

September 2024 Newsletter

Summer is winding down and soon we will be saying “happy fall”!

Have any of you ever wondered about the Harvest Moon. Well, here are a few facts - this year the Harvest Moon appears from September 16 to 18. The Moon will appear full for about three days around this time. Peak illumination will be at about 10:34 PM EDT on September 17.

One thing that sets the Harvest Moon apart from other full Moon names is that it's not associated with a specific month, as the others are. Instead, the Harvest Moon relates to the timing of the autumnal equinox (September 22, 2024), with the full Moon that occurs nearest to the equinox being the one to take on the name “Harvest Moon.” This means that the Harvest Moon can occur in either September or October depending on how the lunar cycle lines up with the Gregorian calendar.

For several evenings, the moonrise comes soon after sunset. This results in an abundance of bright moonlight early in the evening, which was a traditional aid to farmers and crews harvesting their summer-grown crops. Hence, it's called the “Harvest” Moon.

Additionally, the Harvest Moon rises at sunset and then will rise very near sunset for several nights in a row because the difference is at a yearly minimum. It may almost seem as if there are full Moons multiple nights in a row ...

SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Date: September 11

Time: 9:30 AM - Set-up

10:00 AM - Business Meeting

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

11:00 AM - Program - TBD

12:30 PM - Clean-up

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front Street South
Issaquah, WA

Program: Amanda Wener-Davis will do a design talk

Horticultural Corner: Joan Fields will talk about Gardenias

This is a new part of the program (replacing our old Show & Tell (thanks to Joy for the creative idea). When it's your turn here are some suggestions about information to include:

- ** Latin name of the plant
- ** How to grow it
- ** Shade or sun
- ** Short history of the plant
- ** Where did it originate
- ** How best to use it in your garden
- ** Use in flower arranging (if any)
- ** Bring a sample if you have it

Snack Committee:

Hostess: Dianne T.

Committee: Shadi

Cathy

Gale

Sandra

BOARD MEETING REPORT:

There was a Board Meeting held on Monday, August 20 at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Here are a few takeaways that may be of interest to you:

** In the future you will be getting emails from ELWD (Eastlake Washington District) with the financial reports. These will be distributed by Joyce and are just FYI.

** There are currently 233 garden club members in the Eastlake Washington District. This is a few members less than last year but still respectable.

** Volunteer work at Bellevue Botanical Garden - All of the new requirements are still in effect ... you need to have a full background check as well as sign a number of other forms stating you have read the handbook etc. If you're interested in going through the process please contact Lois and she will get you connected with the folks that will assist you.

For those of you that want to volunteer but have not completed all the paperwork there are some opportunities available. For example, to stuff envelopes for mass mailings does not require that the paperwork be completed. ELWD also has the opportunity to partially support an intern which will count towards volunteer hours.

The reason that volunteer hours are important is that ELWD needs to complete 40 hours of work per year in order to maintain our relationship with BBG that allows us use of the Education Center (for free) etc.

SAVE THE DATES:

September 30, 2024 - General Membership Meeting

Location: St. Andrews Lutheran Church
2650 148th Ave SE, Bellevue

Time: Registration begins at 9:30AM with the program beginning at

10:00AM

Speakers:

Dawn Rubstello will speak regarding "Fire Resistant Landscape Gardening". This talk was developed in California 2 years ago and presents tried and true things for home owners and gardeners to do to help protect their property.

Design Speaker (after lunch) will be Lisa "the Gourd Lady" - she does decorative gourds and will describe in details how to create your own decorated gourds.

Special Presentation: Acknowledgement of all members that have been involved in garden clubs for 40 years as well as celebration of the district receiving both national and state awards for flower shows.

Lunch will be provided by the Issaquah Garden Club

Cost: \$10.00 payable at the door which includes lunch and two speakers

RSVP: You must RSVP to Joyce Voldal at javoldal@hotmail.com

October 18, 2024 - Work Day at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Remember that in order to volunteer to pull weeds you need to have completed the required paperwork and the background check! See notes from Board Meeting for more information regarding this requirement and other volunteer opportunities.

February 24, 2025 - General Membership Meeting

May 18, 2025 - General Membership Meeting

EDUCATIONAL CORNER:

The 7 plants that you should never deadhead — gardening pros say to leave these alone

Keep your pruners away from these flowers and allow them to thrive

When you're out in your backyard tending to your flowers, it can be easy to take your pruners to everything that's growing.

But, there are actually some blooms you should never deadhead, even when it looks like they need snipping. From fabulous foxgloves to beautiful hydrangeas, there are many surprising flowers that you don't actually need to deadhead.

If you're going through your [month-by-month gardening jobs calendar](#) and have deadheading on your checklist, it's worth making sure you avoid these.

For those [creating cottage gardens](#), foxgloves are a beautiful way to add shape and dimension.

“These biennial plants produce tall flower spikes that will drop seeds if left alone,” explains [Victoria Cummins](#), gardening expert at Plant Whisperer.

“Deadheading prevents them from reseeding, so instead, let the spent flowers stay,” she adds.

Not only will this help feed wildlife, but it will also allow your fabulous foxgloves to return again next year.

Coneflowers are great to have in your backyard, as not only will they add a pop of vibrant color, but also have medicinal qualities.

“I avoid deadheading coneflowers, as its spiky seed heads stand through winter and feed birds,” says [Sal Musto](#), landscaping expert and owner of SalCorp Landscaping & Construction.

Even if you decide to deadhead some, make sure to leave a few to help with self-seeding.

I love [fairytale garden ideas](#) and flowers that are small and sweet, so forget-me-nots are must-haves in backyards in my opinion. They’ll also keep adding magic to your outdoor space if you leave them be,

“To get that naturalized cottage garden look, avoid deadheading these dainty blue flowers,” Victoria says.

“They are prolific self-seeders that will spread charmingly if the flowers are left to produce seeds,” she adds.

If you have them on your grass rather than in a pot, this will also mean they spread even further, eventually turning your green lawn into an enchanting blue carpet.

While some lilies are [plants that are toxic for cats](#), canna lilies thankfully aren't. So, if you have a furry friend you're looking after, you can keep them blooming in your yard for years to come.

“One spent flower on a canna can produce multiple new flower shoots, so put away your pruners and let cannas

continue their showy display all season long,” Victoria explains.

These come in a variety of bright shades, from bold orange to pretty pink, and bloom from mid-summer right up to the first frost.

If you’re growing and [caring for hydrangeas](#), it’s important not to deadhead them, as this will ensure you have beautiful flowers the next year.

“For hydrangeas, deadheading prevents reblooming, so I only thin older stems in spring,” says Sal.

He continues, “Light summer pruning after blooming may stimulate fall rebloom, but heavy pruning removes next year’s buds.”

For those [planting ornamental grasses](#) instead of flowers, Miscanthus is a plant you should not deadhead.

“This ornamental grass provides fantastic texture with its fuzzy seed heads that look striking in winter,” says Victoria.

She says not to cut them off — instead, wait until early spring to cut back the entire plant to allow for fresh growth.

If you’ve mixed together coneflowers and black-eyed Susans in your garden border ideas, you can leave these yellow flowers be, too.

“I always leave black-eyed Susans unpruned, as their seed heads feed birds through winter, as dropped seeds may produce new plants,” says Sal.

If you do want to improve shape or control spread you can prune them in spring, but for those going for a more natural look, it's best to avoid pruning them.

By avoiding deadheading these flowers, you can allow your garden to bloom in a natural way. If you aren't sure if you need to deadhead your flowers, Victoria has some last advice.

“Consider the wildlife that relies on seeds and habitat these plants provide in winter before deadheading anything,” she finishes by saying.

Want to carry on maintaining your garden? Learning what flowers to prune in summer may also be useful.