

March 2024 Newsletter

Happy March!

Spring stirs the world awake. Like a good stretch after a long nap. A deep breath, arms reaching, heart opening. There's fresh promise in the morning's first light, a hope on the breeze. Like clockwork, this shift in the season prompts one to action, whether it's a deep cleaning at home, switching up a familiar routine, or dusting off an old idea.

There's a freedom that comes with being curious - with cultivating a sense of interest in the world and our place in it. It can be easy to see possibility as something that we're waiting on, that only happens by chance or something we plan.

Spring is coming ... start planning and planting!

MARCH MEETING:

Date: March 13, 2024 (Wear your green for St. Patrick's Day)

Time: 9:30 AM - Set-up

10:00 AM - Business Meeting

10:30 AM - 11:00AM - Social time and snacks

11:00 AM - Program - The Egg Artists of Puget Sound will discuss and demonstrate the art of Egg Decorating. Eggs of all kinds are used and are cut, painted and decorated for all seasons.

12:30 PM - Clean-up

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South

Issaquah, WA

Lunch Committee:

Hostess: Deb M.

Committee: Joan H., Lexi, Dianne and Lois

***** If you are a coffee or tea drinker please remember the **BRING YOUR OWN CUP**

NOTE: As an ongoing attempt towards fundraising we're going to try to have a SALE TABLE at each meeting. The table will be stocked with items and we bring from our own homes. We can then buy each other's treasures! Remember, one person's junk is another person's treasure! Bring your items to sell as well as your wallets!!

Winter is "flu season":

The vaccine requirements have been lifted but it's still important to remember to evaluate your state of health prior to each meeting. Obviously, if anyone is feeling unwell or you've had recent known exposure to COVID, RSV or flu you should stay home and not attend the IGC meeting ...

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

FEBRUARY 14 MEETING:

We are excited to announce that we have two new members! We have been joined by Maura Ennett and Deborah Brown and look forward to getting to know them and gardening together! Their contact information for your yearbooks will be at the hospitality table so be sure and pick up new stickers.

The speaker was Peggy Bolton, King County Master Gardener as well as an Audubon Master Birder. She spoke about the birds living in our yards and how to build a healthy environment for them. She shared many interesting facts about our bird friends such as the Chickadees being the communicators of the bird world. Apparently the repetitive sound at the end of their call varies based on what message they are trying to send. When a threat shows up just listen to how their call changes as they alert everyone to fly for cover ...

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FEBRUARY 26 (SUMMARY):

For those of you that were unable to attend, you missed a fun General Membership Meeting! The weather was cold as we dodged a possible snow which would have complicated many things but the mood was festive. We celebrated the 65th Anniversary for the East Lake Washington District as well as June Ann's "21st" (leap year baby) birthday.

The meeting started with a few words from Suzanne Stahl, Washington State Federation of Garden Club (WSFGC) President and a brief history of ELWD by Lana Finegold (former PR Director WSFGC President, and ELWD Director)

The first presenters were Linda Maida and Debbie Spiller, both Master Judges. In honor of the anniversary of ELWD they wore dresses, gloves and fascinators (hats) reminiscent of the 1950's. Removing their gloves they set about doing their design presentation including a discussion and demonstration of designs from the 1950's. Generally designs were smaller, more compact and often included fruit such as grapes. They then took components from the 1950's design and switched them up to create a modern day design ... larger, less flowers, more artistic but still could include grapes.

A business meeting followed this presentation.

* Gale Baullinger reminded all clubs to donate towards Arbor Day at Bellevue Botanical Garden on April 29. A vote was held to contribute \$250 from ELWD funds. We are expecting they will be able to plant 2 trees.

* Linda White, in preparation for the May 17 work day at BBG, reviewed the new requirements (imposed by the City of Bellevue) to volunteer. There is a new form and a background check will be done on an annual basis.

* A vote was held to contribute \$250 to purchase a paver to be installed in the path being created at the Nation Garden Club (NGC) Headquarters. This path will connect the NGC Headquarters and the adjacent award winning botanical garden.

* **February 1 - May 1:** Flower Power Fundraiser - Purchase Bulbs for Penney Pines Program. Go to <http://WSFGCpfundraising.com>. 50% of the purchase price goes to purchasing trees through the Penny Pines program.

Both ELWD and June Ann were honored and there were two cakes ... one for each occasion!

Lunch (provided by the Sammamish Garden Club) followed the business meeting

The second speaker of the day was Master Gardener Bruce Williams who spoke about "Late Winter & Early Spring Pruning". He covered everything from hedges to trees and everything in between giving very easy and practical tips for the best possible time and method for effective pruning.

SAVE THE DATES:

April 10, 2024: Program will be Ikebana with Shirley. She has been practicing Ikebana since 1987 and will share the art and principles of balance, color, depth, form, line, movement and space.

Snack Committee:

Hostess: Georgann

Crew: Joanne, Janet, Joy and Sandra

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: April is the month for election of new officers so come prepared to volunteer to fill offices and chairmanship positions!

April 29 - 30, 2024: NGC Gardening School in Tacoma

April 29, 2024: Arbor Day Celebration and Tree Planting at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Issaquah Garden Club has already made a \$75.00 donation per stipulation in our budget.

May 17, 2024: Bellevue Botanical Garden Spring Work Day. Mark your calendar and details will be coming ...

May 20, 2024: General Membership Meeting (GMM). Details to come but the first speaker has been invited - Allison Johnson to talk about English Gardens. This presentation comes on the heels of a recent visit for Allison back to England. Should be excellent!

May 18, 2024: Hold the date for a spring Plant Sale. Planning has begun and volunteers will be needed to help with advertising, refreshing old signage etc. Get ready!

June 2 - 5, 2024: National Garden Club Convention in Denver, Colorado

June 8 - 11, 2024: Annual Meeting and Flower Show - "Our Extraordinary Earth"
to be held at Little Creek Casino in Shelton

July 18 - 20, 2025 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) - Flower Show at Bellevue Botanical Garden

EDUCATIONAL CORNER

When to plant hanging baskets - experts reveal the perfect time to add them to your outdoor space

Whether you want to jazz up your porch or you want to add some more colour to a small garden, hanging baskets can work wonders. But do you know when to plant hanging baskets?

It's all well and good knowing [how to plant a hanging basket](#), but planting it at the wrong time is one of the biggest [hanging basket mistakes](#) you can make. Plant too early, and you may find that your flowers succumb to the cold. Plant too late, though, and you won't be able to reap the rewards of this nifty [garden idea](#).

To help you choose the right time to plant hanging baskets, we've spoken to some of the best gardeners in the business. And they've shared their handy tips below.

When to plant hanging baskets

'Hanging baskets offer a delightful blend of colour and charm, seamlessly connecting your home and garden while providing additional space for plants,' explains Tony Williams, Estate Manager at [Mount Ephraim Gardens](#).

And while you can make the most of [winter hanging baskets](#) when looking to add some colour to your garden during the colder months, hanging baskets are more commonly associated with spring and summer. This means that your plant options (and their requirements) will change.

Tony says, 'Many of the favoured plants for these displays are sensitive to cold and could be harmed by frost. Therefore, it's important to avoid setting them outdoors prematurely.'

'If you're equipped with a [greenhouse](#), you have the advantage of starting your baskets in the early spring. This allows your plants to mature under protection, ready to be moved outside by the end of May or early June once the threat of frost has passed by.'

This makes planting your hanging basket the ideal [job to do in the garden in May](#). You don't have to wait too much longer if you don't have the greenhouse in your garden, though.

‘For those without a greenhouse, waiting until late May or early June to plant and then immediately placing your baskets outdoors is the safest approach.’

Waiting for late spring to plant your hanging baskets also means that you can enjoy the sunshine in your garden while you’re planting, but that’s not the only benefit. It also means that you get to take advantage of the spring and summer flowers that arrive during this time.

After all, Tony would suggest planting fully-fledged plants rather than seeds or spring bulbs for these hanging baskets.

‘Selecting the right plants is crucial for creating a visually appealing hanging basket,’ he says. ‘Plants propagated from cuttings typically offer superior results over those grown from seeds.’

To get the best results, you should also try mixing your varieties and combining different-sized plants and flowers for visual appeal. This is echoed by Kate Turner, Gardening Guru at [Miracle-Gro](#).

She says, ‘When planting, arrange taller plants in the centre and trailing plants around the edges to create a balanced and visually appealing arrangement.’

‘Consider adding slow-release fertilizer or liquid fertiliser to provide nutrients for healthy growth and vibrant blooms,’ she also adds.

Of course, you also need to make sure that you choose plants that have similar growing requirements.

What month do you put hanging baskets out?

Ideally, you should wait until late May or early June to hang your hanging baskets up in your garden. This will ensure that the temperatures are warm enough for the plants to thrive and that the risk of frost has passed.

This doesn't mean that you can't plant them earlier than that, though. If you have a greenhouse, you can start planting your hanging baskets in March. Just make sure that you keep them covered and protected in the greenhouse until May or early June when you can then pop them outside.

How many plants should I put in a hanging basket?

This depends on the size of your hanging basket, but the general rule of thumb is that you should plant one plant per inch of basket diameter. This means that if you have a 12-inch hanging basket, you should plant 12 plants in there.

Of course, it's not advisable to add any more than that as the plants will struggle to compete for water and nutrients. But if you prefer a sparser look, you can certainly get away with less than that.

Happy planting!