

PIONEER PRESS - AUTUMN 2015



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Projects

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

President: Sandra Robinson

Theme: "Leap Into Action"

Project: "Monarch Watch"

Pacific Region

Director: Kristie Livreri

Theme: "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a child; A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"

Project: Planting Trees and Shrubs

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

President: Shirley Schmidt

Theme: "Nurture Nature-Nurture Friendships"

Project: Share the Bounty – Tip the Scales

Pioneer District

Director: Stan Chiotti

Theme: Growing, Showing Sharing

Project: Encourage participation in National, Regional, and State Projects

From the District Director

Fall is the sweet and sad time of the seasons. Really get to enjoy the wonderful colors of all the trees just before they drop their leaves. The sad part is raking them all.

Got to go to four District Luncheons. They all do things a little different. Still a little partial to ours. Wish more people would get involved with these functions.

Spent a day at the State Capitol in honor of the 50th anniversary of Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act. Also had a good meeting with the ODOT billboard enforcement people.

Most vegetable gardens have been winterized by now. Hope you got to share your bounty and recorded it. With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, don't forget to count all the canned food or cash items you donate at this time of the year. I had over 200 pounds in pumpkins alone. The St. Helens community garden had over 3500 pounds of produce. If your club can, I recommend you get involved in this type of activity.

District Director Stan Chiotti

Contents

Page 1—Officers, Projects and from the Director

Page 2—ANLD, Blue Star, Wildflower Project, Scholarships

Page 3-4 - Featured Clubs—McMinnville, Chehalem, West Point

Page 5—Projects—NGC Pacific Region, State, Pioneer

Page 6—Contests, Book of Remembrance, Youth

Association of Northwest Landscape Designers (ANLD)

ANLD is a new advertiser in our State Federation Directory Handbook (outside back cover). **Their website offers a list of speakers** that may be of interest to our garden clubs seeking programs.

Type in ANLD in the search engine line and hit return. Select the website. The Home Page has links across the top of the page. Just below the links on the left hand top side of this page is a small rectangle. Type in speaker and press return. This will access the list of speakers.

ANLD has an outstanding garden tour every summer and the information will be posted. In the past they have offered discounts for early ticket purchases.

Blue Star Memorial Markers

Pioneer District Garden Clubs, Inc. has dedicated seven markers throughout Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties. There are 77 markers in the State of Oregon. The markers honor men and women who have served, are serving, and will serve in the Armed Forces. For additional information, contact our District Chair, Marcia Kay Whitelock, 503.524.5309, marciawhitelock@comcast.net.

Wildflower Project

The OSFGC Project that started one year ago, faced one of the worst drought years ever. The seeds were planted, but Mother Nature did not cooperate until Mid-September. Once we got some much needed liquid sunshine, the seeds germinated and we did see some positive results.

On October 22, 2015 the 50th Anniversary of the Highway Beautification Act was celebrated at the State Capitol in Salem with several displays from the participating agencies and the OSFGC, Inc.

It was a fantastic opportunity for networking between The OSFGC, Inc. and the various participants with the result being the endorsement of continuing the project for another year. And we have a commitment from ODOT that they will purchase more seed for 2016!

So plan ahead for planting more wildflowers next year. We will try to get the seed to your clubs as early as possible.

Pioneer District Garden Clubs, Inc.

2015-2016 Scholarships

Dustin Allen Welters - \$1,500

Dustin is attending Oregon State University in the College of Agricultural Science majoring in Crop and Soil Science. His goal is to become an agronomist or crop consultant. He received an internship at Crop Production Services in Rickreall, OR which will allow him to apply what he learned in the classroom and continue to acquire new knowledge and skills. His extensive list of honors/extracurricular activities/experience includes National Honor Society, Sherwood High School, and FFA leadership roles.

Lindy Yoder - \$1,000

Lindy is enrolled in the Horticulture Department at Oregon State University with a major in Ecological and Sustainable Horticultural Production. After graduation her objective is to be a missions worker teaching better agricultural techniques to subsistence farmers. She gives credit to her grandfather for the legacy of enjoying the outdoors and a love of growing and tending plants. She is active in church activities and was named on the Portland Community College President's List before transferring OSU.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE GARDEN CLUBS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

Committee:

Garnet Ascher, Stan Chiotti, Bruna McBride, Sonya Rose-Hoatson, Peggy Schaller, and Marcia Kay Whitelock

(We would welcome others to serve on the committee.)

marciawhitelock@comcast.net , Chairman



From Left—Matt Garrett Chairman of ODOT, Lynn Chiotti, Stan Chiotti, Marcia Kay Whitelock at the State Capitol

Featuring McMinnville, Chehalem, and West Point Garden Clubs



McMinnville Garden Club

West End Welcome project –

This project began development in February of 2013 with final completion in October of the same year. The hanging baskets came the next spring and currently we have two summer baskets and two winter baskets that hang on the new post. This property is owned by Linfield College and maintained by the McMinnville Public Works department and the McMinnville Garden Club.

During our discussions with the City it was determined that a professional landscape designer should be brought on board as well as a professional landscape company to do the demolition as well as replanting of the area.

The Garden Club ordered a post for hanging baskets which required a cement pad and the garden club members assisted the landscape company in installing this along with the hanging basket post.

A new watering system was installed for the new planting area and a drip system for the hanging baskets. The landscape plan included the planting of shore pine trees along the backside which will eventually shield the view of an empty parking lot behind.

The new plants are perennials that provide color through the spring and summer months and structure during the winter months. The Garden Club maintains the planting area and the city maintains the grass area.

Total budget: \$9,000

McMinnville Garden Club Members Step Out

November and December find the McMinnville Garden Club members stepping out to a multitude of activities. First, a group will be heading to the Milwaukie, Portland area for some fun “Junkin”. It is a kick to see what types of treasures are found at the many thrift shops they visit. They will also enjoy a lunch at Panera Bread...wish we had one in Mac! Then it is off to 82nd Ave. The trip ends with a visit to Monticello Antiques for ideas and more treasures. We will repeat this event again in the Spring in Salem. Always time for treasures to use in our gardens or homes.

On the November 27th a group will step up in red sweatshirts, garden boots and holiday decorated hats and rakes to perform in the local Christmas Parade marching down Third Street. With rakes scraping to the beat of the music, the “Rakettes” giggle and smile as parade watchers enthusiastically watch the routine. Following close behind the rakers is a wheelbarrow with bags of bird seed given out to parade watchers by more club members. (Note...the seed is donated by a local business and has a sticker that says not for human consumption on the bag..) This year we are being treated to the addition of a decorated antique car that belongs to one of the members. If you are free that Friday afternoon, drop by McMinnville at 4 PM and wave (not laugh) at us.

December starts out with a full day of making baskets and wreaths from donated greens. Participants meet at a member’s barn for a day of creation. While trying to keep warm by drinking HOT coffee, etc. they are also known to partake of the many snacks that just happen to find their way to the barn. This event had its beginnings a long time ago when the club sold wreaths for their fundraising activity. Fifteen years ago, the Garden Tour was started and filled that need but members wanted to continue the fun of making wreaths together. The wreath tables that crimp the bundles together are getting old and creaky but are still doing their job. Arts and Crafts activities like this are done at least 3 times each year.

Next is a fun trip to Washington Square for shopping and lunch. Notice how food seems to be involved in most of our activities? Have to keep our energy up. This field trip group usually heads out to gardens or nurseries in the Portland area which just happens to include lunch at the Culinary School. YUM.....

Another group will be working together to distribute copies of the National Garden Club’s Frog book and lesson plans to all the elementary schools in the county. Wonder if they will stop for coffee, lunch or afternoon snacks?

AND of course, our December meeting is an annual holiday luncheon with an emphasis on table decorating and time to get to know each other. You can bet desserts are part of the meal!

Happy Holidays to All!

Chehalem Garden Club

Even though our last official meeting was in May, Chehalem Garden Club members kept very busy over the summer.

In June, we had our annual picnic, and this year were honored to have District Director Stan Chiotti and his wife, Lynne, as our guests. We were very appreciative, especially since Stan and Lynn had to drive all the way from St. Helens to Newberg to attend.

We also did our annual promotion for National Garden Week by having tables at the downtown Newberg First Friday Artwalk. This is always a fun event and we get to recruit new members! Some of our members sell their hand made, garden-related crafts and Diann Conser puts on a flower arranging demonstration. Community members then get to take home a free flower arrangement!

Three members attended the state convention and brought back lots of good information about state direction for the upcoming year. We are looking forward to weaving the various themes and focuses into our activities.

We also participate in Newberg's June Relay for Life cancer research fundraiser. Our members plant lots of pots, using up any leftover plants from our May plant sale. These pots are used in a "Serenity Garden" during the event, and then auctioned off as a fundraiser.

In July, we participated in Newberg's annual Old Fashioned Festival. We have a table at the Hoover Minthorn House Museum (the only presidential property in the Pacific Northwest). Our club maintains the herb garden there and we use the event to promote our club, gardening in general and herbs in particular. This year we featured our famous herbal spa water and home made herbal crackers.

We had several enjoyable outings over the summer as well. Two club members attended the McMinnville Garden Club's 15th annual garden tour and faire in June. Various members attended an open house at Terra Nova Nursery, Al's Sherwood Ladies Night Out and a gardening class at Farmington Gardens. Whew!

Part of the proceeds from our annual plant sale go back to the community. This month, a check for \$140 was presented to the Newberg Library to purchase children's gardens books. We received a nice note from Mary Lynn Thomas, Children's Librarian, which said, "We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for generously donating to the children's garden collection at Newberg Public Library. This year our Latino Services staff member will purchase three selections for the children's Spanish collection. She is very grateful for this opportunity."

A follow-up report on our seed planting last Spring: We planted the provided seeds in a prominent spot in Newberg. Unfortunately it was hot and the location did not have a watering system. Some plants came up. The good news is the City of Newberg liked the idea so much they are going to put in an irrigation system, replant and expand the area with the same company's seed!

We are Mini—but Mighty



From top left - Club members,
Planter boxes, wildflower planting,
The Art Walk, Picnic with the
District Director



West Point Garden Club

This garden club was federated in 1963, currently has 16 active members, and meets in the homes of members. We support the District Scholarship Fund, Hoyt Arboretum, Oral Hull Gardens for the Blind, and Willamette National Cemetery. During the 2013-2015 administration our club was the Chair for the State President's Project, "Water for Guatemala."

We co-hosted the 2015 Fall District Meeting and participated in the Pink Panther Sale.

For over 40 years we have maintained Eden Garden located at 8855 SW Canyon Road. The surrounding community - businesses and individuals - help support this garden. A Yard Sale to help finance the costs of the garden will be held in the Summer of 2016.

We began the year with an Art Project featuring recycled books. Each member designed a cover. Pages will include photos, poems, quotations, leaves, and many other materials which will be shared at the end of the garden club year. The Memory Books will be keepsakes.

Programs have included a Field Trip to Eden Garden, Bird Houses covered with seeds for our feathered friends, and miniature tea cups filled with small floral designs.

Marie Nelson, one of our ACTIVE charter members, passed away July 7, 2015 just months short of her 100th birthday. A clematis was planted at Eden Garden in her honor.

Projects

Several Pioneer District Clubs have reported progress on special projects at all levels, and as such are supporting the Pioneer District Director's project to encourage participation in all the National, Regional and State efforts.

Monarch Watch —a collaborative effort by National Garden Clubs, Inc. and several other National organizations is slowly finding success. Just this month. It was announced that after suffering nearly catastrophic declines, the Fall migration numbers have risen Planting milkweed seeds and plants is helping. There are several locations in our Portland Metropolitan region that carry seeds and plants of the native milkweed. You can contact the Oregon Milkweed Project in North Portland at facebook.com/oregonmilkweed for more information. Or go to the website for the Xerces Society for the locations where seed can be ordered. There may be a minimum order required for some locations.

Gardeners Supply also has milkweed seeds available in seed balls that are reasonably priced. They are also one of our NGC partners, so mention that you are an NGC member and you might get a discount.

The Frightened Frog - a delightful book on the plight of our amphibian population, is not in its 4th printing as of November 1st. Many District Clubs have ordered multiple copies to donate to their local schools and libraries. Single copies with shipping are about \$15. If twenty or more copies are ordered, there is a discount of 10%. If over thirty are ordered, the discount is 20%, bringing the overall cost to just under \$10 a copy including shipping. This is a fantastic holiday gift for children in K-4th Grade and the lesson plans are downloadable from the NGC website.

Think frogs aren't important? When was the last time you heard a frog croaking in your own neighborhood? Tree frogs have just started their melodious calls this month. Even areas near wetlands have been silent this year.

And of course, remember the pollinators, bees, butterflies etc. Use care with insecticides. Read the labels and better yet, do not use them. Rely on natural means of insect control. They do work.

Plant Trees and Shrubs - This is a Pacific Region project. Report to your District Director what members have planted. All Pioneer Clubs received a start of Oregon Grape. It's not too late to get it in the ground. Consider what each of you has planted and report it.

Share the Bounty—Top the Scales - Our State Project is seeing great results. Out in Columbia County, all three clubs have been involved in community gardens. In fact Scappoose and St. Helens have an annual competition to see which garden donated the most to the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. This year, the St. Helens Community Garden and club members donated over 3,500 pounds of produce. Scappoose donated almost 3,000 pounds. The club members have also personally donated several hundred pounds of food. Recipients of these donations include families, as well as the Senior Centers and Community Meals Programs.

At this holiday season, remember that canned goods and processed foods, as well as cash are welcome. Just take them to your local food bank and get a tax receipt. Every dollar donated is equal to five pounds of food. Make a copy of the receipt and turn it in to the contact person in your club, who will then report it to the District. The District will compile the data and report it to the State. Please remember that foods beyond their pull date should not be donated. It cannot be used and ends up in the landfill.



St. Helens Garden Club members Mary Woicak and Colleen DeLong pictured on the right

Photo Contest 2016

Jeannette Rogers, Chair

There are two **new** categories in the 2016 photo contest. Photos must have been taken between **January 1, 2015 and April 1, 2016**.

The categories are as follows:

1. Landscapes/Seascapes

A. Color

B. Black and White

2. Gardens

A. Color

B. Black and White

3. Floral

A. Color

B. Black and White

4. Birds, Butterflies, Insects

A. Color

B. Black and White

5. Pets

A. Color

B. Black and White

6. Wildlife

A. Color

B. Black and White

7. President's Choice: -Subject - Frogs

A. Color

B. Black and White

OSFGC would like to use the winning photos at the State Convention in a calendar and note cards. Photo contest entrants are asked to have a digital copy of their photo available and to sign a release allowing OSFGC to use their photos for the calendar and note cards and to post on OSFGC web page.

For any questions, please contact
Jeannette Rogers, Photography Contest Chair (541)415-1035, hrrsridr@aol.com.

Complete rules are on the OSFGC website: <http://oregongardenclubs.org/>

Page 1 photo credit — Taken by Lynn Chiotti on September 24, 2015 - Cedar Breaks, Utah - 10,000+ feet in altitude.

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. OSFGC Book of Remembrance

Making a contribution to the Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund is such an appropriate way to pay tribute and honor the memory of a garden club member or other friends or family who have passed away. Your gift, on their behalf, helps provide scholarships for students majoring in Horticulture at Oregon State University.

To: Sylvia Ketch, OSFGC Book of Remembrance Chairman
3011 NE Stanton St.
Portland, OR 97230-1754

In Loving Memory

Irene Eastvedt a member of Beaverton Garden Club since 1993 passed away recently and will be remembered with a donation to the Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund.

Charles Leachman, husband of Martha, and **George Nicklous**, husband of Gwen of the St. Helens Garden Club passed on November 15 and 16, 2015 will be remembered with a donation to the Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund. Close relatives of club members Leslie Fuller and Zelda Anderson have also recently passed and will be remembered as well.

Contests and Deadlines

Contest deadlines are fast approaching. Clubs were sent all the information by e-mail in October and also were given them at the District Luncheon. Here are the deadlines. Information is also on the state website at oregongardenclubs.org

High School Essay Contest—December 1

Youth Poetry Contest—December 1

Youth Sculpture - check the website

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Deadlines - January 15, 2016

Other contests are listed in the State Directory Handbook. Check with your Club President.

Deadline for the Next Pioneer Press is February 1, 2016

Have a Great Holiday Season !

Stan Chiotti, District Director