

Winter
2014



PIONEER
PRESS

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Member

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Pacific Region

2013-2015

**Pioneer District
Officers**

Leanna Woodall,

Beaverton GC, Director

Stan Chiotti,

St. Helens GC, Asst. Director

Diann Conser,

Chehalem GC, Secretary

Sue Owen,

Cedar Mill GC, Treasurer

Notes from the Director

Dear Club Members:

I wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful cards, notes, and flowers I received over the past two months. As many of you know, I experienced a serious relapse with my MS in December and ended up spending the holidays in a nursing home.

I'm happy to report that I'm back at home and have been enjoying watching it snow the past few days. Our chickens and ducks are enjoying their heat lamp and only rarely peek their heads out of the coup. The surprising thing is that all four of the hens have started laying eggs again this past week and in the early morning they are proud to share their accomplishment with the entire neighborhood. You'd think they were the first chickens in the world to lay an egg!

I was on the Pioneer District website recently and noticed only two events listed on the calendar. Please send the dates for your spring plant sales and other events directly to Bruna McBride [bmcb1@pioneer.com] and she'll get them onto the web-site.

There are two upcoming events I'd like

to remind you about:

- 1) The Pioneer District Spring Luncheon is being held on Thursday, April 17th at the Meriwether National Golf Course in Hillsboro. (See article below). I look forward to seeing you there.
- 2) Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. annual convention "Summertime in Oregon" is being held from June 23-25 at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville. Further information will be published over the next few months, but mark your calendars now and plan to attend one, two or all three days. We'll have great speakers, a wonderful boutique and many activities for you to enjoy.

I had such a nice time visiting the North Plains Garden Club in early December and look forward to attending additional club meetings as soon as I get stronger. I hope all of you are enjoying this new year and kept safe and warm during the recent snow and ice storm.

Leanna Woodall,
Pioneer District Director

District Spring Luncheon
April 17th

The Aloha Garden Club will be presenting the District's Spring Luncheon, "Tip-toe through the Tulips", on April 17th at the Meriwether National Golf Club. Our speaker will be Barb Iverson from the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm. The menu (\$17) will include a chicken or vegetarian dish. Presidents, please report your attendee count by April 7th and remind members to bring canned food for the Oregon Food Bank, as requested by District Director, Leanna Woodall. Hope to see you there!



Beaverton's pretty dessert table,
Fall 2013 District Luncheon



OSFGC, Inc. Photography Contest



OSFGC, Inc. will again have a state-wide photography contest. Photographs will be presented by club members at their MARCH meeting for selection in each of the categories below (or in as many categories as are presented at the club meeting, i.e. every club might not have an entry in each category). The winning entries from each club will then be presented at the District Luncheon (Pioneer District's Luncheon is scheduled for April 17th) where present members will again vote for winners in the various categories. District First Place winners in each category will advance to the State Convention for final judging by a professional photographer. The winners in each division will receive a certificate and ribbon. Please keep in mind this is supposed to be a fun, creative experience so comb through your pictures of the last year to find a favorite or capture one of our beautiful sunsets now that the fog has cleared!

Photos can be digital or film photos and should not be enhanced by any computer program other than to convert to black and white. **Photos must be 8"x10" and matted, not to exceed 11"x14" inches.** The categories are as follows:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Landscapes/Seascapes
A. Color
B. Black and White</p> | <p>2. Gardens
A. Color
B. Black and White</p> | |
| <p>3. Floral
A. Color
B. Black and white</p> | <p>4. Birds, Butterflies, Insects
A. Color
B. Black and White</p> | <p>5. Pets
A. Color
B. Black and White</p> |

OSFGC 2013 Photo Contest Rules

Photos must have been taken between January, 2013 and April 1, 2014.
Photos may be either 35mm or digital. If digital, may not have been enhanced by Photoshop or similar programs.
On the back of the photo, tape a card with the following information (**don't write directly on the back of the picture**).

Example

Name of Photographer: **Karen Ramsey**
Garden Club and District - **Grants Pass Garden Club - Siskiyou District**
Date / Location of photograph if possible - **April 1, 2013, Disneyland**
Make and model of Camera used - **Nikon Coolpix 9500**
Type of media - Film or Digital - **Digital**
Category of entry - **Landscapes/Seascapes - Black & White**

A photo stand of sufficient size to support an 11"X14" matted photo should be provided for each photo to be displayed at Club, District and State meetings. Label the stand unobtrusively with your name. No frames please.

For any questions, please go to the Oregon State Garden Club website for the rules or contact Karen Ramsey, Photography Contest Chairman at her email, sierrakr@aol.com, or by phone 541.479.5513.

2014 State Convention

This is Pioneer District's opportunity to shine at this year's Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. State Convention...because OUR District is playing host to all the others June 23-25! The Convention, which will be held at the Holiday Inn at Wilsonville will require volunteers from all our clubs to make it a smashing success! So, Presidents, start talking it up at your meetings and we'll have more information soon about

the various kinds of help that will be needed. Everything from creating centerpieces for tables, producing exhibits and getting attendees registered....there's a lot to pulling this off well, so we look forward to lots of people pitching in! Victoria Fuller

Just So's You Know...

Elsie Stuhr Sr Ctr, Tualatin Hills and Cooper Mtn Nature Parks all have Yoga classes, varying levels. Registration for in-district participants is

March 1st. Check out classes at THPRD.org to get limbered up for spring gardening. *Joy Creek Nursery (joycreeknursery.wordpress.com)* has list of Portland gardeners whose gardening blogs are of interest. Also at the nursery: *Sun., Mar. 1st, Late Winter Pruning Demonstration, 1pm*, to correct cold weather damage; free; dress warmly; no need to register, 20300 NW Watson Rd, Scappoose. *Al's Garden Center Sherwood: Feb 15th, 10-2 Starting from Seed Help from Master Gardeners.*

St. Helens Garden Club

St Helens Garden Club is eighty-five years old and one of the first five clubs federated in 1928. Since 2010, our membership has grown from 33 members to 49 and we are happy to report that there are six men in the club now. By a vote of the members a few years back, the number one reason for meeting was food! Food, fun, and fellowship has been a great combination in allowing our club to prosper. Our members come from Scappoose, Warren, Columbia City, Rainier and as far away as Rockaway Beach.

We are very active with civic beautification projects for both St. Helens and Columbia City. Triangle Park in St. Helens is a great example of what a garden club can do. The design, construction and planting of the park was done primarily by our members with Sharon Harrison doing the lion's share. We continue to be busy with the park's upkeep and maintenance. McCormick Park, with its War Memorial and Blue Star Marker, gets spruced up for Memorial Day and Veteran's Day by our club members and is decorated with wreaths made by a member for all to enjoy. The County Fair Floral Building landscaping is another example of what a few people can accomplish, again thanks to Sharon. Columbia City is in the design stages for honoring all six branches of our military services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines). Our club will be helping them with a Blue Star By-way Marker and some of the landscaping for this project.

Two plant sales are our major source of income. One is held at the Library in early April, the other at the High School in late April, when the Master Gardeners sell about 6,000 tomato plants. We sell about 300 bags of horse manure from Rocky Point stables during this time.

St. Helens is also a very generous club. Since the start of the Penny Pines program about four years ago, our members have raised enough money to plant ten acres worth of trees.

It is a great honor and privilege to be the first man to be elected, and then re-elected, to be this club's President. (Ed. Note: Stan is also serving as Assistant Director of Pioneer District.)

Stan Chiotti, President, St. Helens Garden Club



Tigard GC Stays Busy

Tigard has continued its unwavering support for the Caring Closet of Tigard. Buying suggested gifts from the "Thanksgiving Tree" in November, they donated much-needed items to children in grades K-12.

Shifting gears, ten members attended the Oregon Judges' Council Flower Show as a field trip, enjoying the beautiful holiday-themed designs created by experts.

In the photo to the right, you see our members at our annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon at Mary Clinton's home having enjoyed a grand feast. Canned goods and "gently-used" clothing for the Good Neighbor homeless shelter were also collected. Marguerite Morin



Better Living Show

The Portland Better Living Show is coming up March 29-30, Saturday and Sunday, from 10-6 both days, at the Portland Expo Center. Admission is free; there is a charge for parking, so consider carpooling or taking Max. The OSFGC Inc.'s Small Standard Flower Show will be located along the south wall. Pioneer District will need to supply four hostesses who watch over the en-

tries and answer questions from the public from 2-6 on Sunday so contact Leanna Woodall (Dist Dir.) right away if you want to help...those positions go fast! Entries for all classes are full already but we encourage new (and long-term) members to visit the show to learn what makes for a winning effort. The show entries will be accepted Friday, 2-7pm and must be picked up Sunday between 5-6pm. Don't forget to make time to visit other exhibitors showcasing green living in the Northwest.

Flower Show Courses Offered

March 4-6 there will be a Flower Show School at the Eugene Garden Clubhouse, sponsored by the Willamette Judges Council. If you are interested in competing in flower shows or are an existing judge who'd like to brush up on rules and regs, these four course would get you on your way. Contact Linda Rettig, rettigL@comcast.net

Nandina Berries Toxic to Birds? Yes!

Oregon State University Extension Wildlife Specialist, Dana Sanchez, recently notified the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District that a common landscaping shrub may threaten local bird populations due to its toxic berry. You know this shrub as Nandina, Sacred Bamboo, or Heavenly Bamboo and even if you don't have it at home, you've definitely seen it in other's yards or in commercial landscaping. In fact, it is found in the landscaping of yards, parks, hospital grounds, and other locations across the lower 48 states. Planted for its bright red berries and contrasting dark green or red/orange foliage, the shrub adds color and texture in residential and commercial landscapes.

Some homeowners plant Nandina to provide food for Cedar waxwing, American robin, Northern mockingbird, and other birds that depend on winter fruits to survive. Its berries stay on the bush for months, attracting hungry birds later in the season, when other food for the birds is in short supply.

That can become a major problem. When dozens of Cedar waxwings were found dead in Georgia three years ago, investigators at the University of Georgia found the cause to be Nandina berries. Bird autopsies revealed the berries lodged in the birds' crops, as well as having caused the hemorrhaging of several internal organs.

The root of the birds' distress is the cyanide and other alkaloids contained in the berries; they produce highly toxic hydrogen cyanide, which is extremely poisonous to all animals. Sudden death may be the only sign of cyanide poisoning and death usually comes within minutes to an hour of exposure.

Worse still, Nandina is a non-domestic, noxious and highly invasive weed that displaces the non-toxic, native plants on which local birds would thrive. It has come to us from China and Japan and has invaded many natural areas.

Home owners and commercial landscapers are still planting this toxic species, unaware of the risk. "Over 220 bird species nationwide are in serious decline, including our most

Jerry W. Davis, Certified Wildlife Biologist from Arizona. "By working together, we can eliminate this toxic and noxious invasive plant. If you are not doing your part, the job is not getting done."

Consider these simple steps to help get that job done:

Avoid using Nandina in your landscaping projects and opt for beneficial native plants with a similar appearance such as Pacific ninebark, red elderberry or red huckleberry instead. Additionally, many of these provide a more attractive flower during spring and summer.

If you do have Nandina that you aren't ready to part with, take care to prune off the berries as winter approaches (November). Planting a variety of non-toxic food sources such as serviceberry, snowbrush or red twig dogwood will help fill the gap for birds that are foraging during these later winter months.

You can report large groupings of the shrub to the Invasive Species site at oregoninvasiveshotline.org. Currently, there are no control efforts underway in Washington County for Nandina, but sharing this article with any landscaper that handles your home or business may help.

Look for an announcement in our TSWC Spring newsletter of the 2014 Weed Watcher for class dates to learn more about invasive species ID and reporting.

Jennifer Nelson, Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District

Original Source: Jerry W. Davis, Certified Wildlife Biologist, 172 Heritage Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901, jwdavis@cablelynx.com



2013-2014 Pioneer District Scholarship Program

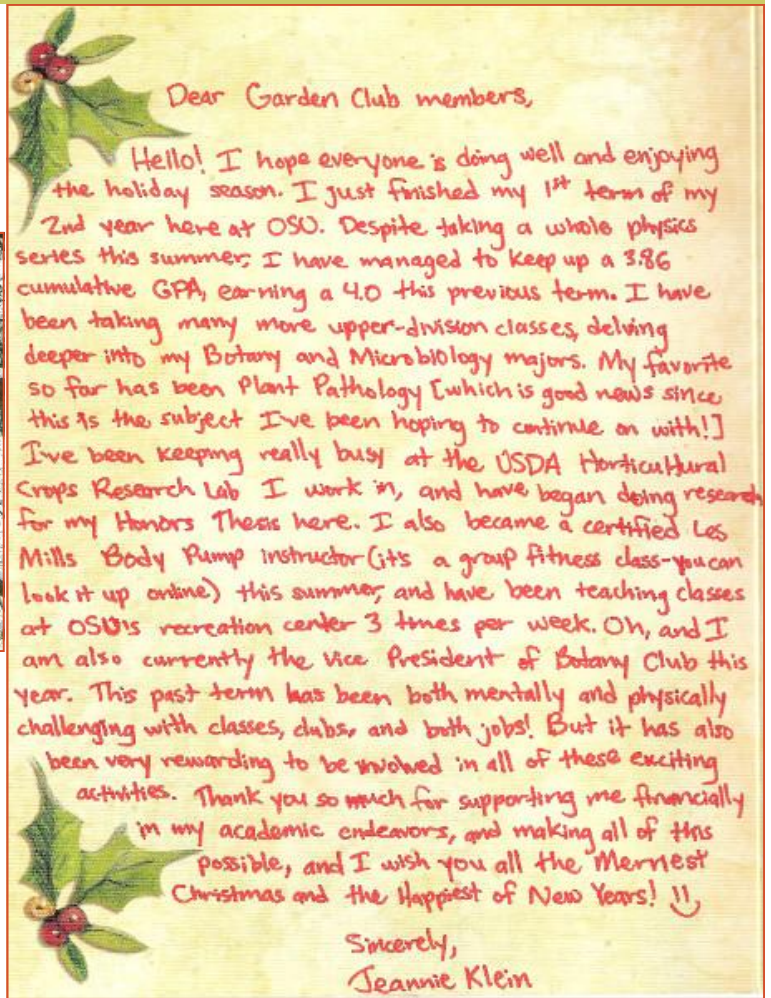
Through the generosity of our member garden clubs, we were able to award two \$1,000 scholarships for academic year 2013-2014. Our students are attending Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Mee-ya Monnin will be graduating with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife at the end of the 2014 winter term. We will be sending more information in the next issue about this outstanding student.



Jeannie Klein sent a Christmas card (seen at right) and photo to thank us.

We hope you will continue to support the District Scholarship program. We will be issuing reports at the March District Board meeting as well as the District Luncheon in April. If you have questions about the program's selection process or are possibly interested in joining our committee, please contact any of our committee members: Garnet Ascher, Merry Lloyd, Bruna McBride, Sue Owen, Barbara Ternus, Lucille Thomas or Chairman, Marcia Kay Whitelock (503.524.5309, marciawhitelock@comcast.net).



Cedar Mill Gets Creative and shhh.... Steals Some Gifts!

Three fall meetings offered all sorts of opportunities for CMGC members. Provided with oasis, flowers, wheat and cattails by the club together with members' greenery, mossy branches, berries and hydrangeas, attendees filled their hollowed out pumpkins with beautifully designed creations at the October meeting.

Luther Sturdevant, owner of Kara Nursery and President of the Oregon Cactus and Succulent Society, explained the differences between various succulents at the November meeting...a program CMGC members would definitely recommend.

The annual Potluck and December Gift Exchange offered the chance for members to select a gift or "steal" one from another member. A topiary created by Jeanette Benson made the rounds as did an Amaryllis. We all had great fun, superb food and good conversation.

Summer Browner, our Secretary, joins Jeanette Benson, Master Designer & Judge, to enjoy the fruits of their labor in creating a pumpkin centerpiece.



Barbara Cushman, President, and Alice Schlosser, Treasurer, share the holiday spirit at the popular Christmas Potluck.

Why Belong to Our Organization?

Sadly, we've received word that two clubs have elected to leave our District and the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs. While we will surely miss them (Aloha Garden Club and Banks Country Garden Club) and their participation in our District, we'd like to reflect on the opportunities that belonging to the Pioneer District, the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, the Pacific Region, and the National Garden Clubs provides to all of us.

Our nation-wide Conservation Pledge challenges us to become "caretakers of our air, water, forests, land, and wildlife." As garden clubs, we are uniquely positioned to work on all 5 of these areas within our local communities, our states and our nation.

Being part of the National Garden Clubs offers so many different and diverse reason to shine. Are you an avid gardener who delights in digging in the soil? Or are you someone who is concerned about the environment and issues that affect our living conditions?

From the National Garden Club's website:

"Members of NGC grow our world and green our communities. Our members create a powerful voice and expansive network for advancing common interests. We are one of the most recognized non-profits in the United States and the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world."

Becoming a member club is simple and inexpensive. Membership provides opportunities for education and

to explore a wide range of common interests with people in our local communities, our state, our nation and around the world.

"NGC provides numerous educational outlets such as Gardening Study, Flower Show Schools, Environmental Studies, Landscape Design. How about opportunities to share Photography, knowledge about Natural Medicines, cooking with Herbs?"

Are you an avid outdoors person who looks forward to a short walk in the forest to see the wildflowers?

- Many of our clubs participate in the "Penny Pines" program, sponsored by the National Garden Clubs in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service. For a \$68 donation, we can have native trees planted in burned or damaged forests. All the money donated in Oregon stays in Oregon.
- Some clubs are now encouraging "wildflower" walks where they identify wildflowers native to their local region.

Being part of a local garden club that is federated is so much more than being part of a social group. Our horizons are expanded beyond our immediate area by being affiliated with NGC. It opens our eyes to new ideas, new people, and new worlds.

- Numerous clubs from all over our nation donated money to support the building of a memorial garden on the Dover Air Force Base where families come to receive the remains of their fallen soldiers.

- North Plains Garden Club installed the 71st Oregon Blue Star Memorial Marker in the fall of 2012. Other clubs in our district are working on further installations.

Do you want to pass your knowledge on to others, young and old? Do you enjoy sharing with others in your community? Here are some examples of our clubs making a difference in the lives of others:

- Since 2009, the Pioneer District has awarded six \$1,000 scholarships and two \$500 scholarships for a total of \$7,000.
- Both the Chehalem and Beaverton Garden Clubs have donated books to their local libraries.
- The Tigard Garden Club makes Mother's Day corsages for Meals on Wheels participants.

National, Regional, State and District Garden Clubs all offer opportunities to get recognition for the work you do in your clubs, from flower shows, to special plantings, to yearbooks, newsletters, etc.

Possibly the most important aspect of belonging to our District is the exchange of ideas that happens at our State Conventions and District Meetings. These ideas engage and invigorate our clubs to keep our local meetings fresh and interesting and often are new ideas that have filtered down to us from a National Garden Club beginning!

Leanna Woodall, District Director, and Lynn Chiotti, St Helens GC

Washington County Small Woodlands Sale

The Washington County Small Woodlands Association is having its annual sale March 8th, 9-3, at the Bale's Thriftway at 17675 SW Farmington

Rd. There will be 2000 nursery-certified native plants with 70+ varieties. Come browse our trees, shrubs, herbs and ferns! As an added feature this year, one can order online at www.wcswa.com and pick up your order at the sale. All proceeds fund our college scholarship project, now in its twelfth year.



Grateful for a meal...

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