


Here's the February newsletter ...

Happy Valentine's Day to All  ...

“Winter is the time for comfort,, for good food and warmth, for the touch  
of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

*Edith Sitwell*

***BRIEF RECAP OF JANUARY MEETING:***

*Cancelled*

***FEBRUARY 8 MEETING:***

DAY: Second Wednesday of the month - September through May

TIME: 1:30PM - time for set-up if needed

2:00PM - Welcome & Introductions

2:30PM - Program followed by social time and business meeting

LOCATION: Our Savior lutheran Church  
745 Front Street South  
Issaquah

PROGRAM: Linda White and the Avant Design Group

***REMINDERS:***

February 8 Snack Committee:

Hostess: Jean Pass

Crew: Joan Harris

Shadi Wang

Deb Matson

Georgann Lennon

Joan Fields

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## ***ELWD BOARD MEETING SUMMARY:***

The Board met on Monday, January 30. Most discussions are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. We did spend quite some time reviewing the work done by the Nominating Committee and their struggle to find volunteers willing to hold offices (sound familiar).

Fortunately, many of the existing officers are willing to continue for another term.

Proposal - Since speakers/presenters often have equipment they need to bring into meetings such as the GMM it has been suggested that a team of “able bodied volunteers” be formed. They will be referred to as the District Courtesy Crew who can help. Given that at the GMM there are carts and an elevator that can be used this will not prove to be a daunting task.

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## ***SAVE THE DATES:***

General Membership Meeting (GMM):

Date: Monday, February 27

Time: Registration at 9:30 AM

Location: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue

Cost: \$10.00 payable at the door

Lunch: Provided by West Sammamish Garden Club

Program: An artist Araneca Ehrenwald who creates art using things from nature will be the speaker.

As the second program, there is also an opportunity to showcase your talents and hobbies by bringing samples of your effort and sharing them with the group. You will be given an opportunity to discuss your hobby (only if you wish to do so). So far 17 people have signed up. To reserve a spot on a table contact Gale Baullinger at [gale5904@aol.com](mailto:gale5904@aol.com)

Raffle items - 1. Terra Tillers, 2. Issaquah, 3. Sherwood Forest

*Watch for an email telling about how to make a reservation!*

Hope to see many of you there! It's always a fun event ...

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March 3 & 4, 2023 - Whidbey Gardening is sponsoring a seminar entitled "Gardening with Purpose - Beauty, Bounty & Benefit". Early registration opens January 15 - 20, and the website is now open - [WhidbeyGardening.org](http://WhidbeyGardening.org)

April 17 - 20, 2023 - Pacific Region Convention 2023 "Going Green - Together. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood. You can attend for a day (or more) and not even have to spend the night! There will be tours, workshops, speakers and entertainment. There is lots more information available on the ELWD website!

April 24, 2023 - Arbor Day Celebration at Bellevue Botanical Garden. This year ELWD has been asked to provide new trees for the large planters in front of BBG. For clubs to donate to this effort they need to submit a check to Gale Baullinger.

May Plant Sale (date TBD) - The Issaquah Garden Club has invited the Sammamish Garden Club to partner with them for a plant sale in May. We will share the work of planning, set-up and take-down as well as in the profits. More information (date, location, etc.) will be forthcoming ...

May 22, 2023 - General Membership Meeting (GMM) - Speakers will be from Waste Management about recycling and an ikebana Designer

June 5 - 8, 2023 - Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Convention in Olympia. Details will be shared as they are know ...

September 22 - 24, 2023 - District Flower Show, Bellevue Botanical Garden

### ***EDUCATION CORNER:***

As a change of pace let's try thinking about cooking instead of gardening. The other day I found some amazing blueberries at the grocery store. The result was Blueberry Muffins ... got rave reviews from neighbors so I thought I'd share the very simple recipe.

## **The Best Blueberry Muffins**

Bursting with berries, these are the best blueberry muffins of all. The secret is an extra half up of blueberries, which are mashed and then added to the batter.

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, at room temperature

1 cup granulated sugar, or slightly less depending on the tartness of blueberries

2 large eggs  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon table salt  
2 1/2 cups blueberries (mash 1/2 cup with a fork)  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup milk  
2 teaspoons lemon zest (optional)  
1 tablespoon sugar mixed with 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 12 muffin cups, including the area between each cup or use foil baking cups.

In a medium-size bowl, beat the butter until creamy. Beat in the sugar until pale and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in vanilla, baking powder, and salt.

Mix mashed berries into batter.

Fold in half the flour with a spatula, then half the milk. Add remaining flour and milk. Fold in remaining blueberries.

Scoop batter into muffin cups. Sprinkle with nutmeg sugar.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden brown. Let muffins cool at least 30 minutes in the pan before removing.

Makes 12 regular muffins

OK, OK, OK, before any of you get worked-up that this is a garden club (not a cooking club) here's some gardening related information:

**CLEARING UP CLEMATIS MYTHS** by Deborah Hardwick (experienced clematis collector)

1. *Clematis take along time to establish.* Not necessarily! The old adage "first year, sleep; second year, creep; third year, leap" is oftentimes a myth. Jump start things by selecting a green-prune modern hybrid like 'Mazurek'. Plant at least two individuals in a bed and fertilize them with tomato fertilizer once a month in the first season. Pinch the stems back a couple of times, and you are one your way to faster, larger, more bountiful displays.

2. *Clematis need their feet in the shade and their heads in the sun.* Not true. Clematis breeders' own display gardens in Europe do not include lower companion plants to shade the clematis roots. This is a gardening style, not a plant requirement. The best practice is simply to water your clematis thoroughly and less frequently, to encourage deep roots.

In fact, companion plants at the base can harbor slugs, take nutrients intended for the clematis and even delay flowering. That's because plants with shaded lower stems may reach for the sun before they begin to bloom.

If you like the look of flowering plants or shrubs at the base of your clematis, go for it - but again, it is not a plant requirement.

3. *Clematis can be killed if pruned incorrectly.* False. It would take a lot of repeated or hard cutting to be a detriment to the plant. However, misguided pruning can delay or diminish flowering.

Simply put, the earlier the clematis blooms, the less pruning it should get, so that the ample flowering you want is not disrupted.

Conversely, the later the clematis blooms, the more pruning you can give it without altering flowering.

Earliest-flowering clematis that bloom on old vines, or on new growth arising from old vines, can be trimmed immediately after flowering to keep plant more slightly or the size in check. Clematis that bloom on new growth can be hard pruned in early spring and at midseason to get the maximum bloom.

4. *Clematis wilt is a huge issue.* Not really true. Wilt is a four-letter word! - most often due to slug damage, wind damage, dehydration or vine damage from how you might be tying the stems to a trellis or structure. Try to problem-solve what is causing some vines to collapse and make changes to correct the problem.

5. *Clematis have short bloom span.* Not necessarily true! Clematis are more remontant than you may be experienced, as most will reflower if trimmed and fertilized at midseason and if watering is kept up through hot, dry weather in late summer. When plant size allows, deadheading the spent blooms and flower stems will lengthen the season. When plants are too large to do this simply trimming the plant down by a quarter and removing heavy spent growth will initiate further flowering.

P.S. Deer do eat Clematis