

December, 2025 *Garden Clippings*

McMinnville Garden Club

PO Box 386, McMinnville, OR

Email: ritacanales555@gmail.com

Facebook: McMinnville Garden Club & Serenity Garden



9:30 Social, 10am Business Meeting, 11am Speaker 12-Close

2025-26 Garden Club Board:

Rita Canales – President, Dorothea Lee – Vice President

Linda Hansen & Lisa Binner – Treasurers, Betty Ballentine– Secretary

Dates to Remember 2025

December 1: Crafting Event. Sparkly String trees at Colleen Moxley's Shop

December 5: **Cutoff date** to pay for the Holiday luncheon . It must be received by our



Treasurer, Lisa Binner by no later than Dec. 5th. It can be mailed to McMinnville Garden Club 386 PO Box or delivered to Lisa. Her address is in the directory.

December 8: Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the home of Rita Canales

December 13: Field trip to the Farmington Gardens Christmas Market

December 15: Our monthly club meeting at the First Presbyterian Church.

9:30-10:00 Club members' art on display during Social Time,

10:00 Meeting followed by our Christmas Luncheon/catered by Biscuit & Pickles

January 19: Our monthly club meeting at the First Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Neil Bell, with a presentation on Winter Flowering Trees & Shrubs

April 16-2026: Pioneer District Luncheon

June 22-2026: Last Meeting for 25-26- 100th Anniversary Party

President's Corner

Rita Canales

Happy Holidays! Hopefully you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Thank you to all the gardeners that have been out working around town cleaning up the West End and the Post Office, getting ready for winter and keeping McMinnville looking great.

Thanks to Judy, Charlene and Dian for their leadership and getting everyone out there.

Thank you to Judy for getting us in the parade and rallying the Rakettes for a successful fun time at the Santa Parade and Tree Lighting. Thank you to Sharalie and her crew for winning

\$100 with their beautiful scarecrow entry. If it was a Disney movie there would be crows

sitting on her shoulders talking it up. Thank you, Colleen, for continuing to open up your

“husband’s workshop” for all our arts and crafts projects. During this cold weather it is a

warm and cozy spot with a warm fire to take off the chill. They are such valuable

connecting events for our members to get to know each other in a kicked-back setting.

There are so many to thank but what I am most thankful for this year is, all the dynamic people in this garden club. I have had the pleasure of getting to know some of you and I have

been so impressed with all that you do. Many of you have a passion or interest and you have

channeled that into working on and contributing to the various activities. The reason we have

such a vibrant club that has lasted for 100 years is because of all of you. You make us what we

are. I would like to get to know more of you so please, come to our luncheon where we will

have the time to visit and enjoy each other’s company.

As we all are aware December is the month of giving; please help us remember those who are

less fortunate. We will be collecting money for Henderson House, A Family Place, Juliette’s

House and YCAP at the Holiday Luncheon.

- YCAP (the Yamhill Community Action Partnership) runs the local food bank, but also helps with energy assistance, rental assistance, housing stabilization, and services for youth. Henderson House helps victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human sex trafficking. They provide crisis intervention, an emergency 90-day shelter and service referrals for help with beginning a new safe life. Juliette’s House goal is a world free from child abuse. They provide assessment, treatment, and support for children and families affected by abuse. A Family Place is run by the Lutheran Community Services. They assist young families who have little support and are facing multiple stressors. They provide a relief nursery, home visits, parent education, and give out diapers.

The Holidays are also a special time to be with family and friends,

enjoying the time we can spend together. I look forward to seeing

many of you at the Holiday Luncheon. If I don’t see you at the

luncheon have a very Happy Holidays!

Rita



Membership: We love New Member Energy: therefore, we're delighted to welcome members who joined in December: Melany Coyne



Birthdays:

Wishing each of you a year filled with happiness, personal bests, & all your favorite plants at a great price.

**Members celebrating December Birthdays:
Mark, Katelyn, Beryl, Penny, Cozette,
Claudia, Charlene, and Holly**

Chamber of Commerce Greeters

Check Friday, 8 am locations with this link: [Calendar of Events](#)

Speaker Series

Dorothea L.

December 15: There will be no Speaker in December so we will all have more time to enjoy the Arts and Crafts Showcase, followed by our lovely Christmas luncheon.

January 19: Our speaker in January will be Neil Bell, giving a presentation on Winter Flowering Trees and Shrubs. Neil is a Community Horticulturist for the OSU Extension Service and lives in Polk County.

Field trips

Elaine P.

December 13. Our December field trip will be to the Farmington Gardens Christmas Market on Saturday, please contact Elaine if you wish to join us.

We will meet at 9 am at Baker Creek Community Church on the Elm Street side to form carpools. Please contact Elaine if you wish to join us.

Field Trip Reminder: It is traditional for each carpool passenger to give the driver \$5 for gas. There will be a signup sheet at the October meeting. If you cannot make the meeting just let Elaine know. Thank you.

Arts and Crafts:

Colleen M.

December 1st: Craft Event: In December the crafters will be creating a set of 3 sparkly string trees. These will brighten your coffee table, bookcase or a forgotten corner of your home. All supplies are provided. Cost = \$7.00

- **Date:** Monday December 1st
- **Place:** Colleen Moxley's Shop *Find her address & phone number in the membership directory)*
- **Time :** 10am - Noon-ish

January: Arts and Crafts takes a break in January.

The November Craft Event:

Floral Pumpkins & Gourds



***** Our Garden Club Holiday Arts and Crafts Showcase! *****

Calling all Garden Club Members!
We are excited to invite you to participate in our 1st ever
Garden Club Holiday Arts and Crafts Showcase!

The event will take place before our **December 15th** meeting:
9:30-10:00 and during the break before the luncheon. Our talented group will have an opportunity to showcase their Arts & Crafts!



Just a teaser photo

- This showcase is for viewing purposes and/or to sell your art...and it's FREE. Why? Because we want to see all of your creative creations. Woo-hoo!
- Due to space, there is a limit of 16 crafters on a first-come basis.
- You'll share a table with another artist.
- Tables will be set up in the side room off from our regular meeting room.
- Timetable:
 - Set up from 9-9:30
 - Viewing/Selling of Arts & Crafts 9:30-10
 - More Viewing/Selling of Arts & Crafts after a short meeting
 - After meeting more Viewing/Selling until the Holiday Luncheon
 - Pack up after 11
- Participants are responsible for their table coverings and displays.
- For our sellers, an assortment of small bills for change is recommended.
- For signing up and questions contact Kirsten B.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

“C.reati*vitY is in*tell*igence haVing f*U*n.”

Albert Einstein

Community Beautification:

~Post Office Maintenance:

Judy T.

In November, we called out the POSSE! First work meeting of the Post Office Select Service Ensemble. We had a dry day and made a good start. And, no worries, there are still plenty of leaves for next time!

~The Rakettes:



Photos of the rake decorating event that happened at Colleen's Workshop on Nov. 14.



The Rakettes continued. . .

As you may know, the deadline for entries to this newsletter is November 25th, this is so we can get it out to you by December 1st; therefore: This is only a PREDICTION OF WHAT HAPPENED at the December 2025 McMinnville Santa Parade: Wow, it turned out that the Amazing Rakettes lifted the mood of the crowds during the McMinnville Santa Parade. They received the parade's newly created award for "Most Joyful". (*Disclaimer: Each Rakette had only one or less hot toddies during their pre-parade get together at the Golden Brewery Restaurant.*)

While walking in the parade, the Rakettes were assisted by some wonderfully smart and really good-looking kids who volunteered to walk in front of them, while proudly holding the Rakettes banner. The Rakettes, with their wildly decorated garden rakes, had so much fun that 11 men and 6 women from the crowd watching, decided to join our McMinnville Garden club, with each of them already eagerly volunteering & signed up on one of our Garden Tour 2026 committees! They all paid their annual membership dues to Lisa, and they all said they plan to be at our December Holiday Luncheon.

Conservation & Sustainability

Adele O. & Beth F.

Rethink,

Refuse,

Reduce,

Reuse

Recycle!

News from The Big November Recycling Event

- We had 61 volunteers
- 1140 lbs. were collected
- 4600 lbs. total for the year

Another Way to Recycle those hard-to-recycle plastics and more:

Ridwell Recycling: The simple way to recycle more from anywhere.

Mail-in bags with prepaid, net-zero shipping. Ridwell Mail-in helps you waste less on your schedule for \$30 to start and as little as \$9/bag after that.

<https://www.ridwell.com/>

Fruit Cocktail Pudding Cake

My grandma was always baking this vintage cake for a club meeting, church group, friend, or family. She always kept the ingredients on hand, and they had walnut and filbert trees in the yard. I started substituting fresh pears for the canned fruit cocktail quite a few years ago, but use what you have.

Ingredients

1 cup all purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
¼ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
15 oz. can fruit cocktail (*for a fresh upgrade, replace fruit cocktail with 2 peeled, chopped pears. Try Bartlet pears: they seem juicy enough to replace can's liquid.*)
1 large egg
½ cup light brown sugar
(1/2 cup chopped hazelnuts or walnuts)

Instructions: Preheat oven to 300°F.

- Grease an 8-inch square baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
- In a medium mixing bowl, stir together the **1 cup all purpose flour, 1 cup granulated sugar, ¼ teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon baking soda.**
- Add the **1 large egg** and **15 oz. can fruit cocktail** along with all of the juices from the can. Stir until uniform.
- Pour the cake batter into prepared baking dish. 8X8 inch square pan, 2inch high
- Sprinkle the **½ cup light brown sugar** over the batter.
- Bake for 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with just a few moist crumbs.
- You can easily reduce the sugar in this recipe if you want. The granulated sugar can be reduced to 2/3 cup and 1/4 cup of brown sugar can be used on the topping.
- Feel free to stir in a bit of cinnamon and nutmeg and/or ginger if you like a spicier cake.
- Allow to cool for 10-15 minutes before serving as is, or with whipped or ice cream.

Horticulture

Christine P.

Something New → A Members-Only Plant Exchange

Here's how it works: Simply send the following 4 pieces of information to me at joyfullady9@gmail.com, and I will post it in the next newsletter.

*New member, Toni C. recently used the Plant Exchange. She's a real trooper because it was a drizzly day, so she came dressed in rain gear, brought her own tools and dug up 9 *Bergenia crassifolia* plants to take home to plant in her yard.*

1. **WHAT:** List the specific plant(s)-or maybe you ordered too much bark, and you have lots extra.
2. **HOW:**
 - You Dig-such as bring your own shovel and pot
 - You Pick-(like when you have more than enough extra tomatoes, figs, apples, etc.)
3. **AMOUNT:** A guestimate of how many are available,
4. **CONTACT:** Your name-first names only will be used. For same names, last initial will be used. This makes your member's directory a valuable resource for contacting other members.



This isn't a plant being offered for exchange.
It's just a great photo of the beautiful but
poisonous *Amanita Muscaria* seen in
Myrna C's. yard.

Websites to Explore

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

Serenity Garden <https://mcminnvillegardenclub.org/serenitygarden/>

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

Oregon State Garden Club's Website <http://oregongardenclubs.org>

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

McMinnville Community Garden <http://www.mcminnvillecg.org>

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