



ELWD ECHO

East Lake Washington District of Garden Clubs

“Green Matters”

“Knowledge is knowing that tomatoes are a fruit.
Wisdom is not putting them in a fruit salad.”

Anonymous

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 24, 2020

The first General Membership Meeting of the East Lake Washington District in the new year will be held on **February 24**, 9:45 A.M., at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Eastgate (Bellevue). Members of all ELWD Garden Clubs and Design Groups are invited.

To attend this meeting, please sign up with your club or individually. If you send your reservation yourself, please do so by email to **Jean Hurt, Registrar**, at bajhjean@comcast.net The deadline for reservations is **Thursday, February 20**.

Set-up for the meeting takes place from 8:30 to 9:30. (You’re welcome to come help.) From 9:00 to 9:45, those attendees who are preregistered will visit the registration desk to pay \$10; anyone who has not registered previously may do so for \$15.00. This fee covers lunch and two lectures. (Please try to register in advance, so we’ll know how many to expect.) Hot beverages will be available. Following a brief welcome by Co-Director Marti Bolcer, the first program, on horticulture, will begin at 10:00. The business meeting will be held at 11:00, with lunch and raffle sales from 11:30 to 12:30. The second program, on design, will begin at 12:30, followed by clean up at 1:30, so we may all leave by 2:00 p.m.

Please see the following pages for information on the two programs and on the clubs participation in this meeting.

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CO-DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear ELWD members,

Now is a great time to pick budded branches and force them indoors. Forsythia takes about three weeks to bloom, but the blooms last longer indoors. Pick graceful branches and place them in warm water and wait for the buds to swell and open. Plum tree branches also work and red twig dogwood and yellow twig dogwood can also be picked and will sprout leaves, given enough time indoors. My yellow twig is sending out roots, lots of roots, but I don't think it will plant in the cold. Maybe I should try it anyway.

Someone was abandoning a cherry tree branch, so I am trying to force that too. Come to our next ELWD General Membership Meeting, February 24 and I can tell you how it all worked out, and maybe I will remember to take pictures this time.

Happy Gardening and remember,
GREEN MATTERS.

Lana Finegold,
ELWD Director Team



ABOUT OUR MEETING

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The morning program on horticulture, will be presented by **Virginia Ferguson**, who will talk about **“Fuchsias in the Garden.”**

Ms. Ferguson joined her local fuchsia club in 2002, after meeting a member at the local Home and Garden Show. She's been active in fuchsia societies since then, and is currently, President of Tahoma Fuchsia Society.

After retiring as a family law attorney, she became a Master Gardener in 2006, and became active in the Northwest Fuchsia Society at about the same time, holding several offices, including President for two years.

Ms. Ferguson's home was on the garden tour for the 2008 International Fuchsia Society Convention held in Tacoma. She states that her Fuchsia Society contacts gave her a great excuse to travel to England in 2013, where she attended the 75th Anniversary Convention of the British Fuchsia Society.

Originally from the Willamette Valley, Ms. Ferguson has lived in Tacoma since the mid-60's. The Fergusons now live near Point Defiance Park, and can watch the ferries sail to Vashon Island. A great place to raise fuchsias!



Fuchsia magellanica
'Lady Bacon' (Hardy Fuch-

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ABOUT OUR MEETING, continued

Our afternoon program will be presented by **Jon Robert Throne**, AIFD, Owner, Director and Wedding Specialist of **Countryside Floral and Garden** in Issaquah and owner of **The Royal Bee Florist** in Covington.

He has received numerous design awards. His work has been featured in the publication, O'trees.

Jon purchased a five-acre farm where he has inaugurated "**Farm, Fare and Floral**" at which he offers events, serves large farm-to-table dinners, and garden party weddings. On the farm, he raises animals and bees and cultivates organic vegetables and flowers.

Our luncheon will be provided by West Sammamish Garden Club; the raffle items by Issaquah, Pine Lake, and Terra Tillers Garden Clubs; the Buffer Table Design by ELAWAGS; and the small table centerpieces by Issaquah Garden Club.

EACH ONE PLANT ONE

National Garden Clubs (NGC) is promoting tree planting and hoping that every member will plant a native tree. The reason for natives is they adapt better and the tree canopy can provide cleaner air, shade, habitat and possibly food for wildlife. In our area we have choices, evergreens or deciduous trees. A native tree will be planted in the BBG Native Discovery Garden. Arbor Day Chairman, Carol Galea will have more information about the varie-

ty before long.

Another way to help is to take part in the Penny Pines project in which a club donates in increments of \$68 and the US Forest Service plants trees in our forests. You can specify which forest or the state of Washington. The Penny Pine project was started in California and was adopted by NGC several years ago. Some clubs collect pennies or pass a hat or do fundraisers.

Lana Finegold, Co-Director

GRANTS FOR YOUR CLUB

The Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs has authorized \$10,000, from the interest generated by the sale of Headquarters House, to be given to clubs for community projects/education. A maximum of \$1000 per club can be used for flower shows, planting trees, flower designs for rehab facilities, etc. These are only examples of projects that would qualify for a grant.

The State has asked that each applicant (club) provide 20% of the project cost. For example, if your club applies for \$500, the club would be expected to provide \$100, of the project cost.

A copy of the revised grant application is available and **the due date for submission is March 15**, to be emailed to Diane Franchini at:

franchinisd@gmail.com

or mailed to 153 Greenvale Dr., Ellensburg, WA, 98926-9618,

Awards will be announced by April 30.

Gale Baullinger

A CREATIVE ADVENTURE

According to the **Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs** website, “**March 9 and 10** will bring a different kind of flower show to garden club members.”

Sponsored by the WSFGC at **Little Creek Casino Resort, 91 W. State Route 108 in Shelton WA**, the federation will host a free educational flower show at the Casino. There will be examples of every design listed in the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows 2017*. The show will be open on March 9 and 10 and many workshops are being offered. The cost is \$10 for 3 workshops. There is a limit of 25 per class, so sign up ASAP with Mary Dahlgren at:

mldahlgren@comcast.net or call her at 425-747-9335. (Some workshops are full already.)

March 9 The show is open from 11 am to 5 pm. The one hour workshops include **Creative Corsages** at 12:45 and **Fresh Flower Headbands** at 2:00. March 10 workshops include **Calligraphy** at 10 am, **Using Sedums in Jewelry Making** at 11:15, **Leaf Manipulation with a pasta maker** at 1:45 and **Making, Collages or Plaques** at 3 PM. The show is open from 9 am to 5 pm. All of the ELWD Judges are bringing designs for the flower show.

To reserve a room at the Casino, call 1-800-667-7711 and mention “WA State Federation of Garden Clubs Flower Show.” The deadline is **February 6**. Room rate is \$126 for King or Double Queen, plus tax and lodging fees. There are many restaurants in the Casino.

Lana Finegold

POLLINATOR POWER POSTER CONTEST

This is a poster contest for children. The subject is “**the BAT.**” The object of the poster completion is to encourage the appreciation of bat pollinators; there is a \$5 cash award for the best bat poster in each grade, K-12. Computer posters accepted and judged separately.

Rules: the poster size is to be 8 1/2 to 11 inches. (Do not fold or use glitter.) Include on the back of the poster the name, grade, school and home address, the sponsoring garden club with its address, and the District. (This way, the Judge can return the poster.) The deadline for submission to the District is **March 1**. Posters are to be sent to Lana Finegold, 1414 179th Ave. NE., Bellevue WA 98008.

GARDENING SCHOOL

Gardening School Series 12, Course 3 will be held in Federal Way, Washington, **April 13-14, 2020**. Subjects to be covered include: factors that influence plant growth; new plant development and evaluation; outdoor container gardening; Houseplant basics; a teaching tour of a botanical garden; and a supplemental topic to be named later.

The School host is Marine Hills Garden Club. The Local Chairman is Debbie Angel: debbielangel@gmail.com and the Registrar is Dorothy Hitchcock:

dhitcock72@gmail.com.

The two-day school will be held at Light of Christ Lutheran Church—Fellowship Hall, at 2400 SW 344th ST, Federal Way WA, 98023.

Gardening School is a great way to learn gardening skills. See WSFGC website for more information and the registration form:

<https://www.wagardenclubs.com/classes-symposiums>

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN WORK PARTY

On Wednesday, February 19 from 10 AM to 12 PM, there is an opportunity to help at Bellevue Botanical Garden in Bellevue, Washington. Sponsored by **Washington Native Plant Society -- Central Puget Sound Chapter and Bellevue Botanical Garden.**

The BBG website states: “Now that the Native Discovery Garden has been renovated, our work parties are geared to the maintenance of the garden. We will be weeding and monitoring the plants.

“Our work parties help steward and diversify the large urban forest abutting the BBG and also allow us to gain greater exposure by tapping into the Gardens’ large audience. Additionally our partnership provides us with free meeting space, which allows the WNPS to host free educational events on the Eastside.

“Dress for the weather. Bring water and gardening tools if you wish to use your own.”

COME TO HELP

As partner with BBG, ELWD members usually work on the third Friday of the month, with April 17 as the first scheduled time. Closer to this date, please contact either Janet Wall at: janet227wall@gmail.com or June Ann Hassebroek at juneannah@aol.com

NW FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

February 26-March 1, 2020

If you are new to the Pacific Northwest, you may not know about what has been called “the Northwest Flower and Garden Show.” The website for the renamed “festival” states that it “has been heralding the start of spring since 1989, as gardening enthusiasts from around the Northwest flock to this annual celebration held in the beautiful Washington State Convention Center for five magical days.

“Your gardening desires will blossom when you gaze at the spectacular Show Gardens created by the most respected garden designers and landscapers of the region. Our full acre of show gardens are brimming with ideas that will inspire your garden projects. No matter your style or needs, you'll find inspiration for outdoor living, edible gardening, sustainability, and more. “

“This year’s **Garden** Creators will aim to evoke “Spring Fever” as festival-goers will be allowed closer to the gardens than ever before.”

(What this information doesn’t include are the various vendors of plants, seeds, garden tools and furniture, or the booths of various garden-related associations, offering good information and sometimes samples of their publications, or sellers of timeless garden art, and interesting items.)

[If you wish to go, you’ll want to purchase tickets at local outlets as soon as possible.]

GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE REFERENCE LIST

NGC: www.gardenclub.org (to access member-only section, use name "member" and Password "nature"; for Board members, the password is "conserve.")

Pacific Region: www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org

WSFGC: www.wagardenclubs.com

ELWD: www.elwd.org

Bellevue Botanical Garden: www.bellevuebotanical.org

THINGS TO DO IN FEBRUARY

February is a great month for making preparations that will keep things moving smoothly once {spring} kicks into gear.

Early in the month, finish ordering plants and seeds from catalogs.

As the days start to lengthen, indoor plants may start to show signs of new growth. Increase watering and apply a weak fertilizer (1/4 strength) only after they begin to grow.

Continue to check for insect pests on your houseplants.

Apply all-season horticultural oil (also called "dormant oil"), used to control overwintering insects, to trees, shrubs and vines before the buds swell. Follow the directions carefully to avoid harming beneficial insects. Avoid using horticultural oil on blue-needled evergreens, such as blue spruce, (This treatment take the blue off the existing needles, though the new needles will be blue.)

Start seeds for annuals, perennials and vegetable that are slow to mature. A few to consider are Amethyst Flower (Browallia), Begonia (Begonia) Bellflower (Campanula), Geranium (Pelargonium), Hollyhock (Althea), Lady's Mantle (Alchemilla), Peppers (Capsicum), Pinks (Dianthus), and Tomatoes (Lycopersicon).

[Mid-month] check to see if any of the tubers or bulbs you are storing indoors have started to sprout. Pot them and keep them in a bright location once they do.

[In late February] many varieties of dahlia can be started from seed for transplanting after the danger of frost has passed.

Fresh herbs growing in a greenhouse in winter: seed tray, pots soil and spray mister for indoor seed.

Slugs are a problem in spring and fall. Avoid watering at night when slugs are most active. Handpicking them off plants or from their hiding places (under boards, debris) is the best way to eliminate them. A compost pile can be a source of slugs, so keep compost away from your most tender plants.

Inland gardeners can cut branches of flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, crabapple and cherry, to bring indoors. Placed in a bright location in a vase of water, they will begin to flower, providing a taste of spring in winter.

[Taken from Gardening Month by Month in Washington and Oregon, by Alison Beck and Marianne Binetti, Lone Pine Publishing, 2003]