

Pioneer Press
Official publication for the Pioneer District of
The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs,
Inc.

Summer Edition—2017



From your *outgoing* District Director—Stan Chiotti

These past four years have been an outstanding experience. Three counties, 16 Garden Clubs, and 680 members will keep you humble. Whether you are a glass half empty or a glass half full type of person, a few facts. After 64 years, I am the first man to run Pioneer District. This makes me either the BEST or the WORST guy at this job.

You are the greatest District. Over \$10,000 has gone to District, State and Local scholarship programs. I am extremely proud of all who have worked at School and Community Gardens. Your generosity towards “Share the Bounty” has produced the equivalent of 120,000 pounds in food to OSFGC, Inc. President Shirley’s Project. You deserve a BIG round of applause.

You have participated in numerous community projects and of course are caring for our pollinators by planting wildflowers.

Thank you again for all your help and support.

Stan Chiotti



Pioneer District Officers
2017-2019

Theme: If people were all like wildflowers, we could all live together in one field.

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Congratulations!

McMinnville Garden Club's Own

Gaye Stewart

2017-2019

State President

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Theme: Plant a Seed, Reap a Harvest

Special Project

*"Plant Pollinator Gardens
in Public Places"*

Nancy Hargraves, President

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Theme: Plant America!

Pacific Region

Director—Oregon's Own

Peggy Olin

Theme: Spreading Your Butterfly Wings to Fly.

Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening.

These unified themes will allow the Oregon Garden Clubs to be creative and expand our outreach within the state to Protect our Pollinators by planting food sources for their survival. Remember, pollinators are essential for the very agricultural resources Oregon provides. Pollinators are necessary for our fruits and vegetables readily available at our local markets, especially in the Summer months. And by reaping a harvest of bountiful foods, we can help those in need in our communities. Please keep these themes in mind when preparing club programs for the next two years.

State Life Membership Awarded

Stan Chiotti, outgoing Pioneer District Director, was presented with a Life Member of The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. at Pioneer District's Spring General Meeting and Luncheon. Stan served 2 years as Acting Director, and then accepted another two years as District Director. Stan has worked diligently with care and respect for all who worked with him.



Congratulations Stan!

From the Oregon Camellia Society

Oregon Camellia Society hosts three flower shows annually to show off the beauty and versatility of the camellia. The first, at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland, starts the spring season, followed by the "People's Choice Awards Show" at the Portland Japanese Garden which includes a strong educational component with many display tables showing best planting practices, methods of propagation, variations in foliage, camellia literature, and the history of the camellia in the Portland area. Our camellia show season closes with our juried Oregon Camellia Society Show at the Newberg Camellia Festival. Also, this year, OCS offered a workshop to the public, "Fun with Flowers: How to Show—and Win with Camellias" so that one could learn the ins-and-outs of preparing and exhibiting camellia blooms. Young gardeners were encouraged to attend. Then, OCS hosted the American Camellia Society National Convention in Newberg which brought together camellia lovers from the East Coast, the South, California, and the Northwest.

Chehalem Garden Club

At the ANLD Garden Tour



Left to right: Kathy Huber, Connie Howard, Elinor Sexton, Kami McNeill, Suzy Ramm and Diann Conser.



Children and Tools

I'm willing to bet that Tiger Woods' pappy gave his precocious boy a pint-sized set of golf clubs at a very tender age. And I'm just as sure that those clubs weren't the weightless, soft-plastic type that you see at Toys 'R' Us, the ones that wouldn't drive a whiffle ball across a living room. Little Tiger's clubs were, I'll wager, proper woods, irons and putters – just like Dad's, only smaller.

I know for certain that Chet Atkins' first guitar was a regulation one (I saw it on a segment of TV's Biography), and I know in my heart that Van Cliburn did his early key-tinkling on something much better than an out-of-tune thunker-planger produced by Playschool.

Which brings me to my point. If you want a child to become a virtuoso gardener, make sure he or she gets the proper implements from the get-go. With the possible exception of over direction and browbeating by an adult, nothing will discourage a kid more from an endeavor than a tool that is unable to do the job. Plastic shovels that won't penetrate the ground, cheesy rakes that won't gather dirt and wheelbarrows that won't hold anything heavier than a teddy bear are almost guaranteed to make a non-gardener out of the most horticultural-prone youngster.

Children's garden tools should be made so that kids can actually DO something with them, not merely use them to mimic an adult's actions. Of course, that doesn't mean you put a pair of razor-sharp pruners into the hands of your toddler. But, when the time is right and under the watchful eye of a grownup, young gardeners-to-be should be provided with basic tools that are sturdy, workable and sized to their bodies.

A good tool kit for a youngster includes a shovel or spade, steel rake, hoe, cultivator, trowel, weeder, watering can, wheelbarrow, broom, gloves and a hat. At some point, pruners should be included. The tool heads should be made of stamped or forged steel and riveted to the handles, not just pressed, glued or pinned. The handles should be made of a durable hardwood, such as ash or hickory. Rake and broom handles can be made of ramoin, poplar, birch or another dense straight-grained soft wood. Rakes, hoes and cultivators should be, overall, as tall as or a little taller than the child who will be using them. Shovels and spades should extend to the child's chin before being sunk into the ground.

The tools should be as sharp as is appropriate for the child's maturity. Sharp tools are out of the question for kids too young to understand the consequences of carelessness. But when a youngster demonstrates a healthy respect for a sharp edge and a sufficiently calm demeanor (translation: he's not going to bash or slash his siblings with his hoe) nicely edged tools may be appropriate.

If the tools you furnish are well made, they can evolve and grow along with the child. Longer handles can be mounted safely and dull tools made sharper as the horticulturist-in-training matures. Eventually, as the youngster passes into adulthood, they can be retrograded into small hand tools. (Imagine the pleasure of having a tool in your dotage that you've used since childhood.)

Show your budding gardener how to use and care for his or her tools. Teach him to dig properly, driving the shovel into the ground with his weight not his muscles and lifting with his legs, not his back! Show her how to hoe, rake and cultivate to the side, not straight ahead, so her back is straight not bent. Such lessons apply broadly and, if the instruction takes, will serve well in many areas of life.

Good quality tools sized for kids can be hard to find. Mail order catalogs and the internet are your best bets. Also, try looking for tools scaled down for women. Hardware stores in rural areas are a more likely source than their urban and suburban counterparts.

I know of a boy, nine years old and the son of a customer, who has his own secateurs and can prune as well as any nurseryman. From age four his parents provided him with high-quality tools, sound instruction, a patch of dirt to call his own and a heap of encouragement without pressure. I'll bet you, dollars to doughnuts; he'll live long, with a strong attachment to the earth, and be at peace with himself. A lifetime in the garden will do that for you, and that is a magnificent gift to give a child you love.

GARDEN TOOLS 4 GARDEN PROJECTS— AMES + NGC = Gardening!

Project Description

NGC has formed a partnership with The AMES Companies, Inc. for a Garden Tools project. Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. AMES will grant tools for approved state or club landscaping projects/programs. This partnership started in October 2014. Forms are being updated.

Tigard Garden Club was one of the recent recipients of an Ames Tool Grant. More information will be forthcoming. Each club should consider applying for one of the grants.

The North Plains Community Garden Club

For the past 15 years, the NPCGC has maintained the "Wall" on the corner of Commercial St. and Glencoe in North Plains. The "Wall" is made of wood and over time has rotted, and is constantly in need of repair. The city has recently acquired the property behind the wall for the new City Hall building. New plans will be drawn and new flower beds will be incorporated at that time. We are excited to see the new plans.

Our club provides hanging baskets for Commercial Street for summer color. We also provide Easter baskets for the children at the NW Recovery Center in Mountaindale, help the city library with local projects, and contribute to the scholarship fund.

The first week-end in August (4th, 5th, and 6th) is the Elephant Garlic Festival. If you were to attend, you could see some of our work.

Robin Hood Garden Club News

After our annual plant sale in May, the Robin Hood Garden Club wrapped up its year with a wild (life) time - a choice of guided hikes at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge just north of Sherwood. The hikes were led by garden club members Ginny, the Refuge's acting botanist and a native plant expert, and Sandy, also a Refuge volunteer who loves to introduce people to trees above all. Wildlife was spotted! Also spotted, identified and examined were native and non-native trees young and old, poison oak, and various herbaceous plants.

In July we are looking forward to a garden party at a club member's house. She moved to Oregon from the east coast, and since plants are different out here, the gathering will include a name-that-plant contest - with a prize for the person who can give her the largest number of names of the plants growing on the property that she and her husband bought.

It will be a field trip to Red Pig Garden Tools in Boring that brings us together in August. Bob Denham, owner of Red Pig, brought his tools and his knowledge of using them properly to one of our spring meetings. His entertaining and informative talk left us wanting to know more, and to see in person where and how he makes his tools.

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Tigard Garden Club

As the member year winds down, we have found ourselves immersed in a veritable deluge of activities.

Guest lecturers shared information on how to optimize spring planting as well as how to get the most "bang for the buck" using intensive vegetable gardening techniques. Today's smaller residential lots make that a most timely topic.

A team of members prepared some 100 **Mothers' Day corsages** to be included for ladies along the



Loaves and Fishes route. A good time was had by all while creating a breath of spring for each recipient. Our annual **Plant Sale** weathered some major hurdles. A last-minute change of venue, along with torrential rains, fortunately did nothing to dampen the spirits of potential buyers. The sale was once again a success in support of our efforts, among others, to provide fresh herbs for the Tigard Senior Center and vigorous, lovely memorial gardens around the grounds. The regular **monthly field trips** concluded in late June at two privately owned gardens in Beavercreek. We've all enjoyed these monthly highlights, well planned and organized by our vice president.

Our **concluding yearly meeting** was a potluck picnic at Barn Owl Nursery in Canby where we celebrated our returning slate of officers. It will be our good fortune in having each of the four on board for the next calendar year. And finally, we will celebrate **The 9th Annual Grand Garden Tour** on July 12. We will visit three uniquely beautiful gardens, each from the hands and hoes of our own members, and feast our way through a progressive lunch at each stop. Like all western Oregonians, we are looking forward to uninterrupted days of sunshine to bring our gardens into their showy summer status.

Submitted by Marilyn Isaac

St. Helens Garden Club

The St. Helens Garden Club held a very successful plant sale in April. We once again had access to Poo this year and that really helped bolster our sales. The club turned out in full array and we had ample plants for both this sale and the Master Gardener's sale, with enough left over to make a good start on our city garden plantings.

We maintain three parks in St. Helens and Columbia City. We participated in a very moving Memorial Day service at the Veteran's Park in Columbia City in May. The park looked beautiful and the wreath that was placed on our Blue Star Marker was lovely. Ida Mae Larsen of Ida's Wreath Shop made the wreath for us.

Our June meeting was held at the Chiotti's home. Garnet Asher joined us for our June meeting and installed our new officers for 2017-18.

We made 50 plus arrangements for National Garden Week. And members distributed these to local businesses and municipal offices. Lynn Chiotti made two lovely arrangements for the library's program on "A History of Estate Gardens in Portland" which was held in conjunction with the Columbia County Museum and was presented by the Portland Garden Club, as a part of National Garden Week.

The day prior to the beginning of National Garden Week, June 4, 2017, St. Helens and Scappoose Garden Clubs co-sponsored a Garden Tour open to the public. It featured four unique gardens. There were even people from out of state who joined the tour after seeing the advertisement in the Oregon newspaper Home and Garden Section. As this was the first time this event happened, it was a learning experience for everyone and we hope to have another tour in two years—2019.

The final summer events include the annual Club picnic at a member's home followed by the Columbia County Fair July 19-23. We encourage all members to not only work at the Floral Building, but to enter the show, highlighting our home-grown flower and their talents in design. Join us at the Fair for a great time!

Photography Winners at the OSFGC 2017 Convention

Pioneer District has once again distinguished itself in the State Photography Contest. Five entries received First Place ribbons, One Second Place, and Two Third Place ribbons.

First Place winners:

Gardens—Black and White—Eilene Wolven- Beaverton

Floral—Black and White—Yolanda Moser—Beaverton

Wildlife—Black and White—Eilene Wolven—Beaverton

Birds, Butterflies, Insects—Black and White—Kathie Hupp—St. Helens

Ladybugs—Either—Kathie Hupp—St. Helens

Second Place winner

Pets—Black and White—Victoria Fuller—Beaverton

Third Place Winners

Birds, Butterflies, Insects—Color—Shelley Fagin—Beaverton

Landscape/Seascape—Color—Diann Conser—Chehalem

Thank you to all who entered from Pioneer District. And special thanks to the Local Judges from Siskiyou County who did a fantastic job selecting the winners.

Still more Pioneer District Awards

Walter and Marian Allen Membership Award - Oregon Camelia Society for an increase of 57.1 % in membership. And 3rd place to Oregon Cactus Society for an increase of 36.3%. Well done!

Lifetime Achievement Award to Marcia Kay Whitelock—West Point Garden Club—our Member of Distinction Nominee.

Yearbooks and Covers—Chehalem HM and 1st for cover. Tigard Garden Clubs 1st and 2nd for cover

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Anniversary Certificates of Merit

90 years—McMinnville and St. Helens

70 Years—Tigard

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**79th Blue Star Memorial Marker
Dedicated May 29, 2017
Veterans Memorial Park
City of Cornelius**

Pioneer District Garden Clubs, Inc. in partnership with the City of Cornelius and The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. dedicated the 79th Blue Star Marker in the State of Oregon. More than 200 guests which included veterans, Cornelius citizens, and garden club members attended the dedication. The park honors its' citizens who have served to protect and defend our country. The Washington County Sheriff's Honor Guard presented the colors and the gun salute was offered by VFW Post 2666. The keynote speaker was Major General Eric Vollmecke, USAF, Deputy Director for Politic-Military Affairs for Africa. Sgt. Eric Bunday, Hillsboro Police Department sang the National Anthem and God Bless America. Keira Bobbitt, age 10, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy Ebsen, State Blue Star Chairman, shared the history of the Blue Star Marker program and presented a Blue Star pin to City Manager, Rob Drake. Gaye Stewart, State President-Elect unveiled the marker, and State President, Shirley Schmidt, dedicated and presented the marker and a National Garden Clubs, Inc. certificate to Mayor Dalin.

Nancy Biehn, President, The Five Oaks Garden Club, and Donna J. Soderberg, President of the Hillsboro Garden Club, placed the wreath at the marker. Additionally, members of these two garden clubs assisted with planting flowers at the park during "planting day" which is an annual event. Cornelius was also recognized as a Purple Heart City. Performing the dedication and placing the wreath was Spencer Jones, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The OSFGC/ ODOT Wildflower/ Pollinator Project

Now in it's third year, this project is becoming more visible around Oregon. Thanks to the efforts of ODOT Maintenance in various ODOT regions of Oregon, we are seeing special plantings developed, including at the wayside on the north side of the old Lewis and Clark Bridge in Astoria. Mark Buffington of Region 1 Maintenance and his crew have made and planted a special wildflower bed that is now beginning to sprout and will be in full bloom in Spring 2018 and possibly this coming Fall. Region 1 includes both the North Coast District and Pioneer District.. Marcia Kay Whitelock belongs to both Districts and coordinated with Mr. Buffington. Next on his schedule for planting is along the bank at the West entrance to the Eagle Sanctuary on Highway 30.



Additional photos show the reblooming at West Slope's Eden's Garden on Canyon Road in Washington County. Planted last summer.



Send in your club's wildflower pictures for the Fall Edition of the Pioneer Press.

Deadline for the Fall Edition of the Pioneer Press will be October 10, 2017. So send in any articles you wish to have printed by that date. Let me know if you have fall plant sale dates or events you want to publicize.

Lynn Chiotti - Editor for another two years.

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