



DECEMBER 2021 *Garden Clippings*

McMinnville Garden Club,
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Email: macgardenclub@gmail.com
Facebook: McMinnville Garden Club

2021-22 Garden Club Board:

Adele O’Neal – President Deb Smith – Vice President
Sherry Blum – Treasurer Fran Henderson – Secretary

Dates to Remember

- December 20** **Garden Club Meeting Hybrid Model**
- 10:00 am** **At the Fairgrounds (Leslie Lewis Pavilion) in person and also via Zoom.** Log in info will be sent prior to meeting.
- January 17** **Garden Club Meeting**
- June 12, 2022** **Garden Tour and Faire**

President’s Corner Theme: Coming Together for Growth Adele O’Neal

Happy December, Fellow Gardeners,

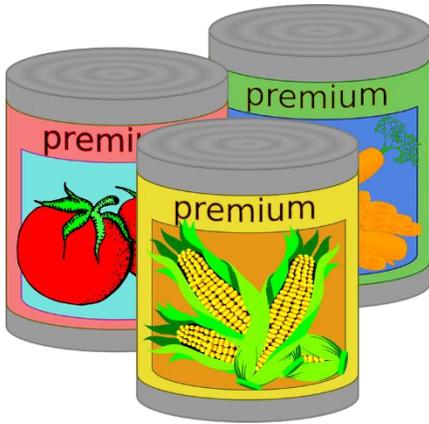
I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving! I am thankful for my family and friends, including the new friends I have made in the Garden Club!

I am also thankful we have been able to have Garden Club meetings, even though they have been slightly different each month. We have met outdoors, indoors, on Zoom and now our December meeting will be a combined in-person and Zoom meeting. The board wants every member to feel safe and have options about attending the meetings, so it is worth a little more coordination and planning to have both options available. At the December meeting, we will be collecting canned food for the YCAP food drive, so if you are attending the meeting, please feel free to bring a few canned items to donate!

We are still looking for a Garden Tour Chair or two, if you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity to work with the many Garden Club volunteers and community members who love the Tour, please let me know!

Unfortunately, we are not done with the pandemic, but I am thankful and optimistic because we are able to meet and move forward on our projects and plan for future events.

Happy holidays! Adele



Canned Food Drive for YCAP

Please bring non-perishable foods for collection to the December 20 meeting at the fairgrounds. Drop in the YCAP barrel in front of the Leslie Lewis Pavilion.

DECEMBER SNACK BAGS

For all of you members who intend to meet in person at the Fairgrounds in December we plan on having goodies available for everyone to make their own, personal, Holiday To - Go snack bag. BUT you are the ones providing the Goodies. We will have little lunch size paper bags, remember the contents will be whatever you bring to share. For homemade offerings, please wrap or bag individual portions ahead of time.

Thank you, the December Goodie Committee
Dolly, Charlene, and Kirsten

Membership Committee Update

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the McMinnville Garden Club. The new membership directory includes photos of members. Bring your directory to meetings and connect the names of the people you meet with their photos. Becoming familiar with other like-minded people develops friendships and a community of gardeners.

Since September, we have welcomed nine additional members, the newest member joined in November. Welcome Peggy T. who has added 500 bulbs to the one-acre lot her recently purchased home encompasses. Peggy has also planted trees, shrubs, perennials and more.

When we meet in person, a *Sharing Table* is available. You may donate items to share with others that may include garden magazines and books, plant pots, produce, and more. Bright, fun and whimsical garden fabrics were popular in October.

Each member is an ambassador for the McMinnville Garden Club. Have you told others about the garden club? Consider inviting them to a meeting or event! New members enhance and enrich clubs; our garden club is special so why not share it with others?

Membership Committee members:

Kirstin B, Kay F, Colleen M, Jakie P, and Mary V.

Janis Stoven, Chair

One kind word can warm three winter months. ~Japanese proverb

Arts & Crafts Driftwood Wind Chimes Fun

Patty Sorensen/Kirsten Browne



As you visit the beach this winter, pick up thin pieces of driftwood like you see in the picture for our next Craft project in the Spring. (at least the size of a pencil width) Do not use the pieces that are easily broken. Allow them to dry... don't keep them in a plastic bag... The only other supply you will need is beads so keep an eye out for ones that you love and grab them!

Recipes from Betty

by Betty Ballentine

Old Fashioned Gingerbread Cookies



This recipe has been in my family for years. It makes a big batch of cookies. It stores well in the fridge if you prefer to make the cookies in smaller batches.

5 C flour	1 C butter softened
2 t ground ginger	1 C sugar
1 ½ t baking soda	1 egg
1 t cinnamon	1 C molasses
1 t cloves ½ t salt	2 T apple cider vinegar

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg, molasses, and vinegar. Next add dry ingredients and form a stiff cookie dough. Chill in fridge at least 3 hours or overnight.

Work with half of the dough at a time. On lightly floured board, roll out and cut with your favorite cookie cutters. Place on lightly greased or sprayed cookie sheets.

Bake in a 375-degree oven for 5 to 6 minutes. Transfer onto cooling racks. Use assorted decorations such as raisins, nuts, candy, or sprinkles. When cool, decorate with icing also. These cookies store and freeze well. Wouldn't be Christmas in our house without them.

Amaryllis Adventure

By Linda Kuhlmann-Harris

I just received my Amaryllis Belladonna bulbs from K. van Bourgondien, so it is time to plant them. I used to have some at a prior house and loved them but forgot to dig them up before the move.

In different websites, I've learned that they are called the 'Naked Ladies Flower.' They are a native of Cape Province in South Africa and love sunshine. So, this will be a bit of a challenge considering I will be growing them in Oregon. It seems they can be very temperamental, and one site suggested to "Plant and wait till it decides to bloom." So, I guess patience is required. This was surprising to read since my bulbs at the other house needed no special care and returned every summer. They bloom between July and September on light-colored, leafless stems.

These bulbs are huge – about the size of a very large onion or turnip! And, since my bulbs came in the mail, I am supposed to soak only the root parts overnight before planting in a sunny, sheltered spot, possibly against a wall. Dig a hole 12-15" deep. Add a bulb fiber compost "to encourage fast root growth and help replenish the bulb for the next season," then top with about 9" of well-draining soil. Plant bulbs 4-6" apart. During the winter months, a thick mulch is advised. Then, wait for new growth to return next year.

The most familiar Amaryllis that most people know are the ones grown in pots and given as gifts around Christmas. They can be grown year 'round in a pot, if desired.

An Amaryllis will bloom for about 6-8 weeks after planting. To



encourage a Christmas bloom, plant it mid-November. You can stagger the blooms by spacing multiple bulb plantings a few days apart in a larger pot. Once they bloom, water and feed weekly with a liquid fertilizer. (I like Eleanor's VF-11 for my indoor plants.) After the bloom fades, you should cut the potted stalk(s) back to 1" of the top of the bulb. Then, store dormant in a cool, dry, and dark place. The next fall, (or if you wish to encourage a second bloom) 6-8 weeks prior to desired blooms, replot the blub(s) and place in bright, indirect light indoors. Resume watering a little at a time. When new growth appears, increase water. Enjoy the lovely trumpet-shaped blooms!

Poinsettia Production Tour

The Grow and Show Garden Club from Salem sent out an invitation to join them at Smith Gardens in Aurora, Oregon on November 13th to see their greenhouse operations. About 20 members attended. If you missed it, they are planning to return in March 2022 to see the hanging flower basket production. I attended with my daughter, and it is a well-organized tour! Each greenhouse is fully automated and holds approximately 75,000 poinsettia plants. You can find their plants at Lowes, Home Depot, and Walmart.

Betty Ballentine



Websites to Explore

Patty Sorensen

National Garden Club <https://gardenclub.org>

Pacific Region National Garden Club
<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/>

Pioneer District Website
<http://oregongardenclubspioneer.97048.info/home.aspx>

McMinnville Community Garden <http://www.mcminnvillecg.org>
Oregon State Garden Club's Website <http://oregongardenclubs.org>

Yamhill County Master Gardeners <https://ycmga.org/>

A Magical Garden Visit <https://www.finegardening.com/article/the-magical-world-of-bill-and-linda-pinkhams-garden> (just click the X on the ad that appears to dismiss it)

Certified Naturally Grown https://www.cngfarming.org/victory_seed_co_cng

More Than Just Seeds in those Catalogs <https://anoregoncottage.com/favorite-garden-catalogs-and-seeds/>

Garden Chores for December (Edibles) <https://nwedible.com/to-do-pacific-northwest-december-garden>

December Gardening <https://portlandnursery.com/seasonal-tips/december>



All alone in an enchanted land
Where before me grandly stands
Crystal walls and glistening strands
In Nature's winter garden.

This secret beauty I have found
When morning sun came streaming down
A golden glow like a celestial crown
In Nature's winter garden.

John Porter – Urban Ag Guru