



Garden Clippings

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JANUARY 2021

2020-21 Garden Club Board:

Betty Ballentine – President Judy Buchholz – Vice President
Charlene Drake – Treasurer Fran Henderson – Secretary

President’s Corner Theme: Rooted in Community Betty Ballentine

Happy New Year Gardeners,

We made it to 2021! There are now two approved vaccines and even though it will take months to provide a vaccination to the general public, it is news we can all celebrate! I do not think we will be able to meet in person during this first quarter, but I am hopeful for the second quarter. For now, we will continue to follow all the safety guidelines in place.

Our drive by swagbag give-away was a huge success! The day was windy, wet, and cold but what a treat it was to see your smiling faces! Your board thanks you all. The generosity of our members is something to be thankful for. Altogether, you the members donated \$1050.00 to the following non-profits: Juliette's House, A Family Place, and Henderson House. The delivery to YCAP resulted in 175 pounds of food. You are all amazing!

I hope you all had a quiet, safe, but happy holiday. Let's now look forward to this new year with the dream of less restrictions and being able to once again gather and enjoy each other's company. What a wonderful day it will be when we can share a cup of coffee in the company of friends.



Thanks to our FABULOUS board members!



Sharon and Judy donate to the Food Bank



Nancy waves as she picks up her bag.

Thanks to all who donated! We CAN make a difference.

2021 GARDEN TOUR AND FAIRE

Who would have thought in June 2020, after making the decision to cancel the Tour and Faire, we would be contemplating the uncertainty surrounding the 2021 Tour and Faire! What to do?!

Charlene and I are considering so many unknowns about what will be happening by June 2021:
Will the vaccine have impacted the spread of COVID 19 enough that the state guidelines would condone the event and the City of McMinnville would allow the Faire to take place.

Will our members be safe interacting with hundreds of people attending the Tour and Faire.

Will enough of the public feel comfortable attending a large event.

Will vendors feel comfortable participating in the Faire.

Will we have garden owners willing to allow the public to leisurely enjoy the owners' gardening efforts.

Club Treasurer, Charlene wants members to know that the club has sufficient funds to survive reduced or no income for 2021-22. However, cash donations to the 4H and Community Garden and/or awarding scholarships for one year may need to be suspended.

Be Well. Be Safe. Wishing you Peace, Joy and Love in this New Year.

Dian and Charlene, McMinnville Garden Tour Co-Chairs

20 Years in the Making!

Some celebrations just take longer to plan than others. For example, it has been way more than a year since we started to look forward to the McMinnville Garden Club's celebration of its 20th Year of hosting the very successful McMinnville Garden Tour and Garden Faire. It should have happened last June except that pesky Covid-19 got in the way and we had to cancel.

The Good News is that we now appear to be back on schedule for **Sunday, June 27, 2021.**

Covid remains a serious concern and will likely cause a few more false starts before it is behind

us, but as faithful gardeners, we are committed to continue to plant and are eagerly looking forward to the harvest.

Five amazing gardens have been selected for this year’s Garden Tour and 39 of our Garden Faire vendors have already said they are eager to return. We do anticipate we will adopt the “relaxed” space layout that the Farmers Market group will be using, and that will give us fewer vendor spaces to sell, but we will have better pedestrian flow and viewing of the plants and other goods being offered for sale.

It is still early, but not too early to begin to plan the part each of us will need to play to make this a truly memorable event. If you have participated in the Tour and Faire in years past you know the “main event” is only one-day, but the lead-up activities and the early prep are also important keys to our success.

Let’s start with “the day.” We will need “all hands-on deck” so please look at your calendar now and clear the date...and please plan for the whole day. It is okay to also volunteer your spouse and other family members. They will enjoy it.

We will have our usual pre-Garden Tour visit for workers and volunteers on Saturday so you won’t miss seeing the beauty of the gardens and, of course, you will want to save some time to shop our Garden Faire vendors on Sunday. Beyond that there are jobs for everyone that can match your energy level. We will need hosts in the gardens, ticket sellers in the Garden Club booth, helpers to assist our vendors, “happy faces” to be available to answer questions and to direct folks, and more. You get the idea? Many of us will have more than one job during the day and together we will make our 20th Year magnificent.

Lead-up activities are also varied and they, too, will require the involvement of us all. There will be a variety of sub-committees charged with specific tasks and you will be given ample opportunity to assist where you are able. Beyond that it is now time to share the event (and the date, **June 27th**) with your neighbors and friends. This really is a “word of mouth” event that sells itself so remember that if folks don’t hear about it from us they will be disappointed if they miss our **20th Anniversary Garden Tour and Garden Faire**... because it is going to be great!

Gaye and Mike Stewart, Ruth Corsi, McMinnville Faire Co-Chairs

Happy 2021 January Birthdays:

Myrna Cuscaden 1 st	Pat Vaughn 28 th
Pauline Eder 4 th	Elsie Carpenter 30 th
Alice Vinton 10 th	Ann Silverthorne 31 st
Nancy Schick 16 th	



Scholarship Committee January 2021 Report

I have now heard from two scholarship students who each successfully completed fall term and are continuing at OSU. Each will receive a total of \$1,500 for their college accounts this year.

Steven Irving contacted me late in December. He is on the Honor Roll for fall term.

Our second student, Quentin Comus, is an ambitious young man. He is living on the Cascade-OSU campus in Bend. He completed coursework at OSU and also completed two courses at the local community college last term. He will maintain this same schedule for winter term. In his spare time, he is the Marketing Coordinator for the Cascades Office of Student Life and the Video Editor in the Hospitality Management Program at Cascades.

June Benson, Chair of Scholarship Committee

Member Highlight Charlene Drake, MGC Treasurer

I was born and raised in Oregon. I was born the day that I am writing this, December 20th, in Myrtle Point on the Coquille River. It must have been rainy that day too. Before Mom could get home for Christmas, the river flooded high enough to close most of the roads between Myrtle Point and our dairy farm. Dad was determined and knew the back roads as well as how deep the flood waters could be. He got his wife and new baby home for Christmas! So there and, hey, the whole world decorates their houses and cities just for my birthday!

Growing up on a dairy/beef farm was fun as a kid but Mom raised a large garden, and I did not appreciate weeding . . . or canning . . . but I did like eating the results. As much as I liked growing up farming, it is a lot of hard work, so I chose a different path after high school. I went to college in Klamath Falls, Oregon Institute of Technology, and obtained a two- year degree in engineering drafting. My first job in Portland was approximately one year.

Then a wondrous opportunity happened. The Walt Disney Company was in the process of designing the EPCOT Theme Park in Florida and was seeking people to work for them in Southern California. WOW! What fun! Of course, it didn't last long; after four years and the opening of the park the company cut back on all those they hired.

Since I was living in California and colleges were ‘really cheap’ I decided to work on a college degree. Initially I focused on engineering but the school I attended (Cal Poly Pomona) had a geology department. I had always been interested in geology. After much mulling and arguing with myself, I decided to pursue a geology degree. It took 10 years, but I did it! In the middle of that, I met Eldon and got married.

And what about gardening? Between school, work, marriage and living in an apartment I didn't do any gardening. About the only thing you could grow on a balcony in Southern California were tomatoes. So, how did I get back to Oregon?? I wanted to leave California even before I met Eldon but when one or both of you have good jobs it is not an easy decision. Eventually Eldon solved one part of the issue by retiring and I solved the other part by getting laid off from my job. Here was the opportunity to move to Oregon!

We first moved to Hillsboro because I had hoped to find a job. The job search didn't go well, and we decided to look for a less costly location; McMinnville won. During our house hunt we were shown a modular home with a wide front porch and Eldon loved it. A big front porch was his dream and, lucky for him, I liked the house too. An added bonus, there was space for gardening. Since I didn't pay much attention to Mom's gardening wisdom, I knew I needed resources.

McMinnville had a garden club, a big garden club! So now I have four raised vegetable beds in my back yard, a raspberry bush, and two blueberry bushes along with miscellaneous flowers, trees and shrubs. The only thing that we don't have is a lawn. We never had a reason for a lawn mower and the yard we ended up with was a patch of dandelions. We tore that up and put down ground cloth and rocks. We have decorative rocks in the front and gravel around the raised beds in the back.

I have to say, our garden and the work that it involves has been a God-send during the pandemic lockdown. Now the garden is put to bed for the winter and socializing is still discouraged so Eldon and I will have to find something else to entertain ourselves with. Maybe I can beat Eldon at Scrabble? Meanwhile I enjoy crocheting, creating baskets from pine needles, knitting and a little embroidery. Right now, I am diving back into macramé (cue the 70's) with rug wool and if I am lucky, really will become a rug.

Perhaps we will see each other at a garden club meeting in person, sometime in 2021. Stay well and keep in touch with each other. Friendships are an important part of the club!



Member, Myrna C., wants to send a big hug to everyone who sent her cards after her husband passed in December. LOVE TO ALL...

Websites to Explore

Pacific Region National Garden Club's Website

Patty Sorensen

<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/>

Creating Winter Interest (ignore the popups) https://www.finegardening.com/article/creating-winter-interest?source=W4489ENL&tp=i-1NHD-BC-H1V-1HRdHr-1o-WYAG-1c-133W-14BU67-l5SqzpaFIW-dYQUi&sourcekey=W4489ENL&utm_source=eletter&utm_medium=eletter&cid=65441&mid=1173916423

Winter Gardening <https://www.gardendesign.com/winter/>

