

Clackamas Clippings

District Garden Clubs Building Community

January 2025



Honoring Veterans at our Blue Star Markers
 We are proud to sponsor and care for the memory of those who sacrificed to protect our American Heritage



Canby Garden Club

The Canby Garden Club partnered with our local Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) by hanging a new wreath at the Vietnam Memorial November 10. Local club member Diana Mark Sperber bought and decorated the wreath and Sperber's husband, Mike Sperber, had a stand fabricated at his Hot Beaver Press. The business donated the materials and two employees, Jason Dutra and Felix Chavez welded the stand. Dutra is a veteran and Chavez is currently working on his citizenship.

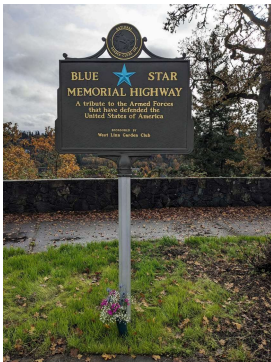
Katherine Leppek, Canby Garden Club



Milwaukie Garden Club

The Thursday before Veterans Day, when it was not raining, Milo Denham helped me dig up all the gnarly old roots of the evergreens that had been planted at the site. Then I went back with a scrub brush and biodegradable detergent to scrub all the lichen and green slime off. Saturday, when Jean Morris came back to town, we all went to finish the clean up and spread the bark mulch. I picked red mulch as I thought it really made a statement.

Pam Denham, Milwaukie Garden Club



West Linn Garden Club

Diane Awalt, Jane Sercombe and Gordon Piper cleaned up the area surrounding the Blue Star Marker overlooking the Willamette River at Highway 205 in West Linn.

Sue Piper, West Linn Garden Club



Estacada Garden Club

Kelli, Muriel, & Linda made wreaths for Veteran's Day & Christmas. The azalea will be pruned later this spring to allow greater visibility from the road.



Lynne Hatfield, Estacada Garden Club

Posy Pickers Garden Club

Upcoming Club Programs

Wilsonville Garden Club



Veterans Day was a blustery day but Evelyn Leniger and I went early in the morning and cleaned up the area around the Blue Star Marker on 99 about the falls in Oregon City. We placed a wreath which I created with greens from my yard.

Evelyn Leniger in front of the spruced up Blue Star Marker in Oregon City.



When I went back in the evening I discovered a number of tags on the back of the marker. Apparently, someone had nothing better to do that day.

Marisue Larson, President, Posy Pickers Garden Club



January Garden List from OSU Extension

- Reapply or redistribute **mulch** that has blown or washed away during winter.
- Clean pruners and other small garden tools with rubbing alcohol.
- Mid-January: Spray peach trees with approved fungicides to combat **peach leaf curl and shothole**. Or plant curl-resistant cultivars such as 'Frost', 'Q1-8' or 'Creswell'.
- Monitor landscape plants for problems. Don't treat unless a problem is identified.
- Monitor **houseplants** for correct water and fertilizer; guard against insect infestations; clean dust from leaves.
- Gather branches of quince, forsythia and flowering cherries and bring them indoors to force an early bloom.

Read More Here

We need your feedback! Will you respond in a new "Letter to the Editor column" for our next issue? We're looking for your input, interests, what you want learn about, what's new in your backyard, etc. Save & open the newsletter in an internet accessible format to activate the button.(MS word) **Click the button below, let's see if it works!**

Submit to the Editor

Thursday, January 2, 2025 10:30 am
Bonzai Presentation by Jeffrey Robson
Charbonneau Club House dining room,
32000 SW Charbonneau Drive, Wilsonville
Contact: bjrjrich@comcast.net

West Linn Garden Club

Monday, January 6, 2025 6:30 PM
Program: Sharing Our Bounty
West Linn Lutheran Church, 20390 Willamette Drive, West Linn
Contact: susangpiper@gmail.com
<https://westlinngardenclub.org>

Sandy Garden Club

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 9:30 AM
Program: Members' Panel Discussion on "Garden Pest...Slugs, Snails and Other Slimy Creatures"
Sandy Grange Hall, 34705 SE Kelso Road, Sandy
Contact kjludiz@gmail.com

Estacada Garden Club

Thursday, January 9, 2025, 1 PM
Program: Carie & Feeding of Honey Bee
Estacada Public Library, 825 NW Wade Street, Estacada, OR
Visitors always welcome.
pet2tingo@msn.com
facebook.com/Estacada-Garden-Club

Sunnyhills Garden Club

Thursday, January 9, 2025 10 AM
Program:

Canby Garden Club

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 1 PM
Program: "Plant Natives for Pollinators", Cindy Hines, Pond Hag Nurseries
Canby Library, 220 NE 2nd Ave., Canby, OR
Contact: kflepppek@gmail.com
<https://canbygardenclub.com>

Lake Grove Garden Club

Thursday, January 16, 2025 10 AM
Program: Dan Helms: Greatest Garden Show on Earth and Dan Hampton of Petal Heads
Our Savior's Lutheran Church 15751 Quarry Rd. Lake Oswego
Contact: katmac2006@gmail.com
[https:// www.lakegrovegardenclub.org](https://www.lakegrovegardenclub.org)

Milwaukie Garden Club

Tuesday, January 28 2025 1PM
Program: Hellebores and Other Hardy Plants, David Doolittle, Pettie Heads Nursery in West Linn
Hope City Church, 5197 SE King Rd., Milwaukie, OR
Contact: mlkdavis503@gmail.com
facebook.com/milwaukie-garden-club

Posy Pickers Garden Club

Tuesday, March 11, 2024 10 AM
Program: TBA
RSVP: Space is limited
Contact: marisue-r@comcast.net

District Dates for your calendar

February 6, 2025 - District Board Meeting for all club presidents, TBA

April 3, 2025 - Spring Luncheon, TBA



Pacific Northwest Plants for Small Places and Containers

Living in the Pacific Northwest we are privileged to be surrounded by earth's largest trees, juxtaposed with almost microscopic photosynthesizing plant species. Our garden choices might be limited by space, light, water, and terrain, but our hard surfaces are perfect for containers that make plant maintenance safer and more convenient. Small containers require specific conditions for each plant, and humans must provide care more consistently. What choices do we have if our goal is to include as many plants native to the PNW as possible in small spaces and what is a "native plant?"

The World Wildlife Federation provides the following definition: "A plant is native if it has occurred naturally for thousands of years in a region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. These plants have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife and soils over thousands of years, meaning that many native animals are dependent on these species to survive."

While container plant choices may not be based upon the local native animal species, increased attention to pollinator health and existence highlight why such selections may be valuable far beyond their visual appeal. How do we select from the myriad native plant choices?

One especially helpful resource is the WSU PNW Plant database (<https://pnwplants.wsu.edu/Natives.aspx>). It contains 805 categorized plants, plus 2290 images in the database, which is searchable by the plants' common names. There are six plant families listed: trees; shrubs; groundcovers; herbaceous perennials; ferns; vines; bulbs/corms/ tubers, and rhizomes. (also noted are four common invasive species) Clicking on the photos provides information on the plant's mature size, temperature/sun/moisture requirements, and complimentary plants. Space is the limiting factor in container gardening—both above and below the soil line. Plants that looked "so cute" in the garden center can outgrow container space, resulting in roots "escaping" and the plant being unable to obtain adequate water and nutrients from the container soil. You can "guesstimate" that the mature root ball size will be similar to the mature above-ground plant structure. (consider root ball care practices)

Here are some suggestions from each of the above categories.

1. Trees: not many species stay within the 3-5 feet height range, but a few may be planted when they're young, and may grow slowly enough that transplanting into the landscape will take a few years. One of these is the Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) whose mature size is 15 feet tall, and 20 feet wide. [Although Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*) are not native, some varieties remain small enough for large planters.]

2. Shrubs are more likely to adapt to small areas, and the PNW has several to consider:

a. Golden Currant (*Ribes Sanguineum*) "Brocklebankii". It grows to 4 feet high and 4 feet wide, with showy flowers and fruits in late spring.

b. Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) has beautiful red winter stems, grows to 10 feet high by 12 feet wide—probably needing a transplant in 4-5 years.

c. Western Spirea (*Spirea Douglassi*) grows to 6 feet tall by 5 feet wide and produces pink cotton candy flowers.



3. Groundcovers can be planted alone or paired with species which grow much taller.

- Kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) grows to 1 foot and forms small flowers that are white-tinged pink. Also known as bearberry, it does best in bad soil—but its fruits are a favorite for native birds.
- Creeping Mahonia (*Mahonia repens*) reaches 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide, and—if not contained—spreads both through above-ground stolons and underground rhizomes.

4. The herbaceous perennial family include several well-known species.

a. Pacific Bleeding heart (*Dicentra Formosa*), reaching a mature size of 2 feet by 2 feet.

b. A less well-known species is Cusick's Checkermallow (*Sidalcea virgata*) growing to 4 feet by 1 foot. It produces showy pink flowers from May to June.

c. Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis Margariteacea*) has enormous wildlife benefits and grows 2 feet by 2 feet.

5. No PNW gardener of any length of time could miss the possibilities of our three species of ferns appropriate for small areas and containers.

a. The deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*)

b. Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*)

c. Western Brackenfern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) grow from 2 to 8 feet, and are especially adaptable to shady, moist sites.

6. The vine "Trailing Pacific Blackberry" (*Rubus ursinus*) can become invasive, but can be controlled in a container, and pruning to keep it from entering surrounding landscape. Its fruit is edible in its floricanes (second year canes).

7. The only recommended native bulb is the Giant White Fawn lily (*Erythronium oregonum*), which needs shade, and grows blooms on stalks reaching 2 feet.

Finally, here is a link to an OSU publication about native plants with growing recommendations, as well as plant combinations for a variety of places. [Gardening with Oregon Native Plants West of the Cascades | OSU Extension Service](#). Your landscape can become a big hit if you think small—and rely on Mother Nature's work to have created plants that thrive in the great Pacific Northwest.

Article submitted by Kris Lamar, MG

We invite all of our district clubs to represent themselves at District level so we may unite our interests, skills, and gardening passions in broadening our community outreach efforts.

Thanks to each of the clubs who've contributed thus far, we are heartened by your participation and acknowledgement of interest in continuing all pursuits described in our organization's mission statement.