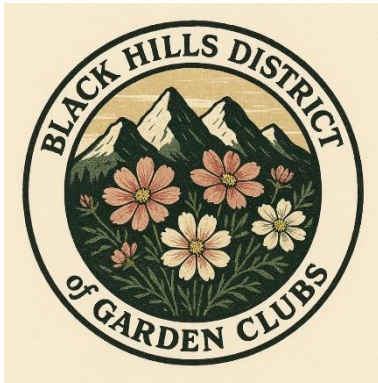




# THE BUGLE



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

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**Fall, 2026**

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

The Black Hills District held their annual Thurston County Fair Flower Show again this summer. I believe we are the last NGC Standard Flower Show at a county fair in our state. There were a total of 335 entries that included: 267 Horticulture, 28 Designs, 3 Educational Exhibits, 10 Youth entries and 27 entries in Botanical Arts Crafts and Horticulture. Thanks everyone who worked on the fair and all that entered!



Our District has 6 clubs and four affiliates that include the South Sound Dahlia Society, The Fuchsia Fanciers, the Black Hills Judges Council and The Budding Designers Design Guild. As director I have scheduled visits to all the clubs, I work with The BUDS Design Guild and attend the Judges Council. I am not sure of what my role is with our two plant society affiliates.

I am open to the suggestions of others on how best to service and assist our members beyond inviting them to district functions, attending theirs, passing along our newsletters and promoting events on our websites. I will ask here: Once we have acquired affiliates, what do we do with them? A lesson for us all.

### **The Clubs briefly:**

**The Black Hills Flower Designers** were very active in our spring and summer flower shows. Their upcoming September meeting will feature a review of possible staging panel materials and how to cover, paint and use styrofoam insulation as staging panels.

**The Friendly Flowers** assembled a parade float featuring giant contrived flowers and was in the annual Tumwater Fourth of July Parade promoting gardening, their club and the district.

**The Friendly Neighbors** ran the Flower Show at the Lewis County Southwest Washington County Fair. The Fair's "Little Miss Friendly" loved the flowers.

**The Illahee club** assisted school children planting their garden this spring and the kids will return when school starts to help harvest again. Pumpkins I hope!

**The Kelso Club** has their club flower show planned again as part of the **Kelso Highlander Festival**, their annual city event. They are also welcoming many of us to their annual Guest Day Party. My mouth waters at the thought!

**The Olympia Club** is in charge of our September District Flower Show. Many members are working hard planning, organizing and structuring the show. “**Purple Mountain Majesties**” is September 18th in the Sokolik building at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. Public viewing should be open from 12:30-2 pm.

The OGC is also holding a Gold Star Dedication at Squaxin Park in Olympia on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Gold Star will join the Blue Star in the Memorial Garden area of the park.

*(Please see our Affiliates’ and more Club news further down!)*

Last spring the Black Hills Board voted to donate \$100 to each club to plant red, white and blue flowers at local Blue Star Markers or in their local community areas, in honor of the USA’s 250th Anniversary. I think this was a great project and that we should consider doing it again next year. Will discuss this and other items at the upcoming District Board Meeting August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board and General Membership also voted to purchase and install fabric red, white and blue wreaths near our Blue Star Markers. Thank you, Chris Hill, for moving this project along. Hopefully, Chris will report on this at our General Meeting Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.

As a gardener I love and hate summer. I am eager for warmer weather in December, January and February. Happy when spring starts showing and delighted with June’s sunshine. But, about now, my lawn is browning, the leaves of my perennials are curling from heat and lack of water, the powdery mildew is creeping onto my phlox and the raspberries are taking a break until cooler weather. I grow tired of the hot afternoons and yearn for the cooler days of autumn. I don’t accomplish much in the summer weeks; it’s too hot for me to be productive besides some sparse weeding and time-consuming watering with sprinklers. Is an automatic sprinkler system the answer? Is global warming affecting the seasons? Is it hotter than 30 years ago or am I (gasp!) just older? Oh dear, what a thought. Enough of this! I must pull up my big girl panties and go out and pull some weeds and turn on those sprinklers!

**See you in September!**

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

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**Monday, August 31st – 10:00AM BH District Board Meeting – Tumwater Library,  
Large Meeting room, 7023 New Market Street Tumwater.**

**Officers, Club Presidents and committee chairman are encouraged to attend.**

*We’ll probably have lunch at a local restaurant afterwards.*

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**September 18th – Black Hills District Meeting and Flower Show  
Flower Show Theme: “PURPLE MOUNTAIN MAJESTIES”**

Our District General Meeting (Heritage Hall) starts at 10:00AM and ends at approximately 2:00PM. Flower show entries are from 8:00 am to 9:30AM with pick up between 2:00 and 3:00PM.

Morning beverages and snacks will be provided by the **Friendly Flowers** club as well as the luncheon at noon. Cost for lunch and 2 presentations is \$20.00.

Lunch tickets are \$20.00 and the money will be collected by each club. **Please 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 Sept. 11.**

*Since Clubs may not have a meeting prior to the district meeting, please pay JoAnne Sandell \$20 at one of the garden tours or mail it to her at 5516 – 65th AVE SE, Olympia, WA 98513-5011.*

There will be raffle prizes to win, a 50/50 drawing and a Country Store.

**Look for the full Flower Show schedule later in this issue or go to the Black Hills District website at <https://www.blackhillsdistrict.com/> .**

Following our morning District meeting, our horticulture speaker will be **WSFGC President, Dorrie Carr**, speaking about her favorite subject, “**The Dandelion**”. If there’s time, Dorrie will also speak on the theme, “**The Healing Power of Nature**”.

The afternoon Design program will feature **Brynn Tavasci, WSFGC Recycling & Stewardship Chairman** who will be creating design structures from recycled materials. Brynn has worn many hats: WSFGC Past President 2013 - 2015, NGC 5 Star Member, NGC Recycling, Up-cycling, and Stewardship Chairman, State Flower Show Awards Chairman in addition to other positions. “I have found garden club activities to be a perfect blend of gardening topics, creative artistic opportunities, and environmental education, all in one organization. My other favorite volunteer activity is animal rescue and rehabilitation.”

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## **2027 Schedule for BHD Board and District Meetings**

**Spring Black Hills District Meeting Date - April 9, 2027 – Thurston County Fairgrounds**

**Fall Black Hills District Meeting Date - October 8, 2027 – Thurston County Fairgrounds**

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### **WSFGC Schedules**

**WSFGC Fall Board Meeting, September 2-3, 2026, Yakima, WA**

**[https://www.wagardenclubs.com/\\_files/ugd/249f52\\_607073e90e9c459eafd1d49285d1b13b.pdf](https://www.wagardenclubs.com/_files/ugd/249f52_607073e90e9c459eafd1d49285d1b13b.pdf)**

**WSFGC Winter Board Meeting – November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 via Zoom**

**WSFGC Spring Board Meeting – 2027 – March 8-10, 7Cedars Casino and Resort,  
Sequim, WA**

**WSFGC 2027 Convention – June 7-9, Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, WA**

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**What is not to like about inspiring youth to get in touch with nature?**

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

In the Youth Garden Club Handbook found on the National Garden Club website you can find ways to inspire young people to take responsibility for conserving natural resources and protecting plants, animals and our environment. Our National Garden Club president, Donna Donnelly is encouraging youth clubs to plant patriotic gardens in red, white and blue to honor America's 250th birthday. The handbook gives valuable information on picture books and workbooks as well as youth organizations that promote growing gardeners for the future. Some of the programs that are promoted are: KIDS GARDENING, Groundswell, SEED YOUR FUTURE, SQUARE FOOT GARDENING, VITAMIN N for Nature.

Annual NGC Youth Contests are an avenue to encourage environmental responsibility and gardening skills as well as fostering a love of nature and civic engagement. The Youth Awards available can be found in our WSFGC directory beginning on page 56.

Consider offering a youth contest to a school district, 4H Club or Girl or Boy Scout group. EVERY SEED THAT IS PLANTED MATTERS. It is a wonder FULL thing for a garden club to spend a little time with the future gardeners of our earth.



**Reduce Reuse Recycle**

**Jackie McCoy, Recycling Chairperson**

This month, I'd like to spotlight "reusing/reducing" versus recycling. While many of us are doing a great job of recycling plastics and other items, how many of us think first, "How can I reuse or repurpose this?"

Take plastic “ziploc” bags. If they have contained meat, I toss them out; if vegetables, I rinse, let them dry and reuse them. Another example, I use the top portion of a hard beverage container as a funnel for loading seed into my bird feeder.

Simply put: “Reusing is more efficient than recycling because it keeps an item in its original form, which avoids the heavy energy, water, and transport costs required to break down, melt, or manufacture materials into new goods.”

Keep the graphic below from UBQ Evolved Materials™ in mind the next time you’re about to recycle an item:



Also, please use the links below, by county, to help figure out how to dispose of a specific item:

Cowlitz County – Where Do I take... (bottom of the web page)

<https://www.wastecontrolrecycling.com/services/residential/residential-recycling>

Lewis County – Recycling Information, by Item

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/solid-waste/recycling-in-lewis-county/recycling-information-by-item/>

Thurston County – Where Do I Take My?

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/public-works/garbage-recycling>



## Thurston County Fair – Ellen Daly



“Wings of Glory” an NGC Flower Show was celebrated at the Thurston County Fair July 30-August 2, 2026. This annual flower show is produced by the Black Hills District of Garden Clubs, with many volunteers submitting entries, working hosting shifts, supervising the kid’s art project, setting up and cleaning up the building and all the other tasks required to put on a judged show! The TC Fair Committee worked for months planning and producing this show.

As this is an NGC Standard Flower Show, **Dorothy Bertram of the Friendly Flower Garden Club, Olympia Garden Club and Black Hills Designers** organized the required judges and clerks for a busy morning of judging and awarding ribbons to the worthy displays. **Judy Smith** of the Friendly Flower Garden Club planned a luncheon for the workers, and her committee of volunteers was much appreciated for their flawless organizational skills and great food.

The weather cooperated, not being too hot or too cold, and great attendance was recorded at the fair. Horticulture entries are always a guess – depending on the weather preceding this week of the fair, we never know what is going to be in bloom! This year was a good one for dahlias, hydrangeas, roses and lilies.





The WSFGC Past President Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award and the WSFGC Past President Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award were won by **Patty Isom** of the Black Hills Designers for her Exhibition Table design.



The WSFGC Past President Carolyn Erickson All Fresh Design Award and the Thurston County Fair Designer's Choice awards were won by **Veronika Dunnam** of the Friendly Flower Garden Club and Black Hills Designers for her Transparency design "Wind Beneath My Wings."



**Dorothy Bertram's** "The Eagle and the Hawk" a Multi-rhythmic design.



**JoAnne Sandell** with "Fly Like An Eagle", a Tubular Design staged on an open black box.



**Sharon McKissick's** lunch buffet table for 4 won first place in the "Yorktown" class. Sharon is a member of the Olympia Garden Club and the Black Hills Designers.



In the table designs, **JoAnne Sandell's** "Brandywine" romantic dinner for two on a 34" square card table, winning first place in this class.



The NGC Educational Award and the Past President Carol Klingberg Educational Award went to **Cheryl Dale** of the Olympia Garden Club for her display on Eagle Preservation.

### Botanical Arts Horticulture







Botanical  
Arts  
Horticulture  
Award:  
**JoAnne  
Sandell-**  
Glycerinated  
“Fatshedra”



Herbs



Container plants



Horticulture



Fruits and vegetables



The Horticulture winners' table

## Botanical Artistic Crafts



**Dorothy Bertram's** toy  
saber won the Past  
President JoAnn  
Goldman Artistic Craft  
award and the NGC  
Botanical Arts Artistic  
Craft award.



**Jeff Johnson** of the Olympia Garden  
Club and Black Hills Designers won  
the Recycling award for his "Rocket's  
Red Glare" Botanical Arts Artistic  
Crafts entry.

## Educational Display



## Youth Collages



## Youth Horticulture



WSFGC Past President Marva Lee Peterschick  
Arboreal Flowering Shrub/Tree Award, the Arboreal  
Award: **Dee Murdaugh** for her Hydrangea "Blue  
Star" (two years in a row!) Dee is a member of the  
Olympia Garden Club.





**Cherry Pedrick** of the Friendly Flower Garden Club won the Arboreal Award for her *Cryptomeria japonica*

**Thurston County Fair Awards** were won by the following:



Dahlia Award: **JoAnne Sandell**  
Olympia Garden Club and Black Hills Flower Designers



Glad Award: **Ellen Daly** of the Olympia Garden Club

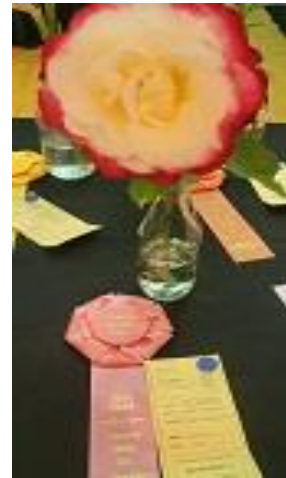


Lily Award: **JoAnne Sandell** of the Olympia Garden Club and Black Hills Designers

Grower's Choice Award:  
**Lucy Lindgren** of the  
Olympia Garden Club



Rose Award: **JoAnne Sandell**  
of the Olympia Garden Club  
and Black Hills Designers



**Awards of Merit:**

**Suzann Stahl** – Olympia Garden Club and Black Hills Designers

**Ellen Daly** – Olympia Garden Club

**Cherry Pedrick** – Friendly Flower Garden Club

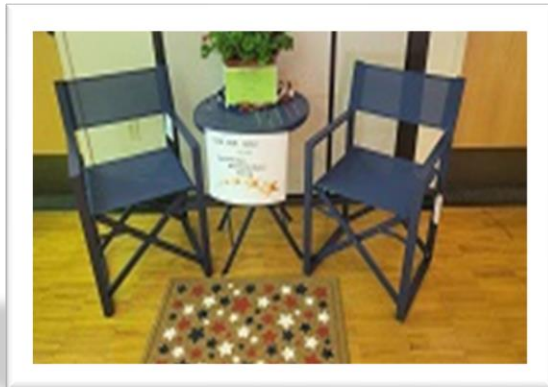


**The Tacoma Olympia Chapter of Ikebana International** provided a stunning display of designs, organized by Joan Mikow of the Friendly Flower GC. You can visit their website at <https://ii-tacoma-olympia-147.mystrikingly.com> for more information.



We held a kid's coloring project on Thursday – Sunday for an hour each day, where kids could color and decorate an eagle headband, which were then spotted on small heads all around the fair.

**Becky Flaherty** of the Friendly Flower GC kindly provided all the supplies, and volunteers from several garden clubs helped the kids create their masterpieces.

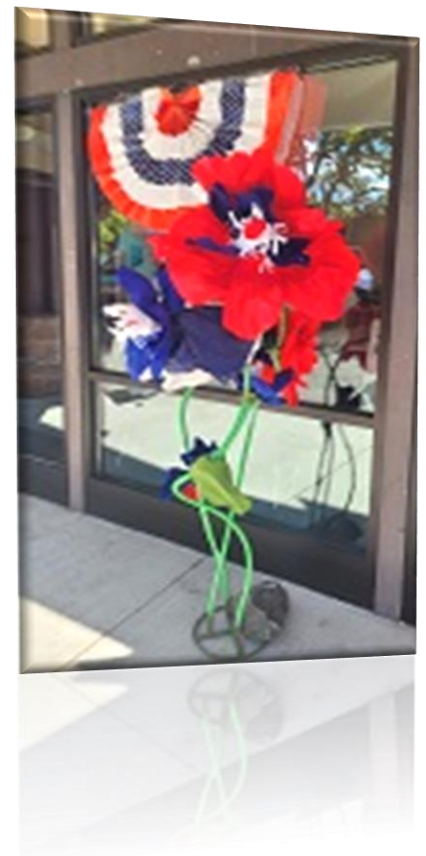


The prize we sold tickets for was a fashionable patio table and 2 chairs, doormat and colorful flowers.

Thanks to **Julie Darby** for setting up this attractive display and for the on-site volunteers for tirelessly selling tickets! Kathryn Kingman of the Olympia Garden Club was the lucky winner!



A special "thank you" to **Annie Brooks** of the Friendly Flower GC for loaning our staging committee the use of amazing giant poppies, which had been made for the Tumwater July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, but also did their duty at other private events after that occasion.



Thank you to all who worked, entered, judged, clerked, hosted and otherwise participated in our wonderful Thurston County Fair! We always want volunteers, so please keep us in mind for next year's fair.

Special thanks to the TC Fair Committee and their months of hard work: **Sharon McKissick, Julie Darby, Judy Smith, Suzann Stahl, JoAnne Sandell, Dorothy Bertram, Dee Murdaugh, Debbie Ripley, Chris Hill, and Debbie Spiller.** Dee generously hosted all our meetings, providing delicious snacks and drinks and continuous encouragement as we put everything into place.

Ellen Daly  
Thurston County Fair Floral Supt.

### **BHD AFFILIATES NEWS**

**The BUDDING DESIGN GUILD** will be starting their first full year September 1<sup>st</sup>, with a review of design mechanics (the bits and bobs we use to make flowers stay where we want them), how to read a flower show schedule and how to enter our upcoming flower show. Members will be bringing in designs featuring fall foliage. We have room for more members! We will be meeting at the South Bay Fire Station, 10:00am. Please join in the fun!

The Budding Design Guild was started last year after we held a series of Beginning Design Classes. Most in our group are beginners and are having fun learning about the world of NGC Creative Floral Design. Flower Design is a great creative outlet and we are lucky enough to live in a part of the world that is overflowing with attractive native and cultivated evergreen plant life.

Members will be bringing in designs featuring fall foliage. Do you have a beautiful shrub or tree showing autumn colors? We have room for more members! Please come to our next meeting. If you have questions feel free to contact me: Debbie Spiller [dunespill@gmail.com](mailto:dunespill@gmail.com)

The **FUCHSIA FANCIERS** do a big entry every year at the Lewis County Fair in Chehalis. They take up the entire Southeast corner of the Floral/Agriculture building with a fantastic display of fuchsias. Their monthly meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at Borst Park Kitchen #1, in Centralia and meetings start at 6:30 pm. Many of their members meet at the Panda Chinese Restaurant located on Harrison Ave, at 5:00pm prior to the meeting.

President Alicia Eggan has this advice for your fuchsias: "I would give this advice for fuchsia care. First, in summer, don't water in the heat of the day. Wait until evening, when temperatures cool down. Fuchsias cannot absorb water over 80°F. So they sit in wet soil and get root rot. Even if they're droopy, don't water. Instead, move them to a cooler spot until early evening, then water. In winter, potted fuchsias should be someplace cool and dark, like a shed or garage. Cut back stems to 4" or 5". They will lose all leaves as they go dormant. Water lightly every 3 or 4 weeks. In the spring, bring them out after last danger of frost. Watering is the #1 killer of fuchsias. Often, it's too much in summer and too little in winter.

All are welcome to attend their meetings.

The **SOUTH SOUND DAHLIA SOCIETY** is holding their annual Dahlia Show at the Westfield Capitol Mall in Olympia, Sept 12 & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

More information on their flower show and entering arrangement entries can be found on the 3rd page of this document: [ssds-2026.pdf](#)

The SSDS currently has 27 members. To my knowledge no one from their group entered either the Thurston County Fair or the Southwest Washington Fair flower shows. We will have to work on that in the future!

Their September meeting is Tuesday Sept 29 (always the last Tuesday of the month). They have been meeting at the Collage Way Mayan Restaurant, 6:00pm, with the meeting starting after dinner.

They have not set a date yet for their spring bulb sale, but it should be on a Saturday in April.

The SSDS has a Facebook page and welcomes new members. We hope to see more of them in the future and their members are welcome to attend our meetings. **For more information you may contact their President Betty Moynahan at 360-490-8561**

## **CLUB NEWS**

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

The Black Hills Flower Designers will meet again on Sept 11<sup>th</sup> after a long summer of Patriotic Flower Shows. We are all looking forward to the upcoming Black Hills General Meeting and Flower Show “**Purple Mountain Majesties**” Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. Have you entered yet or planned your entries? It’s time to think about what you will have in bloom to bring to the show.

The BHFDS will be working with newly cut Styrofoam Staging Panels and exploring ways to cover them with fabric, wallpaper, paper mache’ and paint techniques. We will also be viewing different mechanics for holding Staging Panels and different materials. There is always more to learn.

As well as working with Staging Panels we will be bringing in designs Featuring Fall Plant Materials. In our fall, our maples are especially beautiful. My peony foliage is always a fall favorite for me. What’s in your garden that puts on a show in the fall?

What happens to a Designers design property when they move, pass away or retire from doing design? Don’t designers accumulate a lot of stuff? Where does it go when they don’t want it anymore? Usually, someone like me can accumulate a lot of STUFF. In most cases, we have told someone in our Design Group what we want done with our best containers and sculptures, who they should go to or how they can lovingly be put back in the design circle of life.

The BHFDS will be learning that at our Sept 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. One of our own is retiring from Design and moving onto other creative outlets. She is donating her properties to our club as a fund raiser,

and we will be holding an auction for our club members at our next meeting. With her permission, what does not sell at our club meeting will be donated to the District's County Store on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.

Like everything else in our lives, we need to have a plan in place.

### **FRIENDLY FLOWERS GARDEN CLUB – Judy Swortz, President**

Summer came in with a BANG for the Friendly Flower Garden Club!

June began with continued visits to a school hosting garden club for Junior gardeners (grades k-1) and “Master” gardeners (grades 2-3). Our club helped them from April til the end of school doing projects and learning to grow plants. They met every Thursday for an hour. It is well organized and the teachers just need help from us moving the kids from one workstation to another. Joan Mikow faithfully led this group each time.

Our club has an in-house plant sale every year. We fund our youth programs with the results of the sale. This year we shared our hard earned “cash” with two schools. Helping fund programs and buying supplies for gardeners at schools.

Our effort to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the USA was a new project (this year) of entering the Tumwater 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade with a patriotic float. This effort dominated most of June. This meant a lot of scurrying around to find generous people who lent us a trailer for the float, a granddaughter's pickup to tow the trailer in the parade, and a place close to the parade site to decorate and park the float overnight before the parade.

Our designer and major brains of the parade float is Annie Potts our master builder! About ten people pitched in to help decorate on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We prayed for dry weather through the night, and when we came a little after 7 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> and found the morning dew wilted our flowers! Driving 2 miles an hour to Tumwater Boulevard at 8 am helped blow dry the float and flowers.

Members wore club logo shirts to walk and ride. Two rode in the back of the pickup truck bed on hay bales. We all waved and cheered to and for everyone who attended. We were #47 of 96 entries in the parade. We got a ribbon, and we had horses in front of us and horses behind us!

Dee Smith, our landscape and Blue Star Chair, has been actively maintaining the Lacey Civic Plaza. We placed patriotic wreaths around the markers. We have red, white and blue flowers planted in front of the blue star marker. She requested new mulch be put on the flower beds and this happened within the last week or so.

Members of the club helped every day at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. Our club helped to set up and cleanup the flower building, organized and served meals for judges, accepted horticulture, entered the design and artistic crafts and even had members who brought Ikebana designs.



The annual member garden visits are in full swing until the end of August. Many plants are shared, many landscape ideas inspire members to create in a different way. During these days, we relax and give and get ideas.

Our membership is slowly growing. Our meeting year of activities is planned. We are diligent about communication and bringing the club and the membership into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Look for a new website, for updates on our Facebook pages, and know that the Friendly Flower Garden Club enjoys every minute of it.

### Parade Photos



Uncle Sam with Ida Dailey and Joan Mikow.



Ribbon and entry number to the Tumwater Parade.



Close-up of flowers designed and created by Annie Brooks for the float.





Flags at Lacey Civic Plaza. Echinacea blooming



Blue Star Marker with Red white blue and wreath from District

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

Friendly Neighbors brings greetings from the S.W. Washington Fair! The theme was “Ride into the Future – Happy 250<sup>th</sup>, America!”



Here is a picture of one of our members, Marina DeMerritt dressed as the Garden Lady next to our entry. We took the title literally with a procession of vehicles from a horse to a rocket ship. Our building looked lovely and our club did a great job decorating and hostessing.

We had many, many entries from the public, even though there had been a couple of 90 degree days the week before.

We look forward to a new season of garden club events !





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

Our Illahee Garden Club has grown to forty members this past year. We welcome each one whole-heartedly, with each bringing their own special talents and eagerness to learn more about the whole world of gardening!

This June before school was out, our Youth Coordinator Vicki Westerberg, led members to help move the pumpkin patch at the community garden in Randle to a new spot with fresher, not-as-depleted soil where the Kinders could plant their pumpkin seeds. The past few years the pumpkin plants just haven't been as productive.

So, one afternoon before school ended, the kindergartners from White Pass Elementary came over for a lesson on planting pumpkins and tools used for gardening.



First, they listened intently to Vicki Westerberg read them a story of how a pumpkin grows from a seed to a pumpkin. Then they learned a song Vicki wrote years ago titled "We are Pumpkin Friends, We are Pumpkin Pals"!

After the planting lesson all went to the garden to get those great pumpkins seeds in the ground! They learned how to plant the seeds in hills and pat them down carefully.



Then they planted some pollinator plants to help the pumpkins grow to maturity.

Here are the Kindergartners after planting their pumpkin seeds and pollinator plants in the garden. What a proud and happy group!







Just look at the Pumpkin Patch now! The pumpkins have bloomed and small, green pumpkins are growing with more to come! They are sending out vines that will stretch out to each other. The pollinators are doing their job as well, pollinating the pumpkin blooms so the pumpkins will mature. The Kinders Illahee Friends help water the Pumpkin Patch during the summer months. Then, in October, the FIRST graders will come over and harvest their very own pumpkins! Here is a poem Vicki wrote for all to enjoy:

### **PUMPKINS AND POLLINATOR POWER GARDEN**

You may not believe, but I swear that it's so,  
 the seeds the kinders planted decided to grow.  
 From the first leaf, to vining, to plump, green, round spheres  
 hopefully, this is the best crop in quite a few years!  
 The head count is eighteen, but a few babies are trying  
 cross our fingers that this year no pumpkins we're buying.  
 For a beautiful bonus the pumpkins have friends,  
 snapdragons, cosmos, and calendula  
 with no end!

The Illahee Garden Club has something else they are very proud of and decided to celebrate it year-round. That is our Blue Star Marker at the Illahee Roadside Park in Randle. During the Christmas season we have been lighting up the park for quite a few years now, and the Blue Star Marker has been covered with lights as well. After this last season we decided to put lights on the marker permanently to highlight it to passersby every night and day of the year to honor our

Veterans. Below are photos of the two members that took on this project and of the marker itself in all its glory.



Peggy Starr and Diane Harper



Please do come see it some day and enjoy a stroll through the park and wonder at all the native plantings within which are all well-marked for you along the trail.





## KELSO GARDEN CLUB – Michele Waite

1. On June 26 & 27, members of the Kelso Garden Club participated in their Plant Sale Part 2 at home of co-President, Sarah Koss and in conjunction with the annual neighborhood garage sale. A variety of houseplants, perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs and trees and hanging baskets and planters were included in the sale. Although the weather was showery and cool, the Club made almost \$1,000 over the 2 days. Shoppers appreciated the reasonable prices and we were able to offer a buy one, get one free plant in order to move most of the plants to new homes. In addition to fundraising, our plant sales provide opportunities for members to work together as a team and hours of social time. We are fortunate to have many knowledgeable members who provide answers to some questions from the community who might be looking for specific plants for certain areas in their yard.



2. The Cowlitz County Fair from July 22 to 25 provided an opportunity for the Kelso Garden Club to participate in the Floral Show and to showcase plants in 2 Booths.



The first was the Theme Booth - American Made // County Raised. We received a Blue ribbon for this display.



The second was the Education Booth that showcased Native Plants with an Educational Handout and a Kelso Garden Club brochure to promote the club.

Members also participated in the Floral Show in several categories.





## Kelso Highlander Festival Flower Show

**September 12, 2026 at Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso**

The Kelso Garden Club will host a flower show in conjunction with the Kelso Highlander Festival. Public entries are welcome.

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

**Hello all Black Hills District members from the Olympia Garden Club!**

Our club has been very active over the summer as we tour each other's gardens and continue building our friendships with fellow gardeners. We have had up to 3 gardens to tour in a single week!

Some of the major themes last year for our garden club was the idea of strengthening the bonds between garden friends and supporting one another as we all mature in our gardening practices, and by mature, we mean "none of us are getting any younger!" We even had our first VP, Debbie Ripley, give a talk on safety and mobility in gardening practices last year.



This emphasis on building friendships and support networks have really shown results, with many gardeners coming to help their fellow garden club members in advance of their garden tour by pulling weeds and getting their places ready for their tour. The socializing during these tours has truly helped us grow closer together, learn from and be inspired by one another.



Our club is charged with the flower show at our upcoming Black Hills District meeting, on September 18, 2026. The theme is “**Purple Mountain Majesties**”. This show, to be held at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, is unique in that it will be held before our first regularly scheduled general meeting for our club this year. We are fortunate to have **Vicki Kammerer** leading this effort and making this happen with a small crew of dedicated garden club members who are meeting over the summer to make this happen.

We’re very excited about this show as it will have a novice class specifically designed to allow members newer to floral design compete in a category just for them. *We hope to see you all there to support our district and to encourage our latest crop of budding designers!* The best way to ensure our traditions continue is to bring new people in, give them the opportunity to learn, and nurture them to grow into talented designers.

Our first regular club meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2026, and we’re very excited to have **Marianne Binetti** provide a wonderful program for our members. This will be the first year that we’re switching up the order for our meetings. Our regular social hour from 9am to 10am will now be followed by our program as first item on our agenda! We have such wonderful programs lined up this year that we don’t want anyone to miss the talent we’re bringing in when they must leave early for other commitments.

We also have a truly important event scheduled for **Wednesday, September 30, 2026**. Our club has long been involved with **Squaxin Park** (formerly Priest Point Park) and has long had a Blue Star Memorial marker in the gardens we help maintain on their grounds. Our club also has memorial kiosks recognizing members who have passed, as well as members of the public who seek to memorialize their loved ones at the park. Over the last year members of our club have worked hard to secure a **Gold Star Memorial Marker** installation at this park. We are thrilled to announce that it has at long last been installed. Our club will be hosting a dedication ceremony for the newly installed Gold Star Memorial Marker and a rededication of our **Blue Star Memorial Marker** at this special event. We are so very pleased to provide this monument to honor the unwavering service of our veterans and the profound sacrifice of our fallen heroes. We further appreciate the city and county officials who have agreed to participate in this heartfelt event, in the presence of family members of fallen soldiers who have given of themselves for our country. Our very own **Chris Hill** has been leading the coordination of this meaningful event and the many other club members who have and will volunteer their time to ensure families have a place to visit and remember their loved ones.



We are so very pleased to be starting off this year of garden club meetings with such important events where we can come together with our garden friends and our community.



# OLYMPIA GARDEN CLUB

presents

## “PURPLE MOUNTAIN MAJESTIES”

Friday, September 18, 2026

12:30 – 2pm

An NGC Standard Flower Show

Thurston County Fairgrounds

Sokolik Building

3054 Carpenter Rd SE

Lacey WA 98503

360-786-5453

**Show Theme:** “Purple Mountain Majesties”

**Show Colors:** Purple and white

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. Google: NGC Handbook for Flower Shows

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

**Advanced Entries:** Advanced entries required in Division II Design or Division IV Botanical Arts Section A & B. Notify listed consultants by September 11, 2026, email and phones are listed.

**Entry Time:** Enter all divisions between 8:00 and 9:30 am

Friday, September 18, 2026, at Thurston County Fairgrounds, Sokolik Bldg.

**Removal Time:** Exhibits may not to be removed before 2pm, but must be removed by 3:00 pm on Friday, September 18, 2026.

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

**Entry Tags:** Entry tags are available online at Black Hills District website and will be 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.

**American or other national flags are not permitted.**

## 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. In order 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 plant 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.

### Additional Rules

- a. Exhibitor to provide clean, transparent container of suitable size.
- b. Exhibitor may use unobtrusive wedging, plastic wrap is suggested.

### Division I Horticulture “*Climb Every Mountain*”

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

Consultant: Debbie Ripley, 360-280-5814 [ripleydeba@gmail.com](mailto:ripleydeba@gmail.com)

### Section A. “*Cascades*” Annuals

If bloom is over 2” -1 stem; under 2” - 3 stems

Class 1. *Asteraceae* – Aster (annual)

Class 2. *Asteraceae* - Zinnia

Class 3. *Cosmosbipinnatus* - Cosmos

Class 4. *Helianthus*- Sunflower

Class 5. *Tagetes*- Marigold

Class 6. Any other named annual of merit

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



## **Section B. “*Olympics*” Perennials**

**If bloom is over 2” - 1 stem, under 2” - 3 stems**

**Class 7. *Asteraceae*** - Aster (perennial)

**Class 8. *Chrysanthemum***

**Class 9. *Dahlia***

9a. Waterlily

9b. Decorative

9c. Cactus

9d. Pom Pom

9e. Any other named worthy Dahlia

**Class 10. *Echinacea***

**Class 11. *Euphorbia***

**Class 12. *Fuchsia***

**Class 13. *Hosta***

**Class 14. *Rudbeckia***

**Class 15. *Sedum***

*15 a. Crassulaceae*

*15 b. Hylotelephium*

**Class 16.** Any other worthy named perennial.

**Section C eligible for NGC Award of NGC Horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit & WSFGC Betty Belcher Horticulture Award**

## **Section C. “*Adirondacks*” Roses**

**Class 17. Floribunda**

**Class 18. Grandiflora**

**Class 19 . Hybrid Tea**

**Class 20. Shrub**

**Class 21.** Any other worthy named Rose

**Section D eligible for NGC Award of Horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit, NGC Arboreal Award and WSFGC Betty Belcher Horticulture Award and Marva Lee Peterschick Arboreal Award.**

## **Section D. “*Rockies*” Shrubs & Tree**

**Exhibit to be under 30” in length.**

**Class 22. Deciduous Tree**

**Class 23. Deciduous Shrub**

**Class 24. Evergreen Tree**

**Class 25. Evergreen Shrub**

**Section E eligible for NGC Award of horticulture Excellence, NGC Award of Merit and WSFGC Betty Belcher Horticulture Award.**

## **Section E. “Appalachia” Edible Produce**

### **CLASS E-1 Fruits**

**Class 26.** *Berry* - ½ cup in glass dish covered with plastic wrap

**Class 27.** *Malus pumila* – Apple (2 required)

**Class 28.** *Pyrus* – Pears (2 required)

**Class 29.** *Solanum lycopersicum* – Tomato (2 required)

**Class 30.** Any other worthy named fruit (2 required)

### **Class E-2 Vegetables**

**Class 31.** *Cucurbitaceae* (pumpkin, squash, gourd, etc)

**Class 32.** Root vegetables (carrots, onion, potato, etc.)

**Class 33.** Any other worthy named vegetable.

### **CLASS E-3 Herbs (3 specimens)**

**Class 34.** *Ocimum basilicum* – Basil

**Class 35.** *Salvia rosamarinus* – Rosemary

**Class 36.** *Thymus vulgaris* - Thyme

**Class 37.** Any other named herb specimen

## **Section F. “Sierra Nevada”**

### **Eligible for Award of Merit.**

**Class 38.** 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 Sept 11, 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. No fresh material that has been treated.

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 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

**Alfresco:** - Dining outdoors.

**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).

**Cascade** - A design with an emphasis on a downward rhythmic movement. The downward lines may be curved, straight, zigzag interrupted or may be a combination. The design is supported by a container or other device. A minimum of components may extend upward.

**Creative Line:** - A Creative Design where line is dominant with a minimum of plant material and other optional components. The line may be straight, curved or a combination. There may be one or more points of emergence and focal areas.

**Designer's Choice** - A type of design that the designer chooses.  
Fresh plant material, dried plant material, or a combination of both.

**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)

**Reflective Design**- A creative design containing materials that reflect, give back images of light or other components to the viewer.

## Division II Design “*Shades of Purple*”

**Classification:** Sharon McKissick 360-556-5571 [smskissick@aol.com](mailto:smskissick@aol.com)

**Section A eligible for NGC Award of Design Excellence; NGC Designers Choice Award; and WSFGC Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award, WSFGC Recycling Award,**

### Section A “*Purple Rain*” Designer's Choice Design

**Consultant:** Bonnie McEachern 425-941-0732 [bomceachern@yahoo.com](mailto:bomceachern@yahoo.com)

**Class 1. “Snoqualmie Falls”** Cascade design staged on 24” of 6’ x 30” table draped in black. Staging panel allowed

**Class 2. “Crater Lake”** –Reflective design. Staged on 24” of 6’ x 30” table draped in black. Staging panel allowed.

**Class 3. “Grand Coulee Dam”** – Creative line design staged on an open pedestal 36” high with 20” round top. To be viewed from all sides.

**Class 4. “Deschutes River”** Creative Line design. Staged on 24” of 6’ x 30” table draped in black. Staging panel allowed. Class for Novice designers only. Novice is designer who has won less than 5 blue ribbons.



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

**Section B “Lavendar Fields” Table Settings**

**Consultant:** Jeff Johnson 760-413-2784 [1.24x10e8@gmail.com](mailto:1.24x10e8@gmail.com)

**Class 5. “Violet Prairie”** 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.

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**Class 6. “Reflections”** Exhibition table for cocktails for 2. Staged on black box 20” W x 34” H x 14” D to be viewed from all sides. Must have some plant material.

**Class 7. “Wonderland Trail”** Al Fresco design using a picnic basket. Some plant material required. Staged on a 24” of 6’x 30” table draped in black. Staging panel allowed.

**Division III Education “Snow Cap”**

**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 an 8’ 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:** Mary McClain 209-765-3338 [McClain8502@att.net](mailto:McClain8502@att.net)

**Exhibit 1.** Animals of Mt. Rainier

**Exhibit 2.** Snow Melt

**Botanical Arts Rules and Classes**

- A. All botanical arts 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 Design artistic crafts and photography are listed in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
- D. The general guidelines for all designs as printed in Chapter 11 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, including a card provided by the exhibitor listing plant material used in the design apply.
- E. The rules for Botanical Artistic Crafts are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
- F. The rules for Photography are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 10.
- G. All photographs to be displayed on an 8”x10” black mat with a non-glossy matte finish provided by the exhibitor.
- H. All exhibits in Section A, classes 2 & 3 must be functional.

## **Division IV Botanical Arts “*Shades of Green*”**

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

### **Section A “*Olympic National Park*” Artistic Crafts**

**Consultant:** Dee Murdaugh-360-704-0623 [deannamurdaugh@gmail.com](mailto:deannamurdaugh@gmail.com)

**Class 1. “Capital Forest”** An animal created entirely from fruits and/or vegetables to be staged on 18” of 8’x 30” table draped in black.

**Class 2. “Rain Forest”** A decorated rain hat of reasonable size to fit on a Styrofoam head form furnished by show committee.

**Class 3. “Muddy Waters”** A decorated rain boot to be displayed on 18” of a 6’ x 30” table draped in black.

### **Section C eligible for WSFGC Terry Critchlow Photography Award**

**Classes limited to 4 entries per class. Exhibitors must preregister.**

### **SECTION B. Photography “Hoh Rain Forest”**

**Consultant:** Donna Bogumill 360-870-[gardenaddict@comcast.net](mailto:gardenaddict@comcast.net)

Photos are to be 5” x7” matted on 8” x 10” matte black mat by exhibitor. They may either landscape or portrait mount. All staging provided by committee.

**Class 1. “Tumwater Falls”** photo of a waterfall.

**Class 2. “Forest Friends”** photo of a creature of the forest

**Class 3. “Craggy Peaks”** photo of a mountain view.