

Happy May Day!
Happy Mother's Day!

There's much to be happy about since May is here. Summer is just around the corner and it's time to get back out in our yards on a regular basis ...

THE GIFT OF SPRING

"What can your eye desire to see,
your ears to hear, your mouth to
take, or your nose to smell that is
not to be had in the garden?"

—William Lawson

When I have lots to do I love a to-do-list. Not because I relish the mundane tasks that devour my time in the yard but because like a lot of people, I find joy in crossing things off, one at a time. Or several at once - bonus points! (Sometimes I even add the thing I just did, then put a line through it. You do that too. Admit it.) At the end of the day, I like to put my feet up, and enjoy the spoils of my labor. The daily to-do-list is a friend of mine.

BRIEF RECAP OF APRIL MEETING:

For the few of you that missed the meeting we had a great turnout which was wonderful! The speaker was Molly Van der Burch who presented on Creating Beautiful Containers. She had many good tips and easy to follow guidelines such as only reusing soil if it's loose and not packed around roots and to fill containers with potting soil (NOT planting mix) 2/3 full and then add 1/3 compost or other natural soil nutrient. Molly also encourages use of larger pots with an opening of 18 - 20 inches, lots of drainage holes, and remembering to keep pots up out of standing water. Always remember to use peat free products.

MAY 10 MEETING:

DAY: Wednesday, MAY 10 (last formal meeting until September)
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

MEETING REMINDERS:

Time of pay dues - \$25.00 to Sandra Roberts

Coffee & Tea Drinkers - Please remember to bring your own cups

(we've gotten

Lax about doing this and over the months our supply of disposable cups has been depleted)

PROGRAM:

Two of our own members will present:

Debbie DeFilipps will talk about Plant Photography and emphasize Do's and Don't

Lois Helbert will talk about the Fine Art of Beekeeping

MAY SNACK COMMITTEE:

Hostess: Georgann

Crew: Joan
Gloria
Cathy
Debbie
Pam

PLANT SALE - JUNE 17 (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE)

The plant sale has been moved to June 17 as our yards have been slow to wake-up this spring and many of us don't have much (if anything) to repot and contribute.

Here are the details so far:

Date: June 17

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church - 745 Front Street, Issaquah

Time: 9:00AM until 3:00PM (or sold out)

Bake Sale: Decide what you want to bake and be prepared to wrap a few cookies or brownies separately (hobby stores have cute bags) and price each item

How to get ready:

** Dig starts from your yard and repot

** Create a brief information sheet for each of the plant types:

* Name of plant

* Sun or shade

* Water requirements (if unique)

* Color of flowers (if any)

* Special attributes of the plant (like deer resistant, spreads etc.)

** Think about a price

REPORT FROM ELWD BOARD MEETING (April 24):

It sounds like the **Pacific Region Convention** in Lynnwood on April 17 - 20 was a great success. Lana Finegold shared a number of highlights.

ARBOR DAY: Bellevue Botanical Garden was able to plant two trees with the money donated by the ELWD garden clubs. In a newly developing area where there will be Dahlias for summer blooms they planted a good sized gorgeous Horse Chestnut. James Gagliardi (director) was present to talk about the origin of the tree ... grafted to stock from Europe and purchased at Wells Medina Nursery. We then walked to a more established area where we saw the Dwarf Chi Chi Ginkgo Tree that was also planted as a result of the donations we made. Along with James the staff member in charge of cataloging and tracking all of the plants at BBG and the new president for the NPA were with the group. All are amazingly knowledgeable and an asset to the garden as well as to us as garden club members!

General Membership Meeting (watch for further details):

Date: May 22, 2023
Time: Can arrive as early as 9:30AM
Cost: \$10.00 (includes lunch and two speakers)
Location: St. Andrews Church, Bellevue

Speakers will be from the Waste Management Company to talk about the **Ridwell Program**. It's a monthly subscription service that provides a separate container for items such as batteries, styrofoam, electronics etc. The second speaker will be **Jeanie Lindquist** who is a national **miniature designer** who deconstructs and builds her own flowers from live models.

Lunch and raffle items will be provided ...

Other ELWD Activities to Look Forward To:

- 1/ Host a State Flower Show plus Meetings in 2024
- 2/ Host a Symposium (2 day event) in September 2024

SAVE THE DATES:

May 13 - Woodinville (9:00AM until sold out) and Pine Lake Plant Sales (9:30AM until noon)

May 19 - Work day at Bellevue Botanical Garden - 10:00AM - 11:30 - **NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHANGE OF TIME AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY POSTED TO START AT 9:00AM!**

May 22, 2023 - General Membership Meeting (GMM) - Speakers will be from the Ridwell Recycling program at the Waste Management Company and Jeanie Lindquist who is a national miniature designer.

June 5 - 8, 2023 - Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Convention in Olympia.

June 17 - Joint Plant Sale with the Issaquah Garden Club.

September 22 - 24, 2023 - District Flower Show "Fall in Love with Flowers" - Bellevue Botanical Garden

EDUCATION CORNER:

12 Plants That Will Keep Weeds Out of Your Garden Once and for All

They'll also reduce your workload—which means you'll spend less time pulling weeds and more time enjoying your lush landscape.

While gardening is a rewarding experience—especially when you see new growth on your plants or your [perennials return for another year](#)—it also has its fair share of pain points. One of the most common? Weeds. These unsightly ground covers take essential nutrients and water from nearby plants and can even block out sunlight if they grow big enough.

But if you don't want to use pesticides or spend time pulling out weeds, consider an easier, more attractive alternative—weed-suppressing plants. The 12 lush options, below, form a thick carpet that prevents harmful weeds from wreaking havoc on your yard, so you can enjoy the beauty of your landscape with less maintenance.

Lamb's Ear

A great, [tight forming ground cover](#), lamb's ear has gray-green leaves that form a carpet so thick, weeds won't stand a chance. "A plus to growing lamb's ear is that you will get gray stalks of lavender flowers in spring," says Adrienne Roethling, the garden director for [Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden](#). If this variety works in your [garden zone](#), know that it's best to grow lamb's ear as a standalone plant; other desired varieties may have a hard time pushing through the dense leaves.

Zones: 4 to 8

Size: 5 to 6 inches tall x 12 to 24 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; loamy, well-draining soil

Creeping Mazus

Creeping mazus is the ultimate weed-suppressing ground cover plant. "The green leaves give way to white open face tubular flowers in mid-spring," says Roethling. "It's a very dense forming mass with little room for weeds to grow."

Zones: 5 to 8

Size: 1 inch tall x 6 to 12 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Part sun to full shade; well-draining soil

Creeping Thyme

As its name implies, creeping thyme will creep along your landscape and prevent weeds from popping up. "Creeping thyme is evergreen in mild winters and blooms profusely from early to mid-summer," says Keri Wilson of [Garden Media Group](#). It releases a fragrant scent that will fill your yard with seasonal perfume.

Zones: 5 to 9

Size: 2 inches tall x 12 inches wide

Size: 6 inches tall x 36 to 48 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; well-draining soil

Crimson Clover

Patches of bare ground provide a space for weeds to germinate and grow. Prevent these blank spaces by sowing crimson clover seeds "in fall to allow them to germinate and do their thing in spring," says Roethling. "They are annuals but will last for a couple of months. They flower in mid-spring and will set seed and go dormant by summer." Crimson clover works [in full sun](#) and any soil conditions—in fact, it's a great plant to grow if you want to improve clay soil.

Zones: 6

Size: 12 to 36 inches tall x 12 to 18 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; any soil conditions

Ajuga

Ajuga forms a dense mat that makes it difficult for weeds to push through. "This evergreen ground cover will [draw in all the pollinators](#) with lavender flower spikes that contrast against rich, dark foliage," says Wilson. There are many varieties of ajuga to choose from, but it's best to opt for one of the less aggressive types to keep it from taking over your landscape.

Zones: 4 to 11

Size: 11 inches tall x 15 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; average dry, well-draining soil

Yarrow

If planted in groups, yarrow will successfully choke out weeds in your yard. The native perennial has flower heads that form tiny clusters of flowers. Its showy blooms come in a range of colors, including orange, yellow, and red, depending on the variety.

Zones: 3 to 8

Size: 36 inches tall x 36 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; well-draining soil

Sweet Woodruff

One way to prevent weeds is to use plants to create shade in your yard. Enter: sweet woodruff. "In the right place, this plant will spread by its roots and make a dense mass, preventing much light from reaching the ground," says Roethling. "In spring, a whorl of leaves on 6-inch stems emerge, giving rise to umbels of white flowers."

Zones: 4 to 8

Size: 6 to 12 inches tall x 9 to 18 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full shade; loamy to rich, well-draining soil

Clematis

There are many varieties of clematis, but sapphire indigo clematis is ideal for suppressing weeds. "Perfect for sprawling across the garden and choking out weeds, sapphire indigo clematis is a breakthrough, non-climbing clematis that matures into a low-growing shrub," says Wilson. Plus, it has stunning flowers that fill your landscape with interest all summer long.

Zones: 4 to 9

Size: 36 inches tall x 36 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Full sun; well-draining soil

Carex

This [low maintenance sedge](#) makes an excellent ground cover in shady areas. Carex encompasses a vast genus of more than 2,000 species of plants that are successful weed suppressors. "Carex Evercolor Everglow is an easy-care grass that can add drama to a space while discouraging weeds," says Wilson.

Zones: 5 to 9

Size: 2 to 18 inches tall x 2 to 18 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Part shade; moist, well-draining soil

Azaleas

A [common flower known for bringing good luck](#), azaleas add instant curb appeal to your yard thanks to their showy blooms. "Planted en masse, azaleas create a lovely backdrop while shading the soil, and their dense foliage suppresses weeds," says Wilson.

Zones: 6 to 9

Size: 3 to 20 feet tall x wide (depends on the variety)

Growing Conditions: Full sun; well-drained soil

Green-and-Gold

A shade loving perennial that's easy to maintain, green-and-gold emerges in early spring with bright green leaves quickly followed by yellow-orange, daisy-like blossoms. "It will spread by above ground shoots, but it's an ideal ground cover to suppress weeds," says Roethling.

Zones: 5 to 9

Size: 6 to 12 inches tall 36 to 48 inches wide

Growing Conditions: Partial to full shade; average, moist soil.