

Garden Clippings



McMinnville Garden Club, PO Box 386, McMinnville, OR

Email: macgardenclub@gmail.com

Website: <http://mcminnvillegardenclub.org>

Next meeting: February 17, 2020

Heritage Center 11275 SW Dunham Lane 9:30 Social 10-12 Meeting

If you need time on the agenda, please let President Caitlin know a week in advance of the meeting.

2019-20 Garden Club Board:

*Caitlin Wright – President Judy Buchholz – Vice
Charlene Drake – Treasurer Dian Berg – Secretary*

Speakers

Bill & Carol Sutkus, Marion County Master Gardeners will talk on growing vegetables without irrigation in home gardens. Research has been ongoing since 2015 with involvement of OSU Extension MG of both Benton & Marion Counties. Successful results with tomatoes then others. They have some very exciting information especially in this climate change water shortage environment.

Follow up on January Speaker

Ramsey McPhillips sent the following information to us:

” I would love to join the garden club and am very happy that folks would like to join ZWM. The best way to do that is to come to our monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month. We have meetings on the first Monday, too but that night each month we have an informational program (they should come to that, too) but they won’t find out much about what we do and how to help on the first Monday.”

Their website: <https://zerowastemcminnville.org/how-to-be-zero-waste/>

Gives more info about their meetings....” We present various sustainable topics in a Speaker Series held the first Monday of each month at 5:30-7 PM in the Carnegie Room of the McMinnville Public Library. The public is highly encouraged to join us. Our working meeting is also held in the Carnegie Room the second Monday of each month 5:30 to 7 PM.”

Upcoming Events:

For field trip info contact Ann Silverthorne

February 21 **Junking arts and crafts trip to Dallas.** Meet at Baker Creek parking lot at 9:30. Bring recyclable bags for your treasures!

- March 6-7 **Yamhill County Soil and Conservation District's Native Plant Sale**
<https://yamhillswcd.org/> Order forms found at the website for preorders.
- March 19 Arts and Crafts... **Recycled Bird Baths.** 10 am at Patty S.
- March 21 **Yamhill County Master Gardeners "Spring into Gardening"**
<https://ycmga.org/events/spring-into-gardening-2-2/>
- June 28** **2020 Garden Tour and Faire**

2020 Garden Tour and Faire Update

You will be happy to know that the McMinnville Garden Club's 2020 Tour and Faire planning and preparations are well underway. This is an exciting one! Our 20th year!! This year's theme is "**Life in the Garden**" with artwork by Autumn Smith, Betty Ballentine's late granddaughter. Here is the poster for this year.



Also, we have gotten leaders for most of our committees and are working diligently on the last few. The Faire portion of our group has already been pushing their Faire announcement out and vendor applications are dropping into our mailbox. We are planning an introductory, all-hands, **meeting for Monday, Feb 3, at 1:30pm** at Dian Berg's home (2619 NW Riesling Way, MAC). This will be for all committee heads who can attend to review scheduling of the various tasks and provide an opportunity to ask questions, get information and generally get to know the other committee heads. With the poster ready the next thing is the bookmarks (under development) and developing the content for the brochure/tickets. We will also be looking into ways to incorporate more of the current phone/web technologies into our ticket purchasing and publicity for 2020. Please be willing to help if asked and able. Even though this looks like a big task when taken altogether it isn't nearly so daunting when divided between many hands. For

our newer members it can be a great way to get to know people in the club. For our older members please be gentle with us newbies. We're doing our best!

The Tour and Faire Committee: Dian Berg, Charlene Drake, Caitlin Wright and Judy Buchholz

New Spout

Meet - Adele O'Neal

I was born and raised in Southern California. While we had a beautiful yard, my parents never grew vegetables (my mother grew up on a farm and wasn't interested at that point in her life), so the first time I had a vegetable garden was when I was a young adult. Over the years my garden grew to a large 50' x 50' space to what I have now, 3 raised beds!

I enrolled in the Master Food Preserver Program many years ago and gave presentations to different groups including at the State Fair on how to make fruit pie filling and safely can tomatoes and other produce. I have been toying with the idea of enrolling in the Master Gardener program but wanted to wait until I was retired...I probably need to sign up since I retired in August 2019.



My career in human resources was very fulfilling to me and I retired after 21 years at the State of Oregon. The State of Oregon was where I met Beryl Anderson, a member of the McMinnville Garden Club and we served in Toastmasters International as volunteer leaders. So, following her to the Garden Club is just a natural thing for me to do! My current home has a wonderful yard and I will be working on the front yard over the next couple

of years to make it more beautiful.

I completed the backyard last year and am very happy with it. I am an artist and make sterling silver jewelry which I market at several events during the year, including the Garden Faire in June and Art Harvest Studio Tour in October. I am excited to be a part of the McMinnville Garden Club and am looking forward to getting to know the other members and participate in the events.

New Spout Coordinator: Janis Stoven

Arts and Crafts



Recycled Birdbaths

On **Feb. 21** join us as we once again invade the shops in Dallas in search of treasures to create our one-of-a-kind birdbaths. We will meet at the church on Baker Creek Rd. at **9:30** to carpool. Be sure to bring your shopping bags. Lunch will be at the coffee shop downtown called Pressed. Our recycled birdbaths will be created on March 19. For more info contact Patty S.

Winter Bird Feeding Tips

Patty Sorensen



To successfully feed birds in the winter it is vital to provide the right habitat. If your home is near a natural area, you are more likely to attract birds all year round. That habitat provides them with food sources, cover from predators and nesting sites. Giving them the same type of environment in your yard improves your odds. Don't forget to also provide them with a water source. Tidy, structured yards of new subdivision are not likely places for birds to venture into during the bare winter. With summer's abundance of flowers and leaves, food sources are abundant, and cover is easier to find. When winter arrives, Mother Nature strips the land

of much of that cover. As hard as it may be for us, leaving plants in a tangled manner in the late fall provides birds and insects with needed cover. This impacts the likelihood that birds will choose your feeders. So, you have the birds' permission to skip that fall cleanup time. I even put my Christmas tree in a corner of my yard after December. And use my garlands/wreaths to protect various plants as well as to provide habitat for birds, etc. Recycle!

If one of your goals is to watch the birds as they feed, you should place the feeder where you can easily observe them. In doing this, you may accidentally put them in a situation that is deadly. Feeders placed near windows, patio doors, etc. are very dangerous since the sky/clouds reflect back at the birds as they fly. They will think they are flying into the sky when actually they will hit a window as they rush away from a predator. Many authorities suggest placing stickers on the **outside** of those reflective surfaces helps. Personally, I have not had much luck with this approach. I have found that a string of feathers which moves in the wind is far more effective. These can be made simply by using 2 suction cups with fishing line strung between them. To this line you tie large feathers at about 12-15 inches distance. Don't stretch the line tight so that the feathers can blow freely around. (Won't work on sliding glass doors.)

I have read many articles that discuss the impact of occasional feeding versus continual feeding. Throughout the year, birds supplement their diet with their natural food even when feeders have abundant resources. One article I read said that if you are going to be gone for awhile, start backing off the amount you feed so they start scavenging more and are not as dependent upon your feeders. Very cold periods are difficult for the birds to find both natural food and unfrozen water. I'm glad to help.

If you are trying to attract specific types of birds to your feeders, be sure to research what feed they prefer. Black oil sunflower seed is enjoyed by a wide variety of birds. Some sources say there are 50+ species of birds that eat this type of seed and for many it is their first choice. Striped sunflower seeds have a thicker hull and are more difficult for birds to break open. If you are fortunate enough to have some mourning doves around, even the seeds/shells that end up on the ground, magically disappear! Because this seed is a favorite, if you purchase wild bird seed mixtures, you will often find your ground covered with seeds that the birds throw out of the

feeder in order to get to the preferred sunflower seeds. Just remember that some seeds will provide you with a smelly “garden” below your feeder as they rot. We did learn last month from our speaker that we can put this discarded seed into our green barrels to recycle. YEAH! Sunflower sprouts are easy to pull out and niger seed does not sprout since it has to be sterilized for importation. Often feed stores will have better prices than big box stores. Check around! Once your feeders are found, birds go through a lot of seed.

Research differs as to whether our feeders actually impact bird migration. However, in the case of the Anna’s Hummingbird it has been proven that they are now extending their year-round territory to southern Canada due to the increased feed sources. Their normal body temperature is 107 degrees, so they need lots of energy in the winter. The easiest way to be sure they always have access to your sugar water is to have 2 feeders so you can swap one out if it gets below 32 degrees. That way they don’t have to wait for you to clean and refill it. I’ve also had great success with hanging a shop light right over the feeder keeping it warm. I’ve even seen them spending time on a branch near the light. SO, don’t forget to keep that hummingbird feeder full and thawed for the little guys. NO RED FOOD COLOR please.

One final important detail is to keep your feeders and water clean so that you are not spreading diseases. If they become moldy or you see bird poop in them, warm water and a brush will not suffice. You’ll need to clean them with a solution of 10 parts water to 1 part bleach. Rinse well and let dry before refilling them. I really like feeder that come all the way apart, so cleaning is easier. It can be difficult to get brushes into all the areas where debris collects!

Frost is Coming – Protect Your Plants!

Linda Kuhlmann

Watch your Weather App for temperatures below 32° because you may need to protect your plants! Some plants can survive a frost, like roses, but for other perennials, there are various ways to do this:

- 1) Insulate with 4-8” of mulch, leaves or straw
- 2) Cover with large containers such as baskets, tubs, coolers, Gard’N Cones by Gemplers
- 3) Wrap with various types of covers (see below)
- 4) Bring potted plants inside

If covering, Google “DIY plant covers for winter” to see numerous ideas and products. In the past, I’ve used thin PVC pipe to create a tent-like cold frame over individual plants or rows of plants. It is best to cover plants BEFORE DARK to keep the soil’s warmth contained. If possible, try to keep the cover off the plant’s leaves.

Cover materials and products: Burlap, tarps or commercial covers. (Brand names for breathable frost cloth: Spun-Bond or Reemay cloth) Even old sheets, blankets or towels can work in a pinch. Whatever you use, make sure the material reaches the ground and can be anchored against the wind with rocks, bricks or those small ‘tent-type’ pegs to help keep in the warmth from the soil.

It is suggested that you water plants in the morning before covering (if needed here in Oregon! ;-)) to help insulate them. Also, I saw various articles cautioning NOT to use plastic products on plants during the winter months because they can cause damage.

Once the threat of frost is over and temperatures rise (or after three days), remove coverings so the plants can get some sunlight. If the thermometer is still low, recover again before nightfall. If needed, water before recovering.

I hope this helps to keep your plants safe and warm through the winter months!



<https://decorhit.com/2019/04/10/35-creative-diy-pvc-pipe-projects-on-a-budget/#main>

***KOENIG'S PROMISE*, a new novel by Linda Kuhlmann**

In *Koenig's Promise*, the powerful characters of *Koenig's Wonder* and *Koenig's Spirit* return with challenges in the thrilling world of Thoroughbred racing. Conspiracy, intrigue and revenge weave the characters along different dimensions in their lives as their pasts and new beginnings bring the members of these families closer together.

Koenig's Promise is the third novel in the Koenig Triple Crown Series.

www.lindakuhlmann.com

Come join me for my new book launch! Wine and snacks available. We're going for the Triple Crown Trophy - Hats are Optional!

*Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 5:30pm
Willamette Valley Vineyards Tasting Room
300 NE 3rd Street in McMinnville, Oregon*

Websites to Explore

Patty Sorensen

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

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

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

Yamhill County Master Gardeners

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/yamhill/yamhill-county-master-gardener-association>

Growing Your Own Flower Patch

<https://lovelygreens.com/cut-flower-patch/>

How To Grow Sweet Peas

<https://www.floretflowers.com/resources/how-to-grow-sweet-peas/>

February Garden Chores

<https://portlandnursery.com/seasonal-tips/february/>

NEXT month I'm going to start a column that will be requests from members.... such as specific information on pruning a lilac or extra plants I'd like to share or looking for a nursery that carries lots of succulents, etc. Please send your requests to Patty Sorensen by the 25th of the month. (patty.sorensen at gmail.com)