



# THE BUGLE

**BLACK HILLS DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON STATE  
FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS**

**Director: Debbie Spiller 206-755-3616**

**Editor: Jackie McCoy [nyjacmac@gmail.com](mailto:nyjacmac@gmail.com)**

**Volume XXVIII, Issue 1**

**Winter, 2026**

## **DIRECTORS' MESSAGE – Debbie Spiller**

It rained today and it was cold as well. I had planned to be in my garden, pulling shot weed and searching for spring. How can it look so bleak out, yet the shot weed, *Cardamine hirsute*, is happily growing away, while most of my plants must be still slumbering under their blanket of leaf mulch. I stood indoors, pining to be outdoors.

Have you noticed that when you plan a day, designated as a gardening day, it either rains or one is pulled away by other duties? It seems that every garden club meeting day seems to turn out sunny. Then I am also trapped indoors, neglecting my planting beds but hopefully learning how to improve my garden overall.

What or who has been the best gardening speaker you have ever heard? I have heard programs by Ed Hume, Cisco Morris, Valerie Easton, Marianne Benetti, Jon Throne, Larry Lael and other local gardening luminaries, but none of these were my favorite.

A few years ago, I heard a speaker on apples. I don't recall her name, but I remember her because I learned something I had never heard before - apple trees require "frost nights" to bear fruit properly. Different apple tree species require a different amount of frost nights. This was an "Ah Ha!" moment for me. I had never heard of this before! After being in garden clubs since 1998, I thought I had heard a speaker on every topic imaginable. Not so. This lady was one of my favorite garden club speakers of all time.

My other favorite program was by our own Black Hills member, Anne Stedham, president of the Friendly Neighbors Garden Club. Anne gave a program with a PowerPoint presentation on how the English make (grow?) hedgerows. I had no idea how much planning and planting went into assembling a living fence like a hedgerow. I assumed they were made by simply weaving a bit of brush together. Again, not so. Trees are planted for several years, then pruned to bend and form the initial framework. Additional species are then planted adding to the strength and stability. Fascinating!

Why are these my favorite speakers? Because I learned something I had never heard before. I assumed I knew about apple trees, because they seem to be grown all around us. I assumed that hedgerows were made from existing brush type plants, but they are most certainly not. I know both interesting items now because I attended meetings where experts willingly shared their expertise with attendees.

Why should our Black Hills members attend our District meeting on April 17th? They just might hear a Horticulture or Design speaker that might be the most interesting thing they have ever learned! Please

make your lunch reservations to attend our upcoming District General Membership Meeting and plan to enter the flower show. We want to learn what grows in your garden, and to share what grows in ours.

## **See you in April!**

### ***DATES TO REMEMBER!***

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**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00AM BH District Board Meeting – Chehalis  
Jackson Highway Fire Station, District 6, 2123 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, WA  
98532.**

**The community room is accessed on the back side of the building and the parking is  
there as well.**

**Officers, Club Presidents and committee chairman are encouraged to attend.  
*We'll probably have lunch at a local restaurant afterwards.***

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### **April 17<sup>th</sup> – Black Hills District Meeting and Flower Show**

**10:00am** – Our District General Meeting (Heritage Hall) begins. Breakfast, snacks  
and drinks will be provided by the **Olympia Garden Club**, as well as the luncheon at noon.

**Lunch tickets are \$15.00 and the money will be collected by each club. [Make checks payable to  
Black Hills District.]**

➔ Names of attendees need to be submitted to Karen Smith ([kjossmith@mindspring.com](mailto:kjossmith@mindspring.com)) **by April 10.**  
Lunch monies should be collected at club meetings then turned into JoAnne Sandell on **April 17<sup>th</sup>.**  
There will be raffle prizes to win, a 50/50 drawing and a Country Store.

**BLACK HILLS FLOWER DESIGNERS & FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR GARDEN CLUBS  
present April's Flower show!  
Admission is free and open to the public!**

All Flower show entries will be accepted on Friday morning; 8:30-9:30am in the Sokolik Building  
with pick up between 2:30pm and 3:00pm. View Flower Show details at the Black Hills District website:  
**[www.blackhillsdistrict.com](http://www.blackhillsdistrict.com)**

Following our morning District meeting, our horticulture speaker will be John Johnson from Thurston  
County Noxious Weeds. He'll be talking about the top noxious weeds that are of concern in Thurston  
County, how to identify them, and what gardeners can do to help control them.

The afternoon program will be "Photography in the Garden Club World", presented by Diane Franchini, a  
WSFGC chairperson and member of different garden clubs since 2004. Prior to her garden club life, she  
was an English and Photography teacher in Enumclaw. While Diane will tell you that she is in no way a  
professional photographer, her program will focus on what amateur photographers might consider when  
choosing a photograph to enter in a show, as well as how to present your photograph in the best possible  
way.

*A Request from your Country Store Managers:*

**District club members** - The Country Store will be open again at our Spring Flower Show in April. **Please look through your closets and boxes to see if there's anything you want to donate to our Country Store.** Because of limited storage space at the Fairgrounds, please take home what does not sell.

The proceeds made from the Store helps the district pay for the building rental fees for these events. Thank you for your donations. **Judy Smith** - judyrowesmith5@gmail.com and **Ida Dailey** - daileyakcandles@gmail.com

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**Three Beginning Flower Design Classes!**

**Monday - March 9th, 16th & 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**10:00 am - Noon**

**South Bay Fire Station 81**

**3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia, WA**



**To Register contact Sharon McKissick at 360 273-4962 or email her at smckissick@aol.com**  
**Open to 24 students - so sign up early!**

- **Students are expected to attend all three classes.**
- **Classes begin promptly at 10am and end at 12 noon.**
- **Students must bring their own scissors or clippers.**
- **There is no fee for these classes. The Black Hills Judges Council and the WSFGC Endowment Committee are furnishing these classes at no charge to those attending.**
- **Black Hills members and their friends, neighbors and family members are welcome to attend.**
- **We hope to form a new Design Guild from students attending the classes.**

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**WSFGC 2026 SPRING BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 2-4, 2026**

**LITTLE CREEK RESORT & CASINO, SHELTON, WASHINGTON**

Officers, District Directors, Committee Chairmen, and all Club Presidents and Garden Club Members are invited to attend!

Please go to the link below to register!

[https://www.wagardenclubs.com/files/ugd/249f52\\_cc3c90f1041a4aafb65876255dd2ff7b.pdf](https://www.wagardenclubs.com/files/ugd/249f52_cc3c90f1041a4aafb65876255dd2ff7b.pdf)

## **New Facebook page for Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs!**

Go to Facebook and search groups for “WA Garden Clubs”. Click on “Follow” and you’ll be notified when new postings occur. You can follow as an individual or club.

***Join the FUN!***

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### **WSFGC Marketing and Outreach dates to remember**

- ❖ March 15, 2026 - Deadline to send your grant application form to the Endowment Committee Grants Chairman, Diane Franchini, [franchinisd@gmail.com](mailto:franchinisd@gmail.com).
- ❖ April 27, May 25, June 29 - Marketing and Outreach Committee meetings on Zoom. Contact Suzann Stahl for the link. All members welcome.
- ❖ April 29 & 30 - 2026 Symposium, click for registration:  
<https://www.wagardenclubs.com/symposiums>
- ❖ May 1, 2026 - Deadline to submit your request form for a donation from the Endowment Fund for a park, gardens/arboretum, etc. to Suzann Stahl WSFGC [suzannstahl1@gmail.com](mailto:suzannstahl1@gmail.com). \*NEW! Donation recipient organizations become Honorary Members for a year!
- ❖ May 15, 2026 - Submit your 3–5-word tagline entry to Chris Hill (WSFGC Website Master) before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. You can enter as an individual, club, or district. Contact Chris Hill – [chillnhill247@gmail.com](mailto:chillnhill247@gmail.com) for details.
- ❖ June 9-11 - 2026 WSFGC Annual Convention, Leavenworth, WA. Forms are available on the WSFGC website [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com) on the Members Only page. PW is peony.

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### **Garden Clubs Partnering with Youth, A Winning Combination!**

**Vicki Westerberg**, Youth Chairperson, Black Hills District

When Debbie Spiller asked me if I would come on board as her youth chairperson for her term as Black Hills District Director, I couldn't say no. Can anyone say no to Debbie? If she asked me because she wanted someone in this role who cares deeply about youth and fostering a love of gardening, then she got that right. As Youth chairperson for our Illahee Garden Club I have many years of experience offering NGC sponsored contests at our local school White Pass Elementary.

My goal as Youth Chair will be to encourage/challenge every club in our District to embrace a project with the youth in your area. I know of at least two clubs who have

robust programs with youth. I am eager to hear what has been done and any plans for this year.

Our WSFGC Directory features youth involvement projects and contests found on Pages 56-60. Could you please find time to read through these pages before our Black Hills General Meeting, Friday April 17? I will have a cool prize for the person who answers a critical question from those pages!

Link: <https://www.wagardenclubs.com/>

Members Only

Member Only Documents/Forms/Dues

Log in: peony

Directory & Officers Roster

Illahee has realized good success partnering with our local school for 15 years. I will bring ideas and resources to each District meeting and would like to offer to come to one of your club meetings if you want a cheerleader for a youth project kickoff.

Working with youth is a win for our club and for the students. A winning combination that fosters lifelong love of pollinators, being conservation savvy, playing in the dirt and growing pumpkins, etc.

Can't wait to hear what other clubs are doing or planning to do. Sharing your knowledge and especially your encouraging words and smiles are needed for the upcoming stewards of our beautiful planet.

Gardening with youth is a noble goal for a garden club!



Reduce Reuse Recycle

## **Emergency Preparedness – How Prepared Are You?**

Jackie McCoy

This issue, I'd like to shift to a topic of even greater importance – Emergency Preparedness.

If you're like me, whenever there's a snow storm, earthquake, or flood somewhere, I think to myself, "I really need to be prepared." This generally leads me to either stock up on water or purchase some **individual** item like a food kit before I move back to next everyday "to-do's".

Recently, our District president, Debbie Spiller, sent me a great emergency preparedness article to be shared with all BHD members. Below, I've summarized initial steps to begin your preparedness journey along with detailed information by county. Maybe this time, together, we'll be better prepared!

## **A checklist of first steps**

First thing I learned is disaster prep is more than just buying stuff.

- ✓ Develop a communication plan with your family.
  - Create a list of important contacts – family, neighbors, etc. – and including someone at least 20 miles away.
- ✓ Prepare as though you will be on your own for 2 weeks.
  - You'll need enough water, food and first aid supplies for family members and pets. The recommendation is 1 gallon of water per person, per day.
- ✓ Take a first aid course.
- ✓ Find out whether a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class, which will provide training for volunteer emergency efforts like light search-and-rescue operations, is happening in your area (you can usually attend at no cost).
- ✓ Participate in community events, such as the "ShakeOut" earthquake drills held each October.
- ✓ Mark your calendar to review and refresh your emergency kit, including food expirations once a year. Water should be changed out every 6 months.

## **Actions to Take During a Disaster**

1. Try to stay calm.
2. Check yourself and others for injuries.
3. Check on neighbors, especially the elderly or people with disabilities.
4. Confine or secure pets.
5. Use the battery-operated radio from your emergency kit to listen for information and instructions.

### ***If you are evacuated:***

1. Follow directions of local officials. Carry your disaster supplies kit with you.
2. Unplug appliances; turn off electricity, gas, and main water valve.
3. Lock home and leave.

More detailed information specific to your County's Emergency Preparedness is included below.

- Cowlitz County: <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/2636/Emergency-Preparedness>
- Lewis County: <https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/>
- Thurston County: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/get-prepared>

## **CLUB NEWS**



### **BLACK HILLS FLOWER DESIGN: Debbie Spiller, President**

The Black Hills Flower Designers have been having a great time meeting at the Mt. Greens Mobile Home Park Community Room. This facility meets our needs, but we don't have room for more members. Boo Hoo!

**Good news – Part 1!** The Black Hills Judges Council is sponsoring a set of three Beginning Design Classes, March 9th, 16th and 23rd. These classes will be held at the South Bay Fire Station- 3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia. That location is just north, up Lilly Road from Martin Way. Super easy to find. If you are interested in attending a “Hands-On Workshop” and doing a bit of flower arranging, please contact our registrar Sharon McKissick at (360) 273-4962. Sharon will sign you up to attend.

**Good news – Part 2!** We're looking to form another Creative Floral Design club or guild from our Black Hills members who attend this set of classes. It's a lot of fun to learn something new and join a group that is learning something together. Please think about attending.

The Black Hills Flower Designers have done NGC Floor Designs and Abstract Designs this year. We are working hard on the Flower Show Schedule for our upcoming Black Hills District General Meeting and Flower Show to be held on April 17th, 2026, at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. The schedule should be on the district website shortly and a short version of it will come out in our Black Hills District Newsletter, “The Bugle” soon. Please plan on attending and join in the fun.

### **FRIENDLY FLOWERS GARDEN CLUB – A Summer in Bloom – Judy Swartz, President**

Friendly Flower Garden Club began the winter season on November 3rd, with an inspiring program on heucheras plus samples from Annie Brooks.



December found us at the Seventeen 51 Dining Room which was decorated, games were played and gifts given. Our hostesses who did a bang-up job were Becky Flaherty and Dee Smith.





**Judith Helen Rose Smith** received an Honorary Life Membership in the Friendly Flower Garden Club. Her name will be placed on the memorial wall at Squaxin Park in 2026.

**Judy** has been a steady member of the Friendly Flower Garden Club for 35 years! Judy is a master gardener emeritus and our club Horticulture Chair.

January 5 found Justine Mischka from the Center for National Lands Management give us a wealth of information about the Prairies, the Native Seed Nursery, and the process of preserving the native prairies and plants we try to preserve along with the conservation of our lands.

February 2 our horticulture program involved plant propagation and the types of propagation. Our expert members included types of propagation and discussed how to identify and propagate the plants brought in by members. Carla Delducco and Judy Smith looked at the specimens brought in, while Judy Swortz brought in a board listing types of propagation and why we do this! Cherry Pedrick brought in an educational board with samples and photos of prairie plants.

At this meeting Carol Brown manager of the Medical Equipment Bank visited us to let us know what a resource it is for all of us to use clean, restored equipment which is all recycled. Donations are always welcome, both financial as well as equipment.

We have seen a growth of 4 new members since January 1, 2026. We welcomed Annie Brooks, Elena Davidson, Kay Lee and Shanti Mai. We are thrilled to have them as members of the club.

Annie Brooks



Elena Davidson and Kay Lee

We look forward to the district meeting on April 17 to visit the members of the other clubs in the Black Hills District and the club.

Our club is participating in the 4th of July Tumwater parade, celebrating our 250th USA Birthday! So much to do to get ready!

## **FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS GARDEN CLUB - Anne Stedham, President**

### ***Happy New Year Everyone!***

We've had a busy but very successful half of the year. We had a lovely time in Randle, with excellent hospitality from our friends and hosts Illahee GC including an informative and fun presentation on ‘Dressing up your outdoors for the doldrums of Fall/Winter’, by Anne Stedham.

November was our public outreach meeting. We had a good turnout from the public, who like us were very interested in Kay Crawford's presentation about the development and progress of her "Bee Pollinator Garden".

At the end of November, we held our wreath, swag and centerpiece making at Anne Stedham's followed by a delicious bowl of turkey vegetable soup, and yummy bread and dessert supplied by the attendees.

Early in December we came together again for fun and fellowship at our Christmas Potluck, held in the lovely gathering room of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Chehalis, they always make us so welcome. We ate together and played Bingo swapping wrapped gifts and having a riotous time.

January – We will have a well-deserved rest.

February - Eli's Pavers will be giving us a presentation on "Hardscaping".

March - Sharon Peterson will be giving a presentation about "Ornamental Grasses".

April – We will carpool down south to Portland to visit the Japanese Garden and the Chinese Garden.

May - Jan Stevens and Ginny Eddy will present on "Conditioning Flowers, and preparing for the Fair."

June - A tour of Kay Crawford's "Pollinator Garden".

July - We finish off a very full year with our Summer potluck at the Master Gardeners Garden in Borst Park, Centralia.

Looking forward to spring - snow drops and the very early daffodils are in bloom.

## **ILLAHEE GARDEN CLUB - Sandra Zacker, President**

### **September 2025 – February, 2026**

Our year started off with a great September club meeting with 20 in attendance, including prospective new members. We made plans for helping out at the October District meeting and flower show, “Journey Through Wine Country.” We were to host the luncheon and decorate the tables. After the meeting we carpoled to a Dahlia Farm outside Mossyrock. What a beautiful farm and wonderful owners who taught us a lot about Dahlias.



In October we hosted the Friendly Neighbor Garden Club as well as our state president, Dorrie Carr! What a wonderful day it was! Dorrie presented each of our clubs with a book about

Dandelions, her chosen flower. We had a great visit and were given lots of ideas on outdoor container gardening from Anne Stedham, president of the Friendly Neighbors club. Later in October our club helped the White Pass Elementary First Graders come over to the Community Garden and harvest the pumpkins that we had planted the previous Spring. They were all so delighted with their “prizes”!

Between September and November our club welcomed 5 new members! How exciting is that?! Hosting at the October District Meeting and Flower Show went well. Patty Vance chaired the food committee which prepared several authentic Italian salads, Focaccia bread, and ending with a very smooth and rich Tiramisu prepared by our friend Jeff Johnson from Tumwater. At our November meeting, schedules for bough cutting, workshop setup and wreath making were done. The lighting of the Illahee Roadside Park for Christmas was also scheduled.



Since all our wreaths, swags, and cemetery pieces were made and delivered by Thanksgiving, we were able to have a quiet, relaxing December 3rd meeting. It was reported at the meeting that 100% of the club members who were able to participate in the Evergreen Fundraiser did! It made a really fun and profitable endeavor for us as it has for the at least the last 25 years! Proceeds help fund grants that we distribute to teachers at the White Pass High School and Elementary School. After our meeting we enjoyed a tasty lunch and fun gift exchange.

Our December meeting was quiet and restful, BUT the next week brought horrendous rainfall to the Randle area and flooding occurred. It was quite significant flooding in fact! The Cowlitz River ran right through our Illahee Roadside Park! - as it did Highway 12 as well. Several members helped get the power at the park turned off to the lights which are also on the flag and the Blue Star Marker. Damage was minimal surprisingly. **The water did sweep away one small bench in the park, but our Trex bench remained rooted!!!** A kind neighbor returned the bench to the park, so all is well.



*The Cowlitz River running through our Roadside Park!*

Our own Vicki Westerberg, Black Hills Youth Chairman, assembled packets for the elementary teachers in preparation for the Butterfly Poster contest in January. The posters were judged by the end of January.



Our Club Growing Project is growing three types of trees – a Bloodgood Japanese Vine Maple, a Vine Maple, and a Hemlock tree. The seeds were prepared for planting by undergoing a “chilling” cycle, placed in soil in small containers, and brought to our February meeting for each of us to nurture. We will take photos and send them to our growing project chairman, Carol Courtney. We’re all looking forward to lots of success in growing our trees!



*Our Adorned Blue Star Marker*

Plans are also in the works to have our Blue Star Marker encircled by blue lights permanently. They were on it for Christmas and because the lights highlighted it so much, we think the lights should always be there.

Our Educational Grant Committee gave us an overview of grants awarded in the past few years including honoring individual students at the Senior level. It was decided to continue our teacher grant program as it has been established, but to also send money to the White Pass Scholarship Fund in the name of Illahee to be combined with other scholarships they award. Also, at our February meeting our own Peggy Starr gave a presentation on “Getting Ready for Spring”. She covered lots of topics including how to prep your soil, soil testing, planning your garden spots/size, water availability, and how to prepare your tools. Her program was very well received, and maybe next year she will give a “workshop” on sharpening your own tools – by bringing your own tools to sharpen! We are looking forward to it!



*Peggy giving her "Getting Ready for Spring" presentation.*



*The Winners of the Butterfly Poster Contest and their Illahee friends.*

## KELSO GARDEN CLUB – Sarah Koss, Co-President

The past few months have provided several opportunities for fellowship among our Kelso Garden Club members.

In October, we enjoyed a very successful Guest Day attended by 75 participants. Sandwiches and salads were served for lunch and numerous items were donated for the silent auction and the raffle. Speaker Joanne Turner showed beautiful pictures and provided helpful information on Rhododendrons.



Halloween was the theme for the KGC Guest Day 2025.



Arleen Goedert and Phyllis Collins sell raffle tickets at the KGC Guest Day in

A food drive for St. Vincent de Paul in November yielded 140 pounds of food and \$300 in donations which were gratefully received.

Swag making was a fun project at our November meeting.



Christmas swags made by KGC members Cathy Olsen (left) and Jean Davolt (right).



The December meeting was a Christmas luncheon held at the home of a member. A “righty-lefty” Christmas story guided the gift exchange.

KGC members gather at the home of Phyllis Hull at the historic Melody Ranch for a Christmas luncheon and gift exchange.



No meeting was held in January as it was replaced by a restaurant luncheon. Members enjoyed more time to visit with each other.

Our members are looking forward to our February program with Tara Keen of Olympia Garden Club speaking on "Winter Sowing of Seeds" and a seed exchange. This is great timing for planting flowers and veggies for our May 2 Plant Sale to which you are all invited. May 2 from 9 am - 3 pm at 2715 Northlake Avenue, Longview.

Houseplants will be the focus of our March meeting with speaker Jenny Tsugawa of Tsugawa Roots.

We are all looking forward to spring! Each year, the Kelso Garden Club creates two booths in the Floral Building at the Cowlitz County Fair: an education booth and a fair-theme booth. Pictured below are this year's displays.

### **OLYMPIA GARDEN CLUB - Tara Keen, President**

The Olympia Garden Club has had a wonderful time learning from our recent programs. Steve Smith, President of the Pacific Northwest Peony Society, spoke at our October meeting, kindly gifting the club two beautiful peonies to gift to members at our Christmas luncheon. He shared the many do's and don'ts for successfully planting and growing peonies, gathered from his vast knowledge is growing over 170 varieties in his ¼ acre garden.



Club members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas luncheon to celebrate the holidays. Members enjoyed an abbreviated program focused on horticulture and birds. Debbie Spiller and Jackie McCoy made "Christmas crackers" for each table setting and conducting the great give-a-way of wonderful prizes to those with the winning numbers found within those crackers. Every member also received growing kits that were donated to us by Lowes Home Improvement.



Our club recently accepted the Gerry L. Alexander Award for Outstanding Achievement in Heritage from the Olympia Historical Society in honor of OGC's 100th Anniversary.

Several club members attended the ceremony and had the opportunity to view the Bigalow House, a beautiful historic home in the city of Olympia.



In January our club historian, Laura Little, was honored with an award from the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs for the 24/25 OGC Yearbook. The club also took the opportunity to recognize Laura for her hard work putting together the latest OGC Scrapbook by presenting her with a certificate of appreciation for her dedicated effort.



Our club is looking forward to many more exciting programs in the coming months.



BLACK HILLS FLOWER DESIGNERS  
&  
FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR GARDEN CLUB

Presents

*“UNDER THE SEA”*

Friday, April 17, 2026

12:30 – 2pm

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Thurston County Fairgrounds

Sokolik Building

3054 Carpenter Rd SE

Lacey WA 98503

360-786-5453

Admission is free and open to the public

Member of Black Hills District

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

\*National Garden Clubs, Inc.



## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<b>Show Co-Chairmen:</b> Linda Maida	253-389-2114
LeAnna McMahan	360-520-2045
<b>Schedule Chairman:</b> Debbie Spiller	206-755-3616
<b>Staging Chairman:</b> Debbie Spiller	206-755-3616
<b>Consultants:</b>	
Design: Judy Swortz	253-359-4285
Section A: Peggy Starr	360-391-5267
Section B: Suzann Stahl	360-791-7422
Section C: Dorothy Bertram	360-259-2630
Education: Brenda Wood	360-983-3476
Horticulture: Anne Stedham	360-304-8491
Botanical Arts:	
Artistic Crafts: Brenda Wood	360-983-3476
Photography: Diane Harper	360-498-5188
Placement: Jeff Johnson	760-413-2784
Classification, Design: Judy Swortz	253-359-4285
<b>Judges Chairman:</b> Vickie Kammerer	360-791-3117
<b>Clerks Chairman:</b> Sharon McKissick	360-556-5571
<b>Awards Chairman:</b> JoAnne Sandell	206-291-6195
<b>Publicity:</b> Peggy Starr	360-391-5267
<b>Hospitality:</b> Sandra Zacher	360-496-8472
<b>Photographer:</b> Marty Fortin	360-497-4962
<b>Book of Evidence:</b> LeAnna McMahan	360-520-2045
<b>Dismantling:</b> BHFD AND FNGC	



## General Rules

**Show Theme:** “Under the Sea”

**Show Colors:** Blue, Green & Turquoise

This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). *The Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB) 2025 Edition, with revisions printed in the National Gardener Magazine.

**Eligibility:** Any member of Black Hills District and any Student Judge needing exhibiting credits may enter Division I Horticulture, Division II Design, or Division V Botanical Arts.

**Advanced Entries:** Advanced entries in Division I, Section E & F, Division II Design or Division IV Botanical Arts Section A & B. Notify listed consultants by April 10, 2026, email and phones are listed.

**Entry Time:** Enter all divisions between 8:00 and 9:30 am Friday, April 17, 2026, at Thurston County Fairgrounds, Sokolik Bldg.

**Removal Time:** Exhibits may not to be removed before 2pm, but must be removed by 3:00pm on Friday, April 17, 2026.

**Judging Time:** Judging will begin at 10:00 am.

**Entry Tags:** Entry tags are available online at Black Hills District website also available at the door. Cards are to be filled out in advance if possible, using **pencil**. Refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6 for correctly filled out entry tags.



## Judging Standards:

The Classification Chairmen for each division checks exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination or conformance is the judges' responsibility.

The General Chairmen and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultations. They along with the judges and clerks are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.

The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.

There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any divisions.

Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division.

The Black Hills Flower Designers and Friendly Neighbors GC will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.

Plants on the state conservation list must have been grown by the exhibitor or obtained in a legal manner and so stated. Plants listed as schedule A noxious weed per web site [www.Thurstoncountyweedboard.org](http://www.Thurstoncountyweedboard.org) will not be allowed.

## Horticulture Rules and Classes

- A. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.
- B. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimen are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* or its supplement *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
- C. To receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation.
- D. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance if possible. Entry cards to be filled out using pencil. Refer to the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6 for correctly filled out entry tag.
- E. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line.
- F. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be exhibited as a flowering specimen. Foliage plants may flower but should be exhibited as foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves.
- G. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the 'Any Other Worthy Specimen' class.
- H. The Horticulture Classification Committee Chairmen and/or General Show Chairmen are free to subdivide classes by color, form size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics.

**Sections E & F.** Collections & Displays are a minimum of five different species exhibited in individual containers or the appearance of being individually exhibited. They may be cut specimens or potted. The Scales of Points for Horticulture are located in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

### Additional Rules

- a. Exhibitor to provide clean, transparent containers of suitable size.
- b. Exhibitor may use unobtrusive wedging; plastic wrap is allowed.
- c. Double potting allowed

## Division I Horticulture “Gardens of the Sea”

Section A eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit and Betty Belcher Horticulture Award Consultant: Anne Stedham 360-304-8491, anntat@me.com

### Section A. “Kelp” Bulbs, corms, tubers & rhizomes 2” 1 stem; under 2” 3 stems

#### Class 1. *Hyacinth*

- a. Single
- b. Double
- c. Multi-flora

#### Class 2. *Iris*

- a. Bearded
- b. Siberian
- c. Dutch
- d. Japanese

#### Class 3. *Lily*

- a. Asiatic
- b. Oriental
- c. Trumpet

#### Class 4. Miniature perennials

- a. *Galanthus* (snowdrops)
- b. *Hosta*
- c. ‘Tete a Tete’ Daffodil
- d. *Tulipa*

#### Class 5. *Narcissus*

- a. Daffodil
  - i. short cup
  - ii. long cup
- b. Jonquil
- c. Trumpet



**Class 6.** *Peony*

- a. Herbaceous
- b. Itoh
- c. Tree

**Class 7.** *Tulipa*

- a. Double
- b. Fringed
- c. Hybrid
- d. Single

**Class 8.** Any other bulb, corm, tuber or rhizome

**Section B eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit and Betty Belcher Horticulture Award**

**Section B. “Anemone” Flowering Perennials**

**2” 1 stem, over 2” 3 stems**

**Class 9.** *Columbine*

**Class 10.** *Epimedium*

**Class 11.** *Euphorbia*

**Class 12.** *Geranium*

**Class 13.** *Hellebores*

**Class 14.** *Viola*

**Class 15.** Any other worthy named flowering perennial.

**Section C eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, Betty Belcher Horticulture Award and Mara Lee Peterschick Flowering Shrub/Tree Award**

**Section C. “Mangrove” Flowering Shrubs in Bloom**

**Class 16.** *Camellia*

**Class 17.** *Lilac*

**Class 18.** *Pieris japonica*

**Class 19.** *Rhododendron*, exhibited with 1 truss with attached foliage

**Class 20.** *Viburnum*

**Class 21.** Any other worthy named flowering shrub

**Section D is eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit, NGC Arboreal Award and Betty Belcher Horticulture Award.**

### **Section D. “*Fucus*” Non-Flowering shrubs**

**Class 22.** *Boxwood*

**Class 23.** *Euonymus*

**Class 24.** *Juniper*

**Class 25.** *Ilex crenata* ‘Japanese holly’

**Class 26.** *Laurus nobillis* ‘Laurel’

**Class 27.** *Nandina*

**Class 28.** Any other worthy non-flowering shrub

**Sections E and F eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence and the NGC Collector’s Showcase**

### **Section E. “*Sea Cucumbers*” Collections**

**An exhibit of specimens (5 or more) judged for their cultural perfection.**

Advance registration required to Judy Swortz 253-359-4285 by April 10, 2026.

**Class 29.** Flowering

**Class 30.** Foliage

**Class 31.** Succulent

### **Section F. “*Plantain*” Displays**

**A collection of specimens exhibited with a strong overall artistic effect.**

Advance registration required to Judy Swortz, 253-359-4285 by April 10, 2026.

**Class 32.** Flowering

**Class 33.** Foliage

**Class 34.** Succulent

### **Section G. “*Sea Grass*”**

**Class 35.** Any other worthy named specimen not listed in this Schedule. Classes may be formed as entries require.

## Design Rules and Classes

- A. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the design division, NGC Policies and Guidelines.
- B. Advance registration with the design Entry Chairman Consultant is required by April 10, 2026.
- C. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the design division are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
- D. All plant material used in the design must be identified on a card, provided by the exhibitor, and included with the entry tag.
- E. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class.
- F. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Designs and Table Appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
- G. Designer is on her/his honor that the design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Standard Flower Show.
- H. The Scale of Points for Design is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.

## Design Glossary

**Buffet Table:** service for four (4) or more, with components conveniently and logically placed for ease of self-service. At least one (1) serving piece required. A decorative unit must be included. (HB 76).

**Decorative Unit:** A complete floral Design.

**Designer's Choice:** A design in which the designer chooses whether the plant material will be all fresh, all dried plant material, or a combination of both, plus other components.

**Exhibition Table:** An artistic arrangement of table components, within an allotted space, to provide a creative effect without consideration for functional placement. Plant material must be used as needed for the overall design. (HB 76)

**Hanging Design:** A suspended design to be judged at a comfortable viewing height.

**Transparency Design:** A creative design with see-through elements (translucent, grid-like, diaphanous materials etc.) integral to the design and permitting some components to be viewed through others.

**Tray for one:** decorative unit should be in scale with the place setting. The tray requires an appropriate -sized decorative unit with the stability of the decorative unit given importance.

**Underwater Design:** A creative design having components including some or all plant material, submerged in water to create interest.



## Division II Design “*The Deep Blue Sea*”

Consultant: Judy Swortz: 253-359-4285 judyswartz@comcast.net

Section A Eligible for NGC Petite Award, NGC Award of Excellence; WSFGC Judith Juno Petite Design Award; and WSFGC Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award, WSFGC Recycling Award

### Section A. “*Tiny Bubbles*” Petite Designs

Consultant: Peggy Starr 360-391-5267

**Class 1. “*Sea Horse*”**- Designer’s choice of design type. Not to exceed 5" in height, width or depth. Staged on 4” square black marbleized blocks provided by show committee on a table draped in black.

**Class 2. “*Little Mermaid*”** - Designer's choice of design type. Not to exceed 8" in height, width or depth. Staged on acrylic risers 4” deep x 6” wide of varying heights on a table draped in black.

**Class 3. “*Clownfish*”**– Designer’s choice of design type. Not to exceed 12" in height, width or depth. Staged on 18"x18" of an 8' table draped in black.

Sections B eligible for NGC Table Artistry Award, NGC Award of Excellence; WSFGC Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award; Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award, WSFGC Recycling Award

### Section B. “*Bounty of the Sea*” Table Settings

Consultant: Suzann Stahl 360-791-7422

**Class 4. “*Crab Pot*”**- Exhibition table setting for cocktails, to be staged on a pedestal that is 36” tall with a 20” round top. Must contain some plant material, to be viewed from all sides.

**Class 5. “*Cioppino*”**- A Buffet Table for (4) staged on a 6’ table draped in black. Additional table coverings to be provided by the exhibitor. Must contain a decorative unit, to be viewed from all sides.

**Class 6. “Fish & Chips”**- Functional tray maximum 20” in length setting for (1) for lunch staged on 24” x 30” of an 8’ table draped in black. Must contain a decorative unit.

**Section C Eligible for NGC Designer’s Choice Award; NGC Award of Design Excellence, WSFGC Ellen B. Swenson Flower Award, WSFGC Recycling Award**

**Section C. “Treasures of the Deep” Designers Choice  
Consultant: Dorothy Bertram 360-259-2630**

**Class 7. “Yellow Submarine”** - Underwater design. staged on 24” of 6’ table. draped in black. Staging panel allowed.

**Class 8. “Shipwreck”** - Free Hanging design to be staged in Black frame 72” high, 36” wide. Frame is on the floor.

**Class 9. “Coral Reef”** - Transparency design to be staged on 24” x 30” of a 6’ table draped in black. Staging panel allowed.

### **Division III Education “Seascape”**

#### **Educational Rules and Exhibits**

1. Exhibit to cover a minimum of 18 square feet.
2. Use of some fresh plant material is recommended but not required. Artificial plant material is not allowed.
3. Staged on a 6’ by 30” table, skirted in black, provided by the committee.
4. Handouts are encouraged, not required.
5. Educational exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless a student judge or an accredited judge is seeking exhibiting credit for preparing an educational exhibit. These are competitive exhibits.
6. The table will be skirted in black.

**Eligible for NGC Educational Award and WSFGC Carol Klingberg Award,  
WSFGC Recycling Award**

**Consultant: Linda Maida 253-389-2114**

**Exhibit 1.** Items We Don't Want Under the Sea

**Exhibit 2.** Harvests From the Sea

**Botanical Arts Rules and Classes**

- A. All botanical arts horticulture, design and artistic craft exhibits must contain some plant material.
- B. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit.
- C. The scale of points for judging botanical arts horticulture, design artistic crafts and photography are listed in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
- D. The rules for botanical arts horticulture are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
- E. The general guidelines for all designs as printed in Chapter 10 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, including a card provided by the exhibitor listing plant material used in the design apply.
- F. The rules for botanical artistic crafts are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
- G. The rules for photography are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
- H. All photographs to be displayed on an 8"x10" black mat with a non-glossy finish (matte) provided by the exhibitor.
- I. All photographs are to be 5"x7". The portrait mount will have the 5" measurement on the top, the landscape mount will have the 7" measurement on top.

## Division IV Botanical Arts “Beauty of the Sea”

**Section A eligible for NGC Botanical Arts Artistic Craft Award and WSFGC JoAnn Goldman Award, WSFGC Recycling Award**

### **Section A. “Creatures from the Deep” Artistic Crafts**

**Consultant: Brenda Wood 360-983-3476**

**Class 1. “Sea Creature”**- A sea creature created entirely from recycled materials to be staged on 18”x 18” of a 8’x 30” table draped in black.

**Class 2. “Mermaid’s Tiara”**- A tiara of reasonable size to fit on a Styrofoam head form furnished by show committee.

**Class 3. “Sea Jewels”**- A women’s brooch not to exceed 4” in any direction, to be displayed vertically on a black velvet standing form.

### **Section B is eligible for Terry Critchlow Photography Award**

### **Section B. “Beyond the Sea” Photography**

**Consultant: Diane Harper 360-498-5188**

Photos are to be 5” x7” matted by exhibitor. They may either landscape or portrait mount. All staging provided by committee.

**Class 4. “Ocean Sunset”**

**Class 5. “Sea Animals”**

**Class 6. “Birds of the Sea”**

