

# Pioneer Press—Autumn 2016



**Pioneer District, Inc.**

**Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

**The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

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Pioneer Press Editor—Lynn Chiotti

## **From Your District Director**

After a very warm and mostly dry summer, it is going to be hard to adjust to the colder and wetter season that we are entering. How quickly it gets dark in the evening is amazing. Wait until Daylight Savings Time comes around.

The good thing about the Fall is still the trees as their leaves change color, and all the chrysanthemums that are in bloom. Got to see my first large flock of geese heading south against a blue sky background last week. What a sight. Getting out in the garden or yard at this time of year is still a wonderful experience, enjoy it.

As you know, Pioneer District went in with Clackamas, Multnomah, and Portland Districts to purchase a Blue Star Memorial marker for the VA Outpatient Clinic in Fairview, OR. On September 9, 2016, I had the honor and privilege to emcee the ceremony. Thanks to all who helped to make it an unforgettable occasion.

A lot of heavy produce still needs to be harvested, like apples, pumpkins, squash, zucchini, etc. Keep that in mind since the “Share the Bounty” project stays in effect until June, 30, 2017. Feeding the hungry and needy should be an “all the time” project in my opinion.

Hope to see a lot of you at our District luncheon October 20, 2016. Should have something new to report from The OSFGC, Inc. Fall Board meeting on October 10, 2016.  
**Stan Chiotti—Pioneer District Director**

## From the Editor

Just for your information: The photo on the front is not the same one used last year. This one was taken September 21, 2016 at the same location, but the circumstances were very different. The southern Utah canyons and monuments were in overcast conditions, often in rain and fog. The good part was that the grey tones enhanced the colors of the trees. But we didn't expect to be counting sheep as the drovers brought down their flocks this year. Great experience to see.

As Stan said, "Imagine counting 3,000 sheep and still being awake". Only one person felt inconvenienced enough to drive through the middle of the flock. Fortunately, he did not hit any of the sheep or herd dogs. Everyone else just shook their heads in dismay, including the drovers on their horses.

The unfortunate part was that Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon were shrouded in clouds. Imagine paying money to visit the canyons by tour bus and not be able to see the canyons at all. Here is a picture of Bryce Canyon this year.



## Tigard Garden Club

As our new member year begins, we happily celebrate a few of our year-end activities for 2015-2016.

Our annual **May Plant Sale** was held at a local grocery with our most stunning supply of plants ever. Annual baskets, multiple species for both shade and sun, and an assortment of trees and shrubs were a big hit with the buying public.

Our **End-of-Year Potluck** was held at the home of Lovina Witty and her daughter, Michelle. The delicious meal was only one of the treats. Their Secret Garden was one lovely surprise after another, highlighted by trellises with blooming roses and clematis, as well as many other deftly planted wonders.

This event was followed on July 13 with our **Annual Tour of Member Gardens**. Three generous ladies opened their landscapes for view while co-hosting their parts of a progressive lunch.

At our first meeting of the 2016-2017 year, long-time member, Jean Snow, was toasted for a surprise **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon**.

Every member is looking forward to our annual **Margaret Hutchens Field Trip** on September 21. Through Margaret's generous bequest, we will be touring the Washington Park Rose Gardens, the newly renovated Japanese Gardens, and lunching at the Spaghetti Warehouse on the waterfront.

As the year unfolds each of us is looking forward to planting milkweed to entice the Monarch Butterfly, continuing our maintenance of the Senior Center Herb and Memorial Gardens, enjoying numerous presentations and field trips, and finding ways to nourish our environment through the beauty and benefits of gardening. We anxiously await the spring blooms of bulbs planted at our Senior Center and City Library, as well as wildflowers in local Jack Park. It's wonderful to join trowels and shovels with our fellow Pioneer District members!



*Submitted by Marilyn Isaac*

## Total Transformation

We finally got to see what our Robin Hood Garden Club member Ginny had been talking about: the transformation of a stark white styrofoam cooler into a rustic, lightweight, simulated stone planter.



Bearing those raw styrofoam containers (thick-walled containers work best), spray paint, and serrated tools - rusty saws, clean saws, any kind of saws, even bread knives - we descended on Ginny's house on a cool July morning.

She showed us how to rough up the containers with the saws, coarsening and rounding edges and cutting holes for drainage, then how to soften edges with a hand-held torch.

It was fascinating to see how the styrofoam melted and relaxed under the flame. Some of us inadvertently burned a hole in the side of the container - but some of us did it on purpose, since you can plant something in that hole, too!

We learned how to then disguise the styrofoam with a layer of wet paint and a handful of sand, and then to complete the illusion with some well-placed sprays of paint of the appropriate rustic gray and/or brown color.

A few things we learned: Styrofoam melts very fast, so use a light touch with the torch. Sawing styrofoam inside a garbage bag to contain the mess works great for large pieces, but little bits go everywhere. (Ginny told us that when she makes a planter from styrofoam, she saws the container into shape over the grass and the styrofoam beads just disappear into it.) Also, it's easier to sweep rather than vacuum styrofoam detritus from a smooth garage floor, but a vacuum cleaner works best for cleaning the rougher driveway.

And the WOW factor is applied!

Use spray paint on the grass; the painted parts of the grass will soon be mowed off. And, it's fun to experiment with paint in an effort to make styrofoam look like rock.

Something we knew already, and that we enjoyed again that day: we have really nice people in our club, who pitch in to help, are interested in trying new things, and get along really well!



## Oregon Camellia Society to host the American Camellia Society Convention

In April 2017, the Oregon Camellia Society will host the American Camellia Society's annual convention in Newberg. Between business meetings, conventioners will see local camellias in a variety of settings, including a scenic three-acre private hillside garden near McMinnville; the Cecil and Molly Smith Garden (which features three or four very large *Williamsii* hybrid camellias); Portland's Chinese and Japanese Gardens; historic camellia plantings on the University of Portland campus; and newer camellia plantings at the Chehalem Glenn Golf Course. On the convention's last day, show judges from around the country will be invited to participate in the OCS spring camellia show. The show is held at the Chehalem Cultural Center in conjunction with the Newberg Camellia Festival.

## Annual Fall Perennial Plant Sale

**October 22, 2016**

The St. Helens Garden Club will again hold a Fall Perennial plant sale at the St. Helens Library on October 22 from nine until two. This sale will be in conjunction with a library book sale. Last year, was our first Fall plant sale, and we had a very successful outcome and hope to beat it this year! Come on over and get some lovely plants, and maybe a book or two. The location is 375 S. 18th St. And stay to enjoy the Spirit of Halloweentown activities in Old Town St. Helens.

## Leap into Leadership

Robin Pokorski, National Garden Club Corresponding Secretary and Leadership Development Chairman, blessed the OSFGC members and friends with a “dynamite” workshop on July 22, 2016, in Eugene.

Some 40 “seasoned” and “emerging” leaders from 12 Districts attended Robin’s marvelous, educational workshop entitled, “Leap into Leadership.” Her topics included Parliamentary Procedure, Idea-Building, Membership-Building and Motivation, Protocol, Publicity, Team-Building and much more.

She gave examples of her personal and humorous story of joining and building her Club, District and ultimately the California State Federation of Garden Clubs, of which she served as President. Her membership-building efforts were consistently “wrapped with humor,” but more importantly “gifted” from the heart!

Robin was an inspiration to us! She encouraged us to be REAL and to try new ideas to build membership, encourage and recognize current members, and to take ACTION! We all left workshop energized and ready to “Leap into Leadership!”

Thank you Robin, for inspiring us, President Shirley for arranging with Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs to secure Robin, and to Willamette District and the Eugene Garden Club for being our hosts for this event.

Gaye Stewart  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, OSFGC

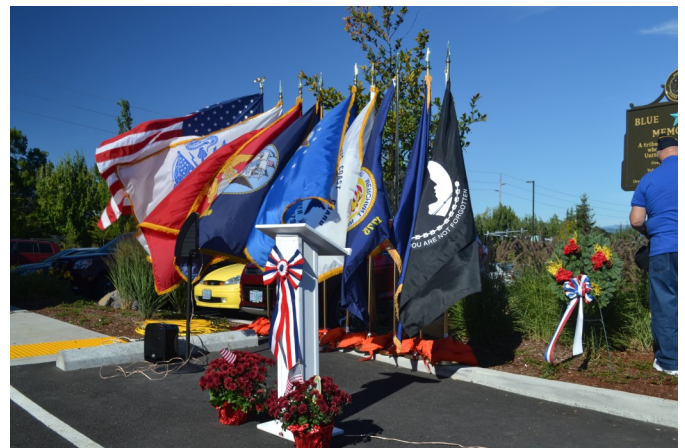
### Hillsboro Garden Club

Hillsboro Garden Club former Secretary, Gio Burt walked away with a total of 5 ribbons at the Washington County Flower Show!

Gio won a blue ribbon (1st prize) for a pink Hydrangea, a blue ribbon (1st prize) for a purple dahlia, a red ribbon (2nd prize) for a papyrus, a red ribbon (2nd prize) for a white coneflower and a white ribbon (3rd prize) for a golden Peruvian lily.

## FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

On August 10, 2016 about 10 Beaverton Garden Club members gathered at Barbara VanDoorninck’s to make the centerpieces for the annual American Cancer Society breakfast. Bringing empty vases and as many pink flowers as they could find they made beautiful centerpieces. They were then given to some of the cancer survivors as they departed from the event.



### New Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedicated in Fairview, Oregon

On September 9, 2016, the 78th Oregon Blue Star Marker was dedicated at the Veterans’ Outpatient Clinic in Fairview. The combined effort of the Multnomah, Portland, Clackamas and Pioneer Districts, the marker was accepted by Michael W. Fisher, Director of the VA Portland Health Care System. This new clinic represents a new direction for the Veterans Administration in Oregon for serving those Veterans who have given so much for our country.

Pioneer District is proud to have been a part of this dedication and thanks to our District Director, Stan Chiotti, for serving as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

**Columbia County, Oregon and Cowlitz County,  
Washington Garden Clubs Gather**

On October 5, seven garden clubs from Oregon and Washington joined together for a joint sharing of information about their clubs and to enjoy a program on decorating, using items and plant material from our own gardens. Hosted by Rainier Garden Club, the Washington Clubs included Kalama, Kelso, and Longview, and Oregon Clubs from Clatskanie, Rainier, St. Helens and Scappoose. Clubs each briefly discussed what they do for programs and projects, and although not all are Federated, they discovered that they shared many similar ideas and projects. Nearly 100 people were in attendance.



**From Pacific Region Legislative Chairman  
Lynn Chiotti**

In recent weeks, a battle has been developing in the Grand Canyon between private developers and the Navaho Tribal Council over private development at the Confluence of the Little Colorado and the Colorado Rivers. Those who have visited the World Heritage Site in Arizona, know how beautiful it is.

The proposed development would involve motels, RV Parks, Restaurants, a Hotel and a Tramway down to the river with a Riverwalk. All this on land considered sacred by the Navaho Tribe. The Tramway alone is supposed to bring 10,000 people a day to the river.

To find out more about the planned development, view the video at <http://savetheconfluence.com/environment/new-documentary-explores-confluence-issues>.

Time is of the essence on this issue. Take Action!

**GORDON HOUSE  
ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB DAY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016**

**10:00 A.M. - NOON  
Free Admission**

Lynda Boyer, Professional Botanist at Heritage Seedlings in Salem, will be our speaker.

**Her topic is  
“Oregon Native Plants Used in the Landscape”**

Additionally, she will share an update on the very exciting **Oregon Flora Project** identifying native plants throughout the state.

**We will also honor Molly Murphy, Director of the Gordon House, who is retiring.**

Molly has been a good friend to our Federation.

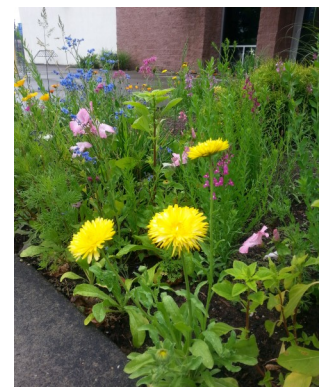
Questions? Marcia Kay Whitelock,  
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**WILDFLOWERS**



Eden's Garden—West Slope  
Garden Club

Hillsboro Post Office  
Hillsboro Garden Club



## Mark your calendars for some important dates!

**State Convention**—Ashland—Arrival—June 11, Actual Convention dates - June 12-14

First Board Meeting of the New OSFGC Board—June 15 AM. Followed by departure back home

**Spring State Board**—March 12 Arrival, March 13 meeting — Albany at Comfort Suites — Hosted by Santiam District

**Various Contest Deadlines**—Please see the NGC website for Awards Deadlines—National Garden Club awards.

**Regional Awards**— See the OSFGC Directory Page 17 for information.

**State Deadlines**—see page 17 for information

**OSFGC Dues**—between July 1 and September 30 or they are delinquent.

**District Dues**—Same as State Dues. Refer to Page 89 in the State Directory for details in the By-laws.

**Newsletter Articles**—Winter Edition of *Pioneer Press*—Due December 15.

**Spring District Board Meeting**—March 16, 2017

**Spring District Luncheon**— April 20, 2017

**Fill the Cup Final Report and funds due**—April 15, 2017.

**Share the Bounty Final report**—State Convention

### Directory Advertising—2017-2019

Start thinking about Businesses , Events, Club notices, etc. who just might be interested in having an ad in the new administration Handbook. Ads will cost the same as before. Be ready to get those ads in the Spring and remember they need to be print ready.

**Bruna McBride**—Directory Advertising Chair

## From State Treasurer, Nita Wood

**All Club Presidents and Treasurers:** When making checks out for OSFGC Projects, State Dues, Donations, etc., please use the correct Transmittal Form for 2016 - 2017. I have a **NEW** Room Number—#2013, **not #2011** at the facility where I live. Older forms have the incorrect number. This will cause a delay in posting funds. Thank you.

### SHARE THE BOUNTY, TIP THE SCALES

I still need reports from several clubs on how much produce and cash donations your members have given to local food banks, and similar programs since the Spring Luncheon. Also include donations of cash. Remember, for each dollar given, it counts as 5# of food. So far this growing season, over 21,000 pounds have been donated to needy people in our Pioneer District communities. Well Done!

**Stan Chiotti, District Director**

