garden Plant Guide $4.95

It's time to go traveling again and my favorite place is Juneau, Alaska. There is a garden on a rugged mountainside that Steve and Cindy engineered into a beautiful botanical paradise. They have combined native plants with annuals into an artistic view using mountains and trees. They took fallen trees from a mudslide and a muddy stream and turned it into a fun tour with unique hanging annual flowers from tree roots upside down. Fascinating and inspiring, this book is overflowing with color!

Table Flowers Innovative Floral Designs for Entertaining

Paula Pryke
Photography by Sarah Cuttle
2007 Rizzoli International Publications
$45.00 hardcover

This florist author loves to adorn tables with flowers to celebrate any day. She has provided us with beautiful illustrations of her arrangements either small or impressively large scale. She reuses her containers and gives directions on how she created her designs. Great tips on using fillers in glass vases: like sand, branches, petals, fruit, napkin decorations, candles and topiaries. She includes a section on flower choices and their care when cut. So many ideas for all seasons to enjoy from your cut flower garden.

American Robin visits Washington in the Spring

Enjoy watching and hearing the migratory American Robins in your garden as they visit for a while.

Scientific name is *Turdus migratorius*. The robin is a migratory songbird of the true thrush genus. Named after the European robin because of its reddish-brown breast, the European robin belongs to the Old World flycatcher family. The European robin has a color pattern similar to the American robin, only much smaller and the red on the breast is a bit brighter but doesn't go as far down on the belly.

Photo adobe.stock.com by John Anderson

American robin *(Turdus migratorius)*

American robin adults are dark gray above with their head, wings and tail almost black. Their outer feathers are tipped with white. The robin's beast is light brown to rich dark brick red. Their throats are streaked blackish and whitish. The females have a paler head. The juveniles' under parts are tinged with cinnamon and heavily spotted with brown. Some robins appear more pale or whitish. *Leucism* is a genetic condition where birds produce less than normal amounts of normal pigment.

Dimensions are length of eight to 11 inches, wingspan of 12 to 16 inches, and weigh two-and-one-half to three ounces. The wings have a pointed shape, the most common shape for birds that migrate using a flappy flight. Robins have been clocked flying from 20 to 36 m.p.h. The tail is medium-length for quick steering as they fly through branches.

The American robin's syrinx (song box) has complex muscles allowing them to sing a rich, complex song that can carry for long distances. The song is a series of rich caroling notes, rising and falling in pitch producing a very high pitch and then a whistling note. The esophagus is exceptionally stretchy to allow the birds to eat huge quantities of berries.

Their beak is short and yellow with a gray tip. A broken white eye ring surrounds dark eyes. Robins can see things at a farther distance and may be able to see a wider spectrum of colors than humans. The hearing

is more finely tuned than ours and they can hear higher pitched sounds. Their sturdy legs with muscles designed for running or hopping allow them to speedily evade predators and they can efficiently cover open ground while hunting.

Range: Robins breed from Alaska east across the continent to Newfoundland, Canada and south to California, Texas, Arkansas and South Carolina. They winter north to British Columbia and Newfoundland, Canada.

Robins migrate in flocks often by day. Their habitat includes towns, gardens, open woodlands and agricultural land. The American robin is naturally attracted to areas where people live as grass provides both a great feeding ground and a protected place where they can nest.

Nesting is building a cup of grasses, twigs, debris worked into a mud-sealed foundation lined with fine grasses and plant fibers. Nests are six inches across and four to six inches high. Often the nests are reused. Site may be on a horizontal branch of tree or shrub, five to 25 feet above the ground. Nests can also be found on ledges of houses, barns or bridges. The eggs are pale blue and usually number four. The eggs are incubated by the female for 12 to 14 days. The young are born with their eyes shut and first open their eyes around five days after hatching. Both parents feed the young mostly insects and earthworms. The parents are very aggressive in defense of the nest site. They produce a series of alarm calls that distract predators and cause the nestlings to duck low in the nest to go undetected. The young leave the nests 14 to 16 days after hatching. Robins can have up to three broods each year.

Photo adobe.stock.com by Nancy J. Ondra

Vertical image of the blue eggs of an American robin *(Turdus migratorius)* in a nest.

Robins eat a mixture of fruit, berries, earthworms and insects such as beetles, grubs, caterpillars and grasshoppers. The diet usually consists of 40 percent insects and 60 percent fruit and berries. Robins roost together in trees. Their life span averages six years. Connecticut, Michigan and Wisconsin have named the American Robin their state bird.

Mary Lou Paulson, WSFGC Pollinator Chairman

Environmental Concerns

Preserving and Nurturing Our Bio-Indicators: Pollinators

Years ago my garden club hosted a presentation on a class of pesticides known as *neonicotinoids*. It was reported that this form of pesticide is harming our pollinators and us. Since their introduction in the 1990s, neonicotinoids have become the most widely used class of insecticide in the world, with registration in 120 countries. This pesticide is gravely affecting our bio-indicators and our future generations.

Biological indicators are living organisms such as plants, animals, and microorganisms, which are used to sort out pollutants in an ecosystem. This allows scientists to explore how pollutants affect our planet and future ecosystems. Unfortunately, the neonicotinoids are everywhere: at your garden center, in your garden, possibly in your plants and seeds, and maybe even in your garden shed. These pesticides are killing our pollinators and may be adversely affecting our human population. Neonicotinoids literally means "new nicotine-like insecticides." They are systemic which means they are absorbed into the plant. Therefore every part from seed, to root, to flower, and pollen of the plant contains this pesticide.

The European Food Safety Commission has found this pesticide obstructs the normal development and function of the human nervous system and damages brain structures and functions associated with learning and memory.

Manufacturers are using the neonicotinoids to coat their seeds to protect the seeds from insects before they are sold. It seems like neonicotinoids are lurking everywhere. This class of pesticides can be found in pest control supplies. They are effective against sap-feeding pests and provide control of certain beetles, fleas, some wood-boring pests, flies, cockroaches and others. If you have issues with any of these pests, look for an organic solution to rid them from your home or garden. It may take a little longer and take more time but this action is well worth the time, cost and care. Please read the labels on any and all of the chemicals used in the garden and follow instructions.

It is disconcerting to find major nursery growers and garden outlets are purchasing plants containing these pesticides. The neonicotinoids are used in plant containers and on plants or seeds. Read plant labels carefully. Labels contain important information regarding not only the care and feeding of the plants but also *if the plant has been treated with neonicotinoids*. If you cannot tell if the plant has been treated, ask the sales person. If they cannot tell you, then don't purchase the plant. If you discover the plant or seed has been treated, let the sales people know why this plant is dangerous. The pesticide does protect plants and seeds; however, the collateral damage is us and future generations. It is also gravely affecting our pollinators who

are slowly being eliminated.

Not all of the neonicotinoids applied to plants is taken into the plant. For example corn seedlings absorb about two percent of the insecticide. The poison stays in the plant for only two to three weeks. The unabsorbed neonicotinoid insecticides wash into waterways polluting streams, rivers and ground water throughout the country. Studies show these insecticides are poisoning marine life. Fish, birds, and other wildlife depend upon marine life as a vital food source.

Scientists are concerned about high rates of insects being destroyed worldwide. Research shows neonicotinoids are contributing to insect declines and creating more toxic agricultural lands. Is it time to consider regulations to rein in the current excessive use of neonicotinoid-coated seeds? Concerns about neonicotinoid-coated seeds are mounting as research reveals more routes of exposure to beneficial animals and the effects on creatures they are not designed to kill. Agricultural companies have done little to address these issues and seem more committed than ever to selling coated seeds. Farmers often have a very limited choice if they want to plant uncoated seeds.

Scientists are concerned about rising rates of beneficial insects lost around the world. Research is showing neonicotinoids are assisting insect decline and producing an increase to dangerous farm lands.

What can you do about this issue? It may be affecting you and your family's lives plus the lives of future generations. Continue to garden responsibly and share your concerns with fellow gardeners; do read labels, and talk to and encourage your garden stores to carry more organic options. Spend a little extra and purchase organic plants and certified organic food for your family. Use organic gardening methods in your gardens and landscape.

If you see any of the following ingredients on your bedding plants labels, or insecticide contents listed below, the product you have in your garden arsenal may include a neonicotinoid: Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Nitenpyram, Thiocloprid, Thiamethoxam. Sometimes the garden outlets use clever terms on their plant labels such as "protected from insects." Continue to garden responsibly.

Sources:

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Environmental Concerns

Endangered Bird Species: the Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon (*Falconidae* family) is an endangered species (*Falco peregrinus*), historically known as the duck hawk in North America.

On one of those rare days off from work, I was sitting on the couch enjoying a cup of coffee and chatting with my husband when suddenly something crashed into the living room window. I got up and discovered a large bird sitting on the ground, not moving. My husband said it looked like a peregrine falcon. We have never seen any around here in fifty years. The only large birds we see are the barred owl, pileated woodpecker, grouse, grey heron, pigeon, quail, raven and crow in addition to smaller bird species and ducks.

It wasn't moving. We kept checking on it. We surmised that the falcon must have been diving for a smaller bird or a mouse. Since falcons can attain up to a speed of 242 miles an hour when diving for prey, it is no wonder we heard such a loud thud. After twenty-five minutes it appeared that it was coming out of its daze. Another ten minutes and the bird began to shake all over, fluffed its feathers and then turned its head and sat a bit longer before taking off into the trees. I am so glad it recovered—what an amazing bird.

Peregrine means 'Wanderer' in Medieval Latin origin. The bird has a blue-grey back, barred white underparts and a black head. It is one of the Top Ten fastest birds in the world with a diving speed of 242 miles per hour.

There are five types of falcons in the United States: The American Kestrel, Merlin, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon and Peregrine Falcon. Subspecies are American or Continental (*anatus*), Arctic (*tundrius*), and Peale's (*Pealei*) of which the *anatus* is the most endangered, followed by the *tundrius*.

Peregrines can be found in the mountains, forests, cities, valleys, deserts and coastlines. Predators include gyrfalcons, great horned owls, and eagles and other larger peregrines; all take juveniles and hatchlings of the peregrine. On coastal marine areas they eat alcids (birds of the North colder areas, waterfowl). Their favorite foods are pigeons, jays and black birds, podicipedidae (grebes, aquatic diving birds) and procellaridae (seabirds). On interior areas they prey on passerines (warblers, thrushes, tanagers, sparrows, finches, jays, larks, tits, nuthatches, chickadees, orioles and wrens), columbids (doves and pigeons) and swifts. In urban areas they feed on rails, passerines, columbids and cuckoos. And of course, people have been trapping and hunting the peregrine falcons for years. Peregrine are known to kill Sandhill Crane, small Canada geese and bald eagle, though most likely not for eating.

Peregrine mature at the age of one to three years and can live to around seventeen years. They are sixteen to twenty inches in length with a wingspan ranging from thirty-six to forty-four inches. Adults have yellow coloration around their dark eyes, yellow on the upper part of their beak and yellow feet.

Photo adobe.stock.com by Milan

Peregrine falcon on branch. Bird of prey falconry male portrait, Falco peregrinus

Site fidelity and breeding dispersal study programs have placed black bands with white number/letter combinations on nestling and adult peregrine falcons for the past twenty years in the Seattle area.

With the ban of DDT, the falcons have begun to recover but are considered of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and are listed as an at-risk species by the Washington Gap Analysis. If you are fortunate to see a banded bird, falcon or raptor, please make note of the area the bird was seen in, the date and the color of the band; and report it to Washington Department of Wildlife. For more information contact Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at *wdfw.wa.gov*.

Other good sources for information include Seattle Audubon Society at *birdweb.org*. and Urban Raptor Conservancy at *urbanraptorconservancy.org*. An excellent book for children is *The Peregrine's Journey: A Story of Migration* by Madeleine Dunphy.

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www.wagardenclubs.com

Managing Editor's Desk:

Dear Garden Club Members,

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe," wrote John Muir.

Interdependence is revealed as we see the domino effects and unintended consequences of our businesses, CEOs, and politicians' neglect of the environment; the ordinary person suffers through hurricanes, tornados, monsoons, cyclones, windstorms, ice storms, flooding, drought and fires. California, New Mexico and Texas will be the next center for fires and dust storms.

Tycoons are looking forward to the melting of the polar caps so they can harvest the vast riches of the soils, minerals, etcetera, and could care less about the consequences of sea levels rising and of diminished sea life which also feeds us.

Interdependence among insects and crops and people is complex. Look at the Monarch butterfly, *Nymphalidae, Danaus plexippus*. It is dependent on the milkweed plant *Asclepias*, and a full cycle takes four generations to travel 2,400 to 3,000 miles and back over a year. Look at bees. They pollinate our food crops. No bees, no food. Hand-pollination is exceedingly time consuming. Look at insects. They are part of the life cycle that feed birds and so it goes.

Our food and fuel supplies are impacted. Inflation has risen. When will all the people learn to cooperate in harmony and take care of every aspect of our planet. I never thought I would live to see such devastation inflicted on planet earth.

We must rise and take action and speak to our politicians who are supposed to represent all of us, not just their state or their tribal party.

Judith Juno,
Managing Editor

By Joyce Johnson

POETRY CORNER

Gardening with Passion

Gardening with Passion
Wafting in the summer breezes,
Intoxicating scent of rose
Stills me just to breathe the fragrance
Admiring how my garden grows.
Time has dimmed some of my passions
And that I know is just as well.
Of those youthful, full-blown feelings,
I've not the words nor will to tell.
In my many years of living,
I have watched the ebb and flow
Of variety of passions
Flirting briefly and letting go.

I found a love to last forever
When Nature left her calling card
And I with spade and manual labor
Created beauty in my yard.
Gardening has been my passion
Since first I stirred the fertile sod.
This loved labor brings such splendor,
I know I'm partnering with God.

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EVENTS

July 16 to 17 — ***Mukilteo Garden Quilt Tour*** is a collaboration of Mukilteo Way Garden Club and Mukilteo Lighthouse Quilters. Six beautiful gardens provide the showcase for 100 unique quilts. For details go to *mukilteogardenandquilttour.org*. Slides are available of previous biennial tours. Tickets are available on the website and at Mulkiteo Ace Hardware Barbara's Floral, Quilting Mayhem, Sunnyside Nursery and Sky Nursery. Advance tickets are $15 and on days of tours are $20. Follow them on Facebook. The tour is partially funded by Lodging Tax and Community Support Grants from the City of Mulkiteo.

August 23 to 24 — ***WSFGC Fall Board Meeting*** will be held at the Windrow Hotel, 502 North Main St., Ellensburg, 98926. Make reservations online at *hotelwindrow.com* or call 509-962-8000. Code: Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.

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.

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.

Fall Deadline: September 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