

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
PROMOTING...

WASHINGTON Garden & Design



2026 WINTER ISSUE JAN FEB MAR VOLUME 51, NUMBER 3
FORMERLY *SMOKE SIGNALS* MAGAZINE 1933-2016

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well, here we are into another new year – 2026! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, didn't eat too much, and took some time for themselves.

I normally don't go in for making New Year's resolutions. But this year I have resolved to start walking more. (Ian inspired me.) Where I live in Olympia, we have the perfect road to walk on. It's a three-quarter mile loop with a slight upgrade and not much traffic. Many of our neighbors walk the loop and there is a women's morning walking group that walks the loop three times a week.



We had two great speakers, Ian MacKay and Dana Ward, at the Winter Board Meeting which was held at the 7 Cedars Resort and Casino. The members of the Olympic Peninsula District did so much work in making the two-day event memorable. In addition to the speakers they held workshops, coordinated the meals, and provided centerpieces for lunch and dinner. We also had a fantastic flower show, "A Little Bit of Magic," and that was thanks to the co-chairmen Linda Maida and Debbie Spiller, the staging chairman Tina Cozzolino, and everyone who participated by bringing designs or educational.

Ian was such an inspiration. He became a quadriplegic after a bicycle accident at the age of 26. He struggled for years with depression but eventually found his passion again—being outdoors. He's been in an Apple commercial; he's in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, he has navigated Washington State east to west and then north to south, and he is the founder and CEO of Ian's Ride. Ian's Ride promotes outdoor accessibility, furthers the availability of accessible technology, and encourages support services for those with mobility impairment.

Dana Ward is a member of the Jamestown S'Klallam tribe. She had a very interesting presentation on plant foraging. And guess what? – one of the plants they forage is the dandelion! I was able to snag a copy of a recipe she provided "Dandelion Drop Biscuits." Don't be surprised if I bring some of them to a district presentation.

I am looking forward to the Spring Board Meeting which is being held at the Little Creek Casino and Resort. The Chinook District graciously volunteered to host the two-day event. I'm also looking forward to the 2026 Convention being held in Leavenworth and hosted by Central District. Let's hope the main road will be repaired before June. If not, fortunately, there is another road that can take us there. Thank you to both districts for their support!

And now, I wish you a year of peace, good health, and happiness. May the New Year open doors to new opportunities, inspire personal growth, and bring experiences that make your life richer and your heart fuller.

Dorrie Carr
WSFGC President 2025-2027

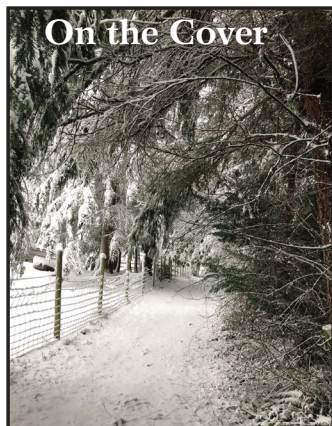
CONTENTS

JAN FEB MAR

Volume 51, Number 3

- 2 President's Message
- 4 District/Club News
- 12 WSFGC News
- 12 Poetry Corner
- 13 Design
- 17 Horticulture
- 18 Birds
- 19 Gardens
- 20 Youth
- 21 Book Review
- 22 Managing Editor Desk
- 23 Events
- 24 Board Meeting Schedule

On the Cover



Forest scene in
Olympia, Washington

Photo by Dorrie Carr

DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS

Photos by Cindy Swanberg

Welcome to the Historic 50th Year!! Hill & Dale District



On September 23, 2025 with a record attendance of 112 members, our district celebrated with a different type of meeting, an Anniversary Party!

Honored guests included WSFGC President Dorrie Carr, First Vice President Lenda Sundene, Corresponding Secretary Ellen Daly, Investment Officer Gale Baullinger, Parliamentarian and Former President Jeanette Pruin. Former Presidents Terry Critchlow and Brynn Tavasci were also present. Black Hills District Director Debbie Spiller, Central District Director Terry Critchlow, Penny Merriman representing Chinook District, Cross Sound District Director Diann Pfundt, and East Lake Washington Co-District Director Debbie DeFilipps joined us for the day.

Thanks to the WSFGC Grant Committee for selecting Hill & Dale as a recipient to help fund this celebration.



Staging displays: Top photo display made by Julie Wells; lower photo display made by Randie Welcher.



NGC Flower Show “Cheers to 50 Years” was gorgeous and enjoyed by all. We reached a first, 327 horticultural entries. “Petals Through Time” was the title of the Horticulture Division where 60 annual and 80 perennial exhibits showed up in force, but it was the Dahlias that stole the show with 46 exhibits. The Dahlia table exploded with beautiful specimens so much that another table had to be added, and the clerks held each dahlia up so the judges could see them enough to judge. With 16 designs, 2 educational displays and 24 botanical art crafts, the show was fantastic!

Top Exhibitor Awards



Tamara Larson

NGC Award of Horticultural Excellence, NGC Award of Merit, WSFGC PP Betty Belcher Horticultural Award



**Tamara Larson, Keith Ripley,
Linda Bones**

NGC Award of Merit, NGC Award of Merit, Hill & Dale Harvest Award



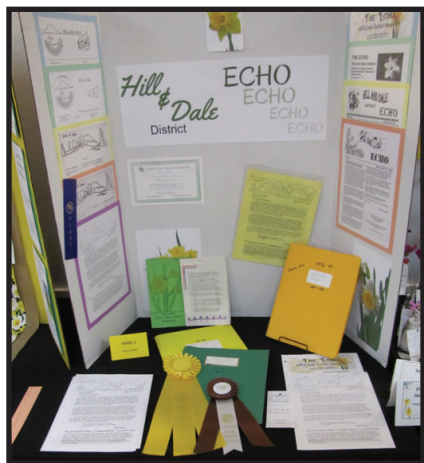
Debbie Spiller

NGC Designer's Choice Award
WSFGC Ellen Swenson Flower Arrangement Award



Linda Pempeck
NGC Arboreal Award

DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS



Sherry Matthews
NGC Educational
Top Exhibitor Award
WSFGC Carol Klingberg
Educational Award



Jeanine Faulkner
WSFGC Recycling Award



Sally Evans
WSFGC Terry Critchlow Photography
Award



Linda Bones
NGC Botanical Arts
Artistic Craft Award
WSFGC JoAnn Goldman
Artistic Craft Award



Photos by Trisha Tibbitts

A Vintage Fashion Show, the models represented today's clubs.
Does this bring back any memories??? Are they still hanging in your closet!!



Terryann



Kim



Linda



Julie



Gina



Barbara



Geneal



Kathleen



Mary



Jeanine



Sue



Linda



Rachel & Cindy



Ruth



Keith



Karla

DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS

Photos by Kathy Johnson



Elvis was our afternoon entertainment, and the crowd went wild as he delivered a fabulous entertaining program for an hour. Several ladies were lucky enough to receive a scarf, a special song and even do the twist with Elvis, aka Danny Vernon.



A huge thank you to the 50th committee who met several times to plan every little detail. Thanks to all of our members for sharing your lovely flowers with others to enjoy. To the models, thanks for a great and fun fashion show and to Karla who wrote and narrated the script. Special thanks to Terryann for the beautiful cake you made for everyone to enjoy.

**"Cheers to 50 years
To decades of love, laughter & resilience
Here's to Hill & Dale District
To the journey we've shared
And the chapters yet to come
For another successful 50 years!"**

—Kathy Johnson, Director, Hill & Dale District



Hill & Dale District
NGC Gardening School



Congratulations Graduates



CLASS of 2025

NGC Gardening Schools were established in May 1977.

Four courses were designed to learn the correct way to garden.

Each of the four courses consists of ten hours of lectures, and the students must take and pass each exam to receive credit.

Hill & Dale District hosted these 4 classes in April & October of 2024 & 2025. We had 173 members attend at least one class, some first-time students and others that need to refresh the course as a consultant every 5 years.

I Proudly Present the Graduates

Donna Armitage
Tory Bennett
Carol Bower
Teenie Dillinger
Ellie Dodrill
Kandi Dodrill
Sherre Granger
Gail Harte
Joy Johnson
Robin Kabrich
Mary Beth Lanza
Dot McDugald
Jolene Pavlock
Cindy Swanberg
Largo Wales
Christie Whitwell

Black Hills District
Chinook District
Chinook District
Chinook District
Chinook District
Chinook District
Hill & Dale District
Hill & Dale District
Chinook District
Central District
Chinook District
Chinook District
Oak Harbor G C
Hill & Dale District
Hill & Dale District
Cross Sound District



Professor Tavasci
presented the
Consultant Certificates

Picture by Linda Bones
Kathy Johnson
District Director

DISTRICT/CLUB NEWS

“A Right Jolly Olde Elf”

Chinook District, led by District Director Erin Gregory, held its biannual holiday luncheon on December 3, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Washington. The festive event featured a dessert dash auction, opportunity drawing baskets, and holiday floral design auction led by Teenie Dillinger and Debbie Angel. Entertainment included an original holiday skit featuring costumes made using mostly recycled materials led by Brynn Tavasci (photos next page).

All 20 tables were decorated by various clubs across several districts in the state. Table settings and centerpieces were so beautifully displayed that it was difficult for the attendees to choose their favorites. We were honored to have WSFGC President Dorrie Carr in attendance.

Winners of the table designs:



“Most Elegant” and “Elves and More Elves” Marine Hills GC, Chinook District. Photos: Carrie Asselin



“Most Whimsical” Root & Bloom and Country Gardeners, Hill & Dale District Photo: Carrie Asselin



“Most Festive” Parkside GC, Chinook District Photo: Trice Bonney



“Fan Favorite” tie between Enumclaw GC, Chinook District (above left, Photo: Dee Nash) and Olympia GC, Black Hills District (above right, Photo: Trice Bonney).



Proceeds from this event are used to fund donations to support Soos Creek Botanical Garden, Lake Wilderness Arboretum, Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden, Teacher Grants supporting youth horticulture projects, UW and WSU Scholarships, Arbor Day tree plantings, and maintenance and upkeep of our Blue Star Marker at Tahoma Cemetery. We are proud to support all these endeavors.



Jessica the Spectacular with her Santa Mug and Bobblehead... and Brynn. Photo: Trice Bonney

Esmerelda
Cupcake Head
Photo: Chris
Yourglich



Cast of "Jolly Olde Elf" skit.
Photo: Chris Yourglich



Elf "Shelfateers" Cheerleaders who bring their
own shelf.
Photo: Trice Bonney

Thank you to all who attended this fun event. We could not make this happen without the combined efforts of everyone.

—Brynn Tavasci, Member, Chinook District

Judges Information

Our state has eight judges who no longer will be accredited to judge NGC flower shows. All of them have been judges before the turn of the century. We will miss them, but they are still available to help their districts plan a standard show. Please use the knowledge they have gained for planning your shows. It has been a privilege to judge with them and learn with them. We salute these valuable members. Those going emeritus are Judy Boxx, Lana Finegold, Billie Fitch, Patricia Grimes, Anne Kronenwetter, Marion Meany and Marva Lee Peterschick. Thank you for taking the time to become a judge and judging all of our shows. We honor you for your commitment to WSFGC.

—Linda Maida and Debbie Spiller, WSFGC Judges Chairmen
—Sherry Matthews, WSFGC Credentials Chairman

WSFGC NEWS

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Makes Charitable Contributions

At the end of each fiscal year, the WSFGC Endowment Committee makes charitable contributions to public Washington arboretums, public botanical gardens and other non-profit organizations with a conservation or environmental focus – a total of up to \$5,000 each year after all other financial commitments have been met by the Endowment fund. *Entities must have 501(c)3 status and may not receive funds on a consecutive basis.

\$1,000 donations were made to the following organizations in 2025:

Bellevue Botanical Gardens (Bellevue)	Sehome Hill Arboretum (Bellingham)
Dunn Gardens (Seattle)	Lakewold Gardens (Lakewood)
Point Defiance Park (Tacoma)	

By partnering with organizations that share our mission, we strengthen our collective ability to promote gardening education, conservation and civic beautification, maximizing positive impact within our communities. Donation recipients receive an Honorary Membership for one year with benefits as listed on the WSFGC Membership Benefits list. After one year they will be invited to become a WSFGC Affiliate. For more information please contact

—Suzann Stahl, Chairman, Membership & Outreach Committee

BY LANA FINEGOLD

POETRY CORNER

NURTURE NATURE: HELP WILDLIFE

Comeback story we will write, as we plant with much delight.
Native plants to feed our friends, wildlife needs can know no ends.
Not on my watch, this I say, I will work to save the day.
I will plant to save our land; I know how to lend a hand.
When we plant diverse biomes, many critters make new homes.
Keystone plants support the most, plant some now and be a host.
We can turn the world around, helping wildlife in our town.

Black Hills District held their Fall Flower Show “Journey Through Wine Country” as part of their District General Meeting. Following are the highlights from the Design Division.



Dorothy Bertram's Designers Choice “**Dancing in the Moonlight**” won the Flower Show. Dorothy is a member of Friendly Flower Garden Club and Black Hills Flower Designers GC. She won the NGC Designer's Choice Rosette as well as the NGC Award of Design Excellence and the WSFGC Past President Ellen Swenson Award for the best design in the Design Division. She used a metal sculpture, decorative wood and hydrangea blooms. (Photo on left)



Pictured on right is Sharon McKisick's “**A Chianti in Florence**” – a Multi-Rhythmic Design. Sharon's creation received a First Place; she is from the Olympia Garden Club. Sharon used a Bamboo stick, rattan “Ting Ting,” willow balls, lotus pods and dried fan palm.



Dorothy Bertram's **"Prosecco Fountain"** – a Cascade Design received a First Place. She was also awarded the WSFGC Past President Carolyn Erickson Award for the best All Fresh Design in the show. She used fuchsias and begonias in her Cascade design.

**Table Settings
Artistry awards
went to the
following
designers:**

JoAnne Sandell from the Olympia GC won the NGC Table Artistry Award for her creation **"Champagne Anyone?"** – an Exhibition Table Setting. She also won the WSFGC Past President Phyllis Danielson Table Setting Award. She used a *Eucomis* 'Pineapple Lily' as her plant material.



JoAnne Sandell also received a First Place for her Romantic Dinner for Two **"A Red from Burgundy"** Functional Table Setting. She used hydrangeas and peony foliage in her decorative unit.



First Place for the Alfresco Functional Buffet Table **"Sauvignon Blanc from Loire Valley"** went to Sharon McKissick. She used dahlias, sage and yucca in her decorative unit.

"Cheers to 50 Years!" was a beautiful flower show held September 23, 2025, at the Dryer Masonic Hall in Tacoma by the Hill & Dale District. It was a truly wonderful event in every way. Hopefully the next 50 years will go as well as this party.

Blue Ribbons went to the following designs:



Chris Sherrill of the Country Gardeners GC won for her Still Life Design in the Class **"Design of the Times."** Chris used a selection of vintage music memorabilia as well as gerbera daisies, larkspur, and dianthus in her design. Love that shag carpet!

Art in Bloom Garden Tours

The 2026 Revolutionary Gardens Tour takes place from April 23 - 29, 2026 in Richmond, Virginia. The tour includes:

- Guided historic Gardens tour at Maymont
- U.S. Botanic Garden
- Admission and guided tour at Colonial Williamsburg
- Visit Agecroft Hall and Garden
- Lynchburg Old City Cemetery
- Guided tour of Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery
- Guided tour of historic Kenmore
- And Admission to Ferry Farm
- Admission and guided tours at Monticello and Mt. Vernon

For prices and more detailed information contact Pam Ehtee, Director, Olympic Peninsula Garden Club at pamehtee@gmail.com or the WSFGC website at wagardenclubs.com/events-around-the-pnw.



“Blast of the Future” was the title of Kathy Johnson’s blue-ribbon winner. She used dahlias and eucalyptus foliage. Kathy is a member of Root & Bloom GC. She included a metal sculpture, copper-hued metallic tubes and a copper coil in her design (photo on left).

Linda Maida received a first place for her stunning abstract design **“Artificial Intelligence.”** She used a metal sculpture, CDs, a large gold antique computer disk, dried alliums and a contrived gold “flower.” Linda is a member of Country Gardeners GC (photo on right).



The Class **“Tye Dye”** represented the 1960-70’s. Debbie Spiller of Country Gardeners GC was awarded the NGC Designer’s Choice Award for her Creative Mass Design. She also won the WSFGC Past President Ellen B. Swenson Flower Arrangement Award. Plant materials were chrysanthemums, English cherry laurel foliage, skimmia foliage and golden variegated Euonymus foliage.



HORTICULTURE

Container Geraniums in Winter

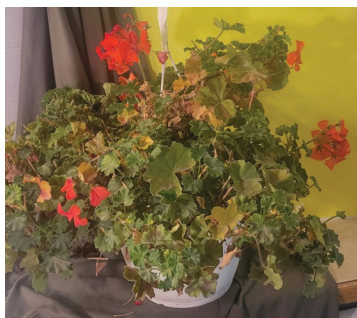
Want to turn a dark spot into a bright spot on a dark winter day? Think about growing a geranium. They have been one of the most popular container plants for decades. Both *Geraniums* (hardy perennials) and *Pelargoniums* (standard decorative) share the name geranium and belong to the family of *Geraniaceae*. The proper botanical genus of the standard geranium is *Pelargonium*. Most true geraniums are perennials and extremely hardy. You will find *Pelargonium* geraniums are especially attractive in containers, either as a single specimen or in a combination with many flowering and foliage plants.

Pelargonium geraniums include zonal (seed and cuttings), ivy, scented, regal and fancy leaf. Fortunately, they all have similar cultural needs. Some people get confused about the term “zonal.” It can refer to the distinctive pattern of colors with the leaves, or it can refer to the specific type of *Pelargonium*. There are now many varieties of zonal geraniums that do not have distinctive zones in the leaves. *Pelargonium* geraniums are traditionally grown as an annual plant with the reason being our winters are just a little too severe even on the west side. You can bring the container geranium indoors before a hard freeze and place it in a sunny window. The plant habit tends to be rather upright and branching, generally growing from 12-24 inches tall. Hybridizers continually upgrade old varieties, producing new

colors and plants that are stronger and more compact. Zonal cutting geranium hybrids are sterile and do not produce seed. If you grow geraniums from seed, you will find they produce a compact version and have smaller flower heads but more numerous flowers with a self-branching habit. Geraniums are easy to grow. They need at least four or five hours of direct sunlight. A grow-light might help provide the light

needed if unable to get the needed sunlight. Geraniums should be kept evenly moist but not saturated. They are heavy feeders, so incorporate slow-release fertilizer into the planting mix and feed every few weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer. If providing the right amount of light, geraniums shouldn't

need pinching to keep compact and bushy. Remove blooms as soon as the flowers fade. For best results, follow the stem that holds the bloom cluster back to the branch and snap or cut it off. Geraniums are seldom bothered by insects but will develop fungal problems in the roots or stems if they are in poor drainage. Reduce the watering if brought indoors as a houseplant. If the plant is overgrown, cut it back before bringing it indoors. Maybe you just want to over-winter the geranium until spring, then put it in a cool basement with a shop light and water just enough to keep the geraniums from wilting. A good time to take it outdoors again is around Mother's Day or earlier if frost free.



Example of an overwintering plant after several months in basement.

Photo by Marva Lee Peterschick

Photos by Veronika Dunnam

Attract Birds to Your Garden

Attract birds to your garden by providing food, water and shelter with a more natural appearance than a formal garden. Avoid using pesticides or herbicides and you will be rewarded by having birds welcomed in your garden.

Trees: Plant trees in the garden that provide perching, nesting and roosting sites for the birds. Trees are the dominant element in your landscape and can add privacy to your garden. When planting a tree, consider the spread, height and growth habit of the tree. Some trees offer brilliant fall foliage with nuts and seeds for the birds. Fruit trees have spring blooms and food for the birds. Evergreens are best for winter color and protection for the birds.

Shrubs: Shrubs provide birds shelter, shady resting spots and great nesting sites. Shrubs are useful for screens, barriers, hedges and back-grounds. Smaller shrubs can complement flower borders. Planting the shrubs in groups, in varying heights and textures creates a visually interesting garden.

Perennials: Plant perennials to supply birds with seeds and nectar. Plant perennials in beds and borders or small groupings. Many perennials have foliage that dies back in winter but sends up new growth the following spring.

Vines: Vines offer shelter, cover and nesting sites for birds. The vines attract the birds with flowers, berries and insects. Many vines attract hummingbirds for the nectar they need. In the garden, vines add vertical interest and provide greenery for fences, walls and trellises.

Groundcovers: Groundcovers provide shelter, blossoms and berries for food for the birds. Groundcovers are also good for erosion control in your garden. Groundcovers are a key feature in any landscape by making the transition from lawns to shrubs and trees seem natural.

Water: Water is a key element in all seasons for birds. Small ponds, fountains or bird baths provide water and wading areas for the birds. Water features can be a dramatic focal point in your garden.

Color: Cool colors, blues, pinks and purple convey calmness and tranquility to your garden. Warm colors like bright yellow and red create drama and vibrancy. Planting warm colors in the foreground and cool colors behind give the illusion of depth to a small garden. Bright tubular flowers in reds, pinks and oranges are very attractive to Hummingbirds.

Happy Birding!



GARDENS

Heronswood Botanical Gardens Tour



These are pictures of Tri-Area Garden Club members attending a Tour to Heronswood Botanical Gardens at 7530 NE 288 Street, Kingston, Washington. A beautiful day for “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” and it included a gorgeous sunny day in the Pacific Northwest. We were there for their Annual Plant Sale with many venues participating. We couldn’t resist buying unique plants, etc. Teasing one another that we would win “Best of Show” in future Horticulture Shows. I purchased a gorgeous Pineapple Plant about 2 1/2 feet tall, white with purple petals on it which look like seed pods.

A brief history on Heronswood Botanical Gardens; it was established by Dan Hinkley and Walter Jones in 1987. It is situated on 10 acres and increased to 15 acres. Display gardens exhibit plant varieties that were collected around the world,

tested and propagated for North America. The Gardens have been featured internationally as an example of creative environmentally sensitive and botanically impressive plantsmanship and garden design. Heronswood was bought up by Burbee in 2006 and sold again in 2012.

Port Gamble S’Kallam Tribe “PGST” purchased Heronswood Botanical Gardens. The Tribe has potential plans to utilize it for tribal economic and vocational education opportunities. Only plants produced on site are for local distribution. Heronswood sells plants produced at the “Windcliff Nursery” owned by Dan and Robert Hinkley.

—Lori Robinson, Chairman, Arboretums and Botanical Gardens
Credits: Dan Hinkley & Walter Jones, Port Gamble S’ Kallam Tribe, [www. Heronswood Botanical Gardens](http://www.HeronswoodBotanicalGardens.com), Pictures: Angela George & Lori Robinson



National Garden Clubs, Inc. and United States Forest Service partner to offer this youth contest to help teach kids about their environment. Both Smokey “Only You can Prevent Wildfires” and Woodsy “Lend a Hand — Care for the Land” are mottos encouraging our youth to be aware of the needed care and promote good stewardship of the world around them.

2025 Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl poster winner.
2nd grade Adaleen Sooa, artist from Folsom, CA.

—Terry Critchlow, NGC Chairman, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

The Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest is open to 1st through 5th grade students who want to enter their posters. Here are a few of the Contest Rules, but **check the website for complete rules** as they are very important. The website is: <https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woodsly-owl-youth-poster-contest>.

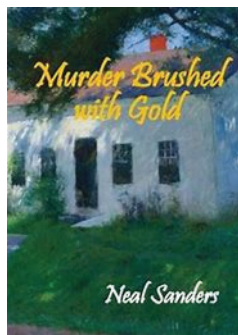
- Posters must be 11 X 17 inches in size.
- Posters are to be completed by individual student artists.
- All posters must feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and must not feature both together.
- Smokey Bear posters must include Smokey’s wildfire prevention message: “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”
- Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy’s conservation message: “Lend a Hand-Care for the Land!”
- Posters should be mailed to the Smokey Bear Poster Contest Chairman, Penny Merriman, by January 20.

Remember to **read the rules page carefully**.

Thank you,

—Penny Merriman,
WSFGC Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman

BOOK REVIEWS



Murder Brushed With Gold
Neal Sanders
**2021 The Hard-
ington Press**
**\$14.00 Soft-
bound**

The former garden club president Liz Phillips and Detective John Flynn get involved with a

secret artist's journal found wedged in the frame of an impressionist painting from 1889. It describes two murders with the bodies buried in a local home's backyard. This starts a sensational conflict with the art community and the home's owner. What a mystery!

This is the sixth of a series.

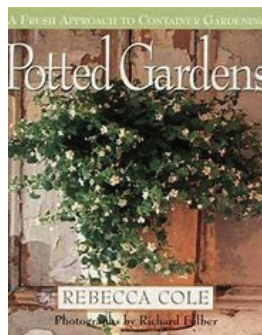
He was a great speaker at the WSFGC June Convention



A Taste For Herbs
***A guide to season-
ings, mixes, and
blends from the
herb lovers garden***

Sue Goetz
2019 St. Lynn's Press
\$23.95 hardbound

Are you a gourmet foodie? This book is a resource for making your own herbal blends, rubs, and infusions. First you need to grow your herbs indoors or outdoors and the author has provided an informative section to grow 20 common herbs. Next you need to harvest and use them in the many recipes included, savory and sweet, vinegars, oils, teas, even healing methods. If you have excess fresh herbs, there are ideas to help preserve your bounty for later use.



Potted Gardens
A Fresh Approach to Container Gardening
Rebecca Cole
Photos by Richard Folber
1997 Potted Gardens Ltd
\$6.50 Hard-bound

Imagine your space full of interesting pots of greenery and flowers. Along your path, on your deck, in the patio, a spot of color in old pails, or a drawer...Recycling is a perfect use for plants. Make sure there are holes for drainage, and the right size plant. Containers might take a bit more attention but are quite usable for our smaller spaces. Buy some more bulbs and find a pot to enjoy them. Plant seeds in another container.



Bugs Galore
Peter Stein
illustrated by Bob Stake
**2012 Candle-
wick press**
**\$6.00 Card
book**

This is a little kids read-aloud card book that features the

many kinds of bugs they will find from creepy-crawlies to flying ones. It is written in a rhyming text with whimsical illustrations as all sizes of bugs crawl across the page. This will appeal to children who enjoy bugs.

WASHINGTON Garden & Design

FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Garden Club Members,

Hello 2026! By now Christmas is just a memory from 2025. I do hope everyone had a blessed holiday season, filled with warmth, joy, and the company of loved ones. As we step into the new year, it's the perfect time to turn our thoughts back to our gardens—the spaces that bring beauty and a sense of accomplishment.

With winter's chill still in the air, our gardens may look quiet, but this is a season of opportunity. Take a leisurely walk through your garden. With most perennials having died back, you can see the structure of your beds and borders more clearly. Notice where there are gaps, where plants may have outgrown their space, or where a splash of color could brighten things up next season. Jot down your observations—these notes will be invaluable when planning your spring projects. Now is the time to dream! Bring out those seed and plant catalogs or browse your favorite online nurseries. Consider trying something new this year—perhaps a variety you admired in a friend's or neighbor's garden or a plant that supports pollinators. Remember planting time will be here sooner than you think, so early planning ensures you'll have the best selection. In fact, as I walked into the house this afternoon, a *Helleborus* peeked at me from the bed next to the front porch. It was a gentle reminder to tidy up that area, so the other *Hellebores* can also shine when their time comes. It also inspired me to order a few more varieties—after all a gardener's heart always has room for one more plant!

You'll notice this issue is pretty short. I'm still missing a couple of Department Editors. If your interests are in horticulture or environmental concerns and you would like to share some of your knowledge with our readers, please reach out. Our clubs thrive on the enthusiasm and expertise of our members, and your voice could inspire others.

As we look ahead, let's nurture our gardens and our community. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, remember that every season brings new lessons and joys. I look forward to seeing what we'll grow together in 2026. Happy gardening!

Veronika Dunnam, Managing Editor

*Official Publication of, and Published by, the
Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs.
Member of Pacific Region and National Garden
Clubs, Inc.*

Editorial Staff Managing Editor

Veronika Dunnam, vdunnam1950@gmail.com

Production Editor

Shawna Murphy, shawnamurphy@comcast.net

Proofreaders

Marilee Capodanno, capodanno@comcast.net

Judith Juno, jjuno@frontier.com

Marva Lee Peterschick,
davidpeterschick@hotmail.com

Logistics

Advertising Coordinator

Judy Swartz, judydswartz@comcast.net

Calendar of Events

Information and dates to

Veronika Dunnam, vdunnam1950@gmail.com

Department Editors

Birds

Ann Kronenwetter, CKRON44@msn.com

Book Reviews

Christine Dillinger, Teenie.Dillinger@gmail.com

Design

Debbie Spiller, dunespill@gmail.com

Horticulture

Volunteer needed; please contact Managing Editor

Environmental Concerns

Volunteer needed; please contact Managing Editor

Contributors

Terry Critchlow, Lana Finegold, Kathy Johnson,

Sherry Matthews, Penny Merriman,

Marva Lee Peterschick, Lori Robinson,

Suzann Stahl, Brynn Tavasci

Washington Garden & Design (formerly *Smoke Signals*)
(ISS 0195-1912) is published quarterly by Washington
State Federation of Garden Clubs.

www.wagardenclubs.com

EVENTS

- January 30-31 **NGC Landscape Design Course #1** – Via Zoom (see WSFGC website “Schools” menu page for further details)
- March 2-4 **WSFGC March Board Meeting** – Little Creek Resort, Shelton, WA (details Pending)
- March 24 **Hill & Dale District Meeting & NGC Flower Show**
- April 10 **Black Hills District Meeting and NGC Flower Show “Under the Sea”**
- May 26 **Hill & Dale District Meeting & NGC Flower Show**
- June 8-11 **WSFGC Convention** in Leavenworth, WA (details pending)
- August 21-23 **2026 WSFGC Flower Show**, Bellevue Botanical Gardens, Flower Show Theme: “Red, White & Blue;” celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the USA! Program details pending.
- October 12-14 **Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. 2026 Convention**, Palm Garden Hotel, Thousand Oaks, CA. Hosted by the California Garden Clubs, Inc. Contact: Robin Pokorski
Email: cgcirobin@gmail.com

Advertise your next district or club event in your magazine, *Washington Garden and Design*.

Download information from wagardenclubs.com or from your *WSFGC Program and Meeting Guide*.

Half-page advertisements in *WG&D* for Clubs and Districts are now **FREE**.

BOARD MEETING



WSFGC 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Status as of 1/1/2026 - More details will be announced

Mark your Calendar and plan to join in the FUN!

2026			
March -2-4 Spring Board Meeting	Shelton, WA	Little Creek Resort	Host: Chinook District
June 8-11 Convention	Leavenworth, WA	Icicle Resort	Host: Central District



OUR MISSION:

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs coordinates the interests of garden clubs to provide education, resources and networking opportunities for its members in promoting gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

Spring Deadline: March 1

All electronic articles
should be e-mailed to
Managing Editor
Veronika Dunnam,
vdunnam1950@gmail.com.

Annual Submission Reminder

Deadline	Issue	Months
June 1	Summer, #1	July-Aug-Sept
September 1	Fall, #2	Oct-Nov-Dec
December 1	Winter, #3	Jan-Feb-Mar
March 1	Spring, #4	Apr-May-June