



GARDEN DELIGHTS

Issaquah Garden Club

"Let us love winter, for it is the spring of genius."

*Pietro Aretino, 1492-1556, Italian author,
playwright, poet and satirist*



December Meeting- One week early
December 7, 2016



"Delights of the Season"

Let's have fun at the December meeting by sharing our "Delights of the Season." We ask every member to bring something you have grown or created, to share.

Horticulture and crafts you might bring include:

Specimen from your garden in glass bottles, as for a flower show;

Winter Bouquet or Design, using materials from your winter garden and/or purchased materials;

Quilts or other sewn projects (if larger than two feet wide, please let Debbie DeFilipps know);

Crafts or Decorations, with or without plant material, such as wreaths, cone creations, decorated gift box, place cards for the holiday table, tree ornaments, a ginger bread house, or something else of your choice;

Art, such as a painting, photography, mosaic, collage, or something of your choice.

Please label your entry with your name, plant information and/or materials used. For a petite design or a small creation such as jewelry, we ask that, if possible, you bring staging to raise it for easier viewing,

We hope to have enough time for sharing to hear from every exhibitor. If you have questions, please contact Debbie DeFilipps (206-819-5989) or Sandra Roberts (425-746-2685).

As in previous years, we'll each bring a food item, for our pot-luck luncheon, remembering that now this must be purchased. Please see page two for the alphabetical breakdown for your item, and the luncheon crew responsible for set-up and clean-up.

Please don't forget to bring your utensils, cup, plate and napkin to our meeting.

And, please don't forget to bring your donation for the Food Bank.

(See article on page 8.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha from Hawaii!

A walk through the lush gardens in Hawaii and admiration of the beauty--

Ixora Javanica, *Red Ixora*, Origin:
Java, Malay, Hawaiian name: Po-
po Lehua

Hedychium Coronarium, *Ginger Lily*,
Indigenous to Hawaii; Hawaiian
name: Kahili Ginger

Asplenium Nidas, *Birds Nest Fern*,
Indigenous to Hawaii; Hawaiian
name: Ekaha



Lenda's picture of a Bird's Nest Fern

Cordyline Terminalis, *Ti Leaf*,
Origin: Tropical Asia & Australia;
Hawaiian name: Ti

Hibiscus Waimeae, *Hawaiian Hibis-
cus*, Origin: Hawaii – Endemic,
Hawaiian name: Koki' o ke'o

Phymatosorus Scolopendria, *Maile
Scented Fern*, Origin: Africa,
Asia, Hawaiian name: Laua'e

Codineum Variegatum, *Croton*,
Origin: India, Malaya, Hawaiian
name: Akoko

Hawaii's beauty in nature is colorful,
patterned with textures and amazingly
prolific.



Lenda's picture of a Hawaiian
Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*)

Poinsettias flourish in the landscape
shouting the Hawaiian saying: "Mele
Kalikimaka"

Coming home I look forward to see
you at the next meeting "Delights of
the Season" with varied seasonal in-
terests, talents, skills, and collections
of which Issaquah Garden Club mem-
bers display.

Much warm aloha, **Lenda Sundene**



GARDEN THERAPY

The Thanksgiving floral designs At Issaquah Nursing and Rehabilitation Center were created by **Karen Bukantz, June Ann Hassebroek, and Joann Morgan**. These three members created sixteen arrangements.

We'll need additional volunteers to make arrangements before Christmas. **Please** sign up at December's meeting to help make centerpieces on **Wednesday, December 21**. Work will commence at 10 A.M. to conclude by 11:30 A.M

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

What a treat to have our favorite floral designer, John Throne present and discuss several arrangements! Here is a picture of one, taken by Debbie DeFilipps:



OUR DECEMBER LUNCHEON

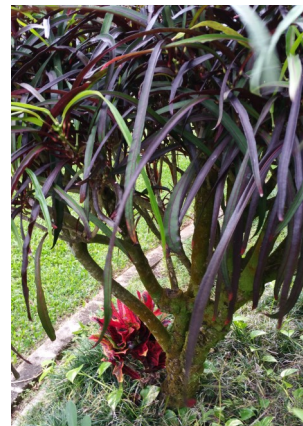
As in previous years, we'll all share in providing a pot-luck luncheon, of items purchased and brought still in original packaging.

Your editor has varied the alphabetical breakdown for the December pot-luck each year, rotating these every three years. In reviewing the membership list, she's become aware of just how many members cannot bring a donation, either because they're incapacitated, or because they now live far away. In consultation, she's determined an adjustment to the 2013 breakdown is necessary. Therefore, this year the breakdown is as follows:

A-F salad; G-L Main Dish; M-T Dessert; and T-Z pastry to go with coffee before the meeting.

The luncheon crew, tasked with receiving the dishes, serving the dishes and cleaning up afterwards, will consist of:

Joy Jackson (Hostess), with Sally Cadranell, Joann Morgan, Cate Mueller, and Joanne Westveer.



Lenda's picture of Hawaiian Croton (*Codiaeum variegatum* var. 'Pictum')

WSFGC HOLIDAY SHOW

Karen Lee has written an interesting report of her involvement with the WSFGC Holiday Show, “Parisian Holiday,” which occurred November 16 and 17:

I was excited to read the schedule for the WSFGC Holiday Show 2016, “Parisian Holiday,” when it was sent in July. I turned to the Crafts section because I find crafting with plant material challenging and creative.

I became busy planning my “Savor the Season” holiday table for the Women’s Ministry at my church, which would be held two days before the Holiday Show. I needed to plan and decorate a table of eight for two evenings of buffet dinner. I spent part of September and all of October working on my table design for “Savor the Season,” handcrafting many components.

I also had a trip planned for my mother’s birthday in Las Vegas, the week before “Savor the Season.” I returned home from my trip Saturday night at 10 pm. “Savor the Season” setup was the next day.

Meanwhile emails came out from the Holiday Show people asking for entries. Things went well with my “Savor the Season” planning and I was done about a week before I left on my trip to Las Vegas. A fourth email came out from the show chairmen asking for two more people to enter the class for decorated dress form under crafts titled “Coco Chanel.” This was to be “a decorated dress form provided by the Show Committee and displayed in the foyer area of the showroom.”

I knew that if they didn’t get four people to enter, then they would have to disqualify that class. I felt bad. I had a week with nothing to do but pack for my trip. I wanted to help the show people. I called, agreeing to sign up for the decorated dress form.

Since I didn’t want to drive to Olympia to pick up the dress form, I bought one at Joann Fabrics. The Committee Chair said I should just bring my form and enter it.

I needed flowers that wouldn’t get damaged while being transported in the car. I decided to glycerin my flowers. The instructions online said to use fresh flowers. I had already cut the flowers and they were dried. I used them anyway because I was running out of time. Two days later I checked on my flowers and they were brown and soft, just as they were supposed to be. I blotted them dry and got out my spray paint. I had only two days left before leaving on my trip. I spray painted all my plant material and let them air dry. Then I got everything pinned and hot-glued together. I finished one day before my trip.

The Las Vegas trip was great, “Savor the Season” was great. I was exhausted but repacked my suitcase. Next stop, Olympia. I took my dress form off the base and packed it into the trunk of my car. The show itself was lovely but I was exhausted. I was disappointed to see the white ribbon on my dress form and didn’t look at it until I took it down to bring home. Then I looked at the back of the ribbon for the judge’s constructive criticism. The box for 90+ was marked on the front which means it scored very high. (In a regular flower show it would have been a blue ribbon.) I felt better. When I looked at the back of the entry tag, it had praise for my dress form and no criticism! I was very surprised but relieved to think that the judges liked all four of the dress forms. I decided fourth place out of four wasn’t always so bad. I felt relieved that the class was filled and happy that we had a lovely show.

Karen Lee

[see Karen’s dress form and other pictures of the show on the next page.]



PICTURES FROM THE HOLIDAY SHOW



Karen Lee's dress form,
Class One, "Coco Chanel"



Entrance display for the WSFGC show



Winner, "Hermes": decorated adult dress
shoe, by Nonna Crook of Greater Seattle



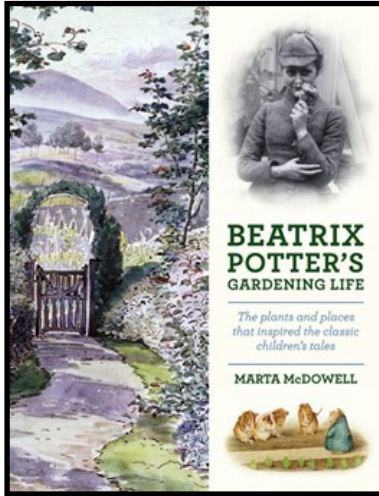
Winner, "Coco Chanel": decorated
dress form



The Fairy Garden winner, Sally
Priebe of Chinook district

BOOK REVIEW

Gardeners brought up on the mishaps of Peter Rabbit can now curl up with *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*. ... This work brings Potter, as much as her garden, to life. *New York Times*



There aren't many books more beloved than *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and even fewer authors as iconic as Beatrix Potter. More than 150 million copies of her books have sold worldwide and interest in her work and life remains high. And her characters — Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck, and all the rest — exist in a charmed world filled with flowers and gardens.

Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life, [by **Marta McDowell**] is the first book to explore the origins of Beatrix Potter's love of gardening and plants and show how this passion came to be reflected in her work. The book begins with a gardener's biography, highlighting the key moments and places throughout her life that helped define her, including her home Hill Top Farm in England's Lake District. Next, the reader follows Beatrix Potter through a year in her garden, with a season-by-season overview of what is blooming that truly brings her gardens

alive. The book culminates in a traveler's guide, with information on how and where to visit Potter's gardens today.

Richly illustrated and filled with quotations from her books, letters, and journals, it is essential reading for all who know and cherish Beatrix Potter's classic tales. [Published by Timber Press]

Poor Man's Caviar

[This is an old Russian recipe]

2 small onions, minced
1/4 cup tomato paste
2 tsp lemon juice
salt & pepper
garlic salt
1/4 cup olive oil
2 medium or 1 large eggplant

Sauté onions in olive oil until clear, not brown. Boil eggplant for about 10 minutes, allow to cool to the touch, then skin. Drain eggplant and chop into small pieces (dice into 1/4 inch or smaller cubes). Combine diced eggplant, cooked onion, tomato paste, and olive oil in cooking pot. Cook over heat for 45 minutes, being careful not to scorch the mixture while cooking. Mash the mixture with a fork often against the side of the pan. Remove from heat, add lemon juice, then salt, pepper and garlic salt to taste. This may be served hot as a side dish or cold as a dip—traditionally served as a dip with toasted bread.



December 2016, The Seedling, Falls Church Garden Club

INDOOR PLANT TIPS

The following tips come from the Farmer's Almanac at: <http://www.almanac.com/content/houseplants-growing-tips>

Light

- * Most flowering plants need to be within three feet of a sunny window.
- * Most plants require 12 to 16 hours of light per day.

Water

- * In late fall, water houseplants sparingly until the light begins to increase in the new year.
- * More houseplants die from overwatering than from anything else.
- * Water plants with room-temperature water.
- * Water houseplants in unglazed clay pots frequently.
- * If your houseplant leaves are dripping, even when you haven't watered, it's trying to rid itself of excess water (called "guttation"). This makes a plant vulnerable to disease-causing bacteria, so you'll want to avoid this problem by reducing the amount of water you're giving the plant, especially in these winter months. Also, watch those drips because they contain salts, sugars, and other organics that could stain whatever it is they're dripping on.

Humidity

- * Most houseplants are happiest when the relative humidity is 50 percent or higher.
- * Group houseplants near each other to form a support group to cope with the low humidity of most winter homes.



Fertilizer

- * Fertilize your houseplants frequently to ensure vigorous growth.
- * In winter, however, feed sparingly; houseplants will be sensitive to overfeeding at this time of year.

Pests

- * To get rid of bugs in houseplants, push a clove of garlic into the plant's soil. If the garlic sprouts and grows, just cut it back.
- * Spider mites are apt to thrive in warm, dry houses. Frequent misting under the leaves of houseplants will discourage them. A solution of one cup flour, ¼ cup buttermilk, and a gallon of cool water, applied in a mist, is a good organic deterrent.
- * Your houseplants may sprout bugs once brought inside your house because they no longer have outdoor predators.



THINGS TO DO IN DECEMBER

To prolong bloom, protect poinsettias from draft and keep them moderately moist.

The Christmas cactus will be coming into bloom. Reduce watering to prolong the blooming period. Keep in full sun at 70°.

We often forget the spots outdoor where rain doesn't reach. Check moisture around foundation plantings beneath a roof overhang and water if necessary.

"Be still, and the Earth will speak to you."

SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE FOOD BANK

The Food Bank has listed items especially needed this season: canned chicken, canned tuna and salmon or other fish; healthy soups (Progresso or Healthy Choice); macaroni and cheese; spaghetti pasta (NOT whole wheat); cooking oil (small size, 24 oz.); breakfast cereal; instant oatmeal in single serving packets; canned fruit; canned corn; Boost or Ensure; broth or stock; canned pasta meals; sugar; flour; tomato sauce or tomato paste, nuts; evaporated milk; gluten-free foods; snacks for children's lunches. Please don't bring kidney beans, green beans or canned pumpkin!

Other needs include diapers sizes 4-6, baby wipes, toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, shaving supplies), laundry soap, dish soap, cleaning products, camping equipment and outdoor gear, lightly-used blankets and bedding, tarps.

While you're gathering your donations to bring to our meeting, please keep these in mind. If you have never done so before, you might wish to view more information on the website: <https://issaquahfoodbank.org/donate>.



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**This month:
Delights of the Season**

