



The Chinook Winds

The Official Publication for Garden Clubs in the Chinook District

April 2026

District Director – Erin Gregory **Editor** – Debbie Angel **Proofreaders** – Jeanette Pruin, Marilee Capodanno, Linda Haas
Distribution – Marilee Capodanno
Circulation – *Chinook District*: 300 Garden Club Members, including 32 Board Members.
WSFGC: 9 District Directors, 9 State Officers, 1 Pacific Region Director, and 1 NGC President

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung—a truly joyful time of year for our members. I spent the chilly winter months planning and gathering inspiration. Last March, I was fortunate to attend a Hill and Dale district meeting where one member shared a short but fascinating presentation on winter sowing. Intrigued, I joined the Winter Sowing Facebook group and learned a great deal about how and why this method works from gardeners across the country. Armed with new knowledge, I gathered my supplies, ordered seeds, and now have several mini milk-jug and water-jug greenhouses thriving on the south side of my house near the vegetable beds.

Our Auburn Garden Club members have received their mason bee cocoons and are hosting them on their own properties, while committee members are also placing cocoons in city parks around Auburn. It's just about time to get outside, clean up garden beds, and prepare them for planting. I'm sure many of you have already begun pruning roses and hydrangeas to remove damaged branches and encourage fresh growth—GRRRR to the late winter snowstorm that broke so many branches. I had seven inches of snow at my house on March 13!

Now, the bulbs and late-winter shrubs are showing off, and what a welcome sight they are. Fruit trees are dazzling us with fluffy clouds of cream and pink blossoms. While the air remains chilly and the weather often drizzly, we're beginning to catch those first hints of warmth and the unmistakable scents of the season—true blessings!

Erin Gregory
Chinook District Director

NEXT DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

10:00 AM MAY 6, 2026

First United Methodist Church in Auburn
100 N St SE, Auburn, WA 98002

Entry times for Horticulture: 8:15 - 9:30 a.m.

Be prompt – no entries after 9:30 a.m.

To save time, fill out entry cards before arriving.

10:00 Welcome & Business Meeting

11:00 Design Program: "Cinco de Mayo Celebration",
Black Hills Judges Council

11:45 Lunch (provided by Enumclaw GC) and Flower Show

12:45 Horticulture Program: "Perennials for Year-Round Color",
Cleo Raulerson, King County WSU Master Gardener

Clerks for Flower Show: Des Moines, Marine Hills, Parkside, O'Brien Club Presidents: Please provide the names of the clerk from your club to Flower Show Chairman Susan Nash.

Horticulture Placement Assistant: Auburn

Table Arrangements: Enumclaw, Marine Hills, Parkside
Each club will bring four table centerpieces.
Enumclaw will donate centerpieces after the meeting.

Lunch Reservations & Cancellations: The cost for the meeting and lunch is **\$12**. Club presidents: call or email to make reservations for lunch by **April 28** to: Dorothy Weaver.

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2025 - 2027

District Director: Erin Gregory, Auburn Garden Club

1st Assistant District Director: Tory Bennett, Enumclaw Garden Club

2nd Assistant District Director: Debbie Angel, Marine Hills Garden Club

Recording Secretary: Karen Arris, Enumclaw Garden Club

Treasurer: Susan Miller, Auburn Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Goss, Marine Hills Garden Club

Parliamentary Advisor: Linda Haas, Parkside Garden Club

Immediate Past District Director: Penny Merriman, Marine Hills Garden Club

YOUTH EDUCATION GRANTS

Deb Andrews, Chairman

We are pleased to announce that the committee approved six grants this year, distributing \$2,300 in March. The grants will serve students in grades kindergarten to high school. Requests were for a variety of projects including hydroponic gardens, raised beds, kid-sized tools and a wheelbarrow, and seeds and soil. Several applications described how their projects tied in with other subjects, such as math, record-keeping, and reading.

The response to the program by the district, garden clubs, and the community was gratifying. We surpassed our fundraising goal which allowed for an increased number of grants. In addition to the donations by garden clubs, Chinook District allocated \$400 to the fund. Applicants included elementary and high school teachers, an early learning farm school, and an organization which provides hands-on learning opportunities for underserved youth.

Your support and participation in this program demonstrates our collective commitment to education. Thanks to you, a lot of young people will receive practical experience that could stay with them for a lifetime. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.



CHINOOK DISTRICT AWARDS

Susan Nash, Awards Chairman

The applications for the Chinook District Past Director's awards are due May 1 or at the May district meeting and can be emailed to Susan Nash (smnash9@gmail.com).

Chinook District Awards Ceremony and Lunch will be June 17 at 10:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Auburn. All members are invited!

The awards due May 1 are:

- Susan Nash Award - Community Project
- Linda Haas Award - Wildlife Certification
- Sara Jane Rants - Honor Club Award
- Sally Priebe Award - Top Design
- Lona Carter Award - Outstanding Garden Club member district contribution
- Jeanette Pruin Award - Most new members
- Dianne Green Award - Best Horticulture
- Dottie Wilson Award - Outstanding Garden Club member club contribution
- Ann Kronenwetter Award - Birds
- Anne Kinsley Award - Flower Show Schedule
- Marion Nancarrow Award - Top Craft Design
- Shirley Lins Award - Best "Novice Only" Design
- Brynn Tavasci Award - Garden Art, Recycled
- Debbie Angel Award - Pollinator Project
- Barbara Smith Award - Arbor Day Project

GROW GREEN, PLANT TREES AWARD

Jeanette Pruin, Chairman

The tree counts for 2025 will be due in May. The form is on the website, and each club received a copy by email.

Don't forget to keep a record of the trees you plant this spring for next year's count.

BLUE STAR MARKER TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Matti Munson, Chairman

Although spring seems a little slow getting started, the Blue Star Memorial Marker Garden is showing signs of growth. The hellebores are fully in bloom, tulips and lilies are coming up; and the hebes and barberries, which were pruned over the winter, have new growth. Two white rhododendrons, added at the back of the garden last fall, are full of buds.

As reported earlier, no annuals will be planted this summer. Deer are still visiting the garden and have repeatedly pulled up and left small perennials lying on top of the soil. I hope that by not providing tasty annuals, the garden will be less appealing to deer. The garden will be top dressed with compost this month.

Thank you to the clubs who have so generously supported this garden.

CHINOOK SCHOLARSHIPS

Jill Cooke, Chairman

Thank you to all Chinook Garden Clubs for your donations to the Chinook Scholarship Fund. Our donations totaled \$3,075.00. On February 4, Chinook District members approved the following 2026 Chinook District Scholarships:

Washington State University - Horticultural Development Fund - \$1,500

University of Washington - College of the Environment - \$1,500

WSFGC Washington Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship Fund - \$250

Chinook members recommended that we should strive next year to give \$2,000 each to WSU and UW in light of the increased student tuition of \$4,500 per quarter.

GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALES

Marine Hills Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

29829 8th Ave SW, Federal Way

Annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees. Native, ornamental, and edible plants.

Contact: Judy McDonald at 253-839-4413

Enumclaw Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Corner of Cole & Initial, Enumclaw

A huge selection of garden art and all things green!

Contact: Shannon Brock at 206-914-4181

Parkside Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Cove, 1500 SW Shorewood Dr, Normandy Park

Perennials, succulents, ground covers, grasses, trees, shrubs, vegetable starts, houseplants, yard art, and more!

Contact: Caroline Keneipp at cbkeneipp@earthlink.net

O'Brien Garden Club Plant Sale

Friday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

19007 120th Ave SE, Renton, WA

Perennials, annuals, tomatoes, sedums, houseplants, and more.

Contact: Susan Nash at smnash9@gmail.com

Des Moines Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Normandy Park Towne Centre parking lot

19803 1st Ave S., Normandy Park, WA

Perennials, annuals, native plants, sedums, houseplants, and more.

Contact: dmgc16845@gmail.com

Auburn Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Les Gove Park in Auburn (adjacent to Auburn Library), 1140 Auburn Way S.

Perennials, annuals, native plants, sedums, houseplants, hanging baskets, garden gadgets, and more.

Contact: Debra Reifel at dreifel@msn.com or auburngardenclub.wa@gmail.com

Maple Trails Garden Club Garage Sale

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

32032 170th Pl SE, Auburn

Contact: Matti Munson at mlarean@gmail.com



“Sprouts and Seeds, Never Mind the Weeds”

*An NGC Standard Flower Show
Presented by
Chinook District of Garden Clubs*

*Auburn First United Methodist Church
100 North St SE
Auburn, Washington 98002
(253) 833-3470*

*May 6, 2026
Open 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Open to the public
Free*



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Auburn

President: Grace Robinson

Our February monthly meeting was held on February 10. Lisa Taylor gave a presentation on bugs. Our garden committee is expanding our duties to include maintenance of the pollinator garden at Les Gove Park. Our club also participated in plug planting with the City of Auburn Parks Dept.

Our March monthly meeting was held March 10. Kevin Zobizist with the Washington State University gave a presentation on 'Why trees die and what does that mean for our forests'. Our club is preparing for our annual plant sale to take place May 30.

Our next meeting will be held on April 14 and will be a field trip to the Rhododendron Bonsai Garden in Federal Way.

Des Moines

Co-Presidents: Kristen Alcoba and Teenie Dillinger

Des Moines Garden Club had our monthly meeting on March 2. Brynn Tavasci gave a wonderful presentation on Tillandsia, also known as Air Plants. We learned about many varieties. She also demonstrated cute containers for these plants. Next, we had our monthly flower show that included floral designs and horticulture exhibits. This is always a lot of fun and hopefully will encourage our members to participate in this event. This event is on a small scale, but it gives our members an insight of what happens at district flower shows.

For our April 6 meeting, we will be going to Puget Sound Transitional Care Center. This is an annual event we normally do in February but had to reschedule. This event is called "love in a cup" where we help the residents to plant flowers in small containers so they can take them to their rooms.

Enumclaw

President: Dee O'Connor-Nash

For Enumclaw Garden Club, March was a month to catch our breaths and celebrate the success of Breakfast for the Birds. It was a stellar job by our committee who pulled everything together to create a spectacular event. Please join us next February!

Several club members attended the State Board meeting March 2-4. Sheila and Dee had a blast as 'The Sparkle Girls' in the design competition and Kandi and Meri provided creative and fun projects for the workshops.

Enumclaw, continued

Our March board meeting was held on the 9th and our general meeting on the 25th. The speaker was our own Fred Orton. Fred gave a wonderful presentation of the history of the daffodil fields and festival in the Puyallup Valley. The Orton family was instrumental in founding the daffodil farms in the Sumner Valley, including the yearly Daffodil Parade. Of special note, Fred's grandfather sold pieces of his daffodil acreage to immigrant farmers who worked his fields so they could have farms of their own. When WWII began, most of these immigrant farmers of Japanese descent were sent to internment camps. Over the years they were imprisoned, Mr. Orton paid the mortgages on every farm. A truly informative and inspiring presentation.

Our sights are set on April with our first fair booth at Wilkinson's Earth Day Celebration April 19. We are also anxiously awaiting the results of our WSGC Grant request for a Blue Star Marker replacement.

Please mark your calendars for our annual plant sale on May 9, with a huge selection of garden art and all things green!

Maple Trails

President: Matti Munson

Maple Trails Garden Club has been looking for a community service project in the Maple Valley area. Our March meeting took us to Vine Maple Place, where we learned about their programs which help families move out of homelessness. We toured the facility and its grounds and gained a better understanding of the important work being done there. Afterward, we gathered at a member's home for our business meeting and a potluck lunch. During the meeting, we talked about ways we could volunteer at Vine Maple Place and decided that helping to care for the garden beds at the front of the facility would be a great fit. These beds line the walkways and help create a warm, welcoming entrance for families arriving for services. Club members are excited to begin this work.

Our April meeting will be held at Mountain View Fire & Rescue Station 96, where our program will focus on hummingbird habitats.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Marine Hills

President: Carrie Asselin

Marine Hills Garden Club provided lunch of soups, salads, and delicious desserts on February 4 for the Chinook district meeting. At our February 17 meeting, our topic was "Best but Unusual Companion Plants for Rhododendrons" and the speaker Atsuko Gibson from the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden was fabulous! During our business meeting we started to prepare for several service activities. We had a member help make the fairy gardens for table decorations for the WSFGC board meeting at the end of February. My Mom and I attended on March 4 at Little Creek Casino and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

At our March 17 meeting, our speaker was the fabulous Brynn Tavasci who taught us how to create a collage and then turned us loose on the treasure trove of supplies she brought. An amazing time was had by all our talented members! We continued preparations for our upcoming functions. March 25 was the Federal Way Senior Advisory Luncheon; and Judy McDonald, Debbie Angel, and I presented about garden clubs and gave some gardening advice. The lunch guests had a great time! March 26 was a busy day for us: we delivered 208 books to Olympic Elementary School. The book donations and delivery were coordinated by our dedicated members Diana and Greg Vaughn. At 6:00 p.m. Judy McDonald, Karen Tofte, and I attended STEAM Night at Federal Way High School. We were kept busy talking about propagation, the carnivorous plants we brought and passing out seeds donated by Debbie Angel and the seed library. A gigantic thank you to Judy McDonald and Maxine Ranta for organizing the plant sale that will be Saturday, April 25 at Maxine Ranta's house. Pre-ordered plants are available to be picked up on Friday, April 24. Our next meeting will be April 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Kent East Hill Nursery, and Jason Billingsley will be speaking to us about Pollinator Friendly Plants.

O'Brien

Co-presidents: Susan Nash and Lisa Adsero

O'Brien Garden Club had a meeting March 20 at the Kent Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. Our speaker was Lisa Taylor, who spoke about garden tools. She gave a great talk that included advice about buying long-lasting quality tools.

Our next meeting is April 17. Our speaker will be Roger Walker on Dahlias.

Parkside

President: Patrice Bonney

We've had two meetings since the last report; both have been extremely educational and fun. In February, Jason Billingsley, the horticulturist from Kent East Hill Nursery, spoke on tips and tricks of pruning. After his talk we went to one of our member's gardens where he demonstrated pruning to add another dimension to his talk.

In March we had the pleasure of having Dorrie Carr, President of Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, join us. She stayed for both our program and our "After Ours". Our program speaker spoke on Gardening in all Seasons. Not only did she share her knowledge, but she also presented a PowerPoint filled with beautiful images to demonstrate the various plants that work best in each season. In our "After Ours" we created our own succulent/sedum arrangements in small containers. Some people use driftwood and bark instead of small pots - very creative. We are all looking to Spring and being in our gardens more.

Elle Designers

President: Nora Fisher

The Elle Design group met March 3 for our regular meeting at the President's home with 9 members present. Our design for March was "All Greenery" to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Barbara Smith did a critique of the various designs with many helpful suggestions on how to improve the design forms and structure. The meeting was followed by a potluck with a green theme and shepherd's pie to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day. . Our next meeting on April 7 will be a duo design.

Designers Guild

President: Debbie Angel

Designers Guild members met on February 25. We did Framed Spatial Designs or Panel Designs. We had a good time creating our designs and suggesting a few improvement options. All the designs were exceptional. We will have a joint meeting with the Judges Council on May 20.

CHINOOK DISTRICT MEETING MAY 6, 2026

An NGC Standard Flower Show, “Sprouts and Seeds, Never Mind the Weeds”

Entry time for design and horticulture is 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. No entries after 9:30 a.m.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE, “My Garden Hums”

SECTION A. “Save those Seeds” – Annuals, cut. Eligible for an NGC Award of Merit

(1 stem unless otherwise noted)

Class 1. *Antirrhinum* (Snapdragon)

Class 2. *Calendula*

Class 3. *Lathyrus odoratus* (Sweet pea)

Class 4. *Petunias*

Class 5. *Tagetes* (Marigold)

Class 6. Any other named annual not listed above.

SECTION B. “Dig that Hole” - Bulbous Plants, cut (includes bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes). Eligible for an NGC Award of Merit

(1 stem unless otherwise noted)

Class 7. *Allium*

Class 8. *Convallaria* – 3 stems (Lily of the Valley)

Class 9. *Iris*

Class 10. *Zantedeschia* (Calla Lily)

Class 11. Any other named blooming bulbous plant not listed

SECTION C. “Divide and Conquer” Herbaceous Perennials, cut. Eligible for an NGC Award of Merit

(1 stem unless otherwise noted)

Class 12. *Aquilegia* (Columbine)

Class 13. *Dianthus* (Carnations, Pinks, Sweet William)

Class 14. *Dicentra* (Bleeding Heart)

Class 15. *Erysimum* (Wallflower)

Class 16. *Hosta*

Class 17. *Paeonia lactiflora* (Herbaceous Peony, including Itoh)

Class 18. *Viola* - 3 stems a. pansy b. viola c. violet

Class 19. Any other herbaceous perennials not listed above.

SECTION D. “Reach for the Sky” Trees and Shrubs, cut. Eligible for the NGC Arboreal Award and the Marva Lee Peterschick Award

(1 branch no longer than 24”)

Class 20. *Ceanothus* (Wild Lilac)

Class 21. *Cornus* (Dogwood)

Class 22. *Daphne*

Class 23. *Malus* (Crabapples and apples)

Class 24. *Prunus*

Class 25. *Rhododendron* (including azalea) a. one truss b. spray

Class 26. *Ribes* (Currant)

Class 27. *Syringa* (Lilac)

Class 28. *Viburnum*

Class 29. Any other named tree or shrub not named above.

SECTION E. “Smell the Season” *Rosa*, cut. Eligible for an NGC Award of Merit

Class 30. Floribunda (1 spray)

Class 31. Hybrid Tea (1 bloom)

Class 32. Groundcover

Class 33. Any other named *Rosa* not listed above.

SECTION F. “Fun Size” Dwarf or Miniature (Specimen cut no longer than 14”). Eligible for the Elfin Award

Class 34. Bulbous Plants (includes bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes)

Class 35. Perennials

Class 36. Trees and Shrubs

Class 37. Any other worthy dwarf or miniature

SECTION G. “Don’t Forget”

Class 38. Any other named specimen not listed above in any class.

Chinook District Meeting May 6, 2026

An NGC Standard Flower Show

“Sprouts and Seeds, Never Mind the Weeds”

***All designs must be pre-registered by April 22 with Tory Bennett, 253-880-6553,
TVBennett@aol.com***

Design Consultant: Barbara Smith, 253-631-7118

Entry time for design and horticulture is 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. No entries after 9:30 a.m.

DIVISION II: DESIGN **“Small Smiles”**

All staging in Division II is on a shelf, 40” high from the floor.

All dimensions given are your *frame of reference*, your total allotted space. Pages 29, 36, and 66 in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

SECTION A “Fast Friends ”

Class 1. “Express Yourself” A creative line design staged in 9” high x 6” deep x 5” wide space with light blue underlay and staging panel provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

Class 2. “A Garden’s Little Gift” A horizontal design staged in 5” high x 6” deep x 9” wide space with white underlay and white staging panel provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

Class 3. “Harmony” A creative design staged in 7” high x 5” deep x 4” wide space with light blue underlay and light blue staging panel provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

SECTION B “Just Enough”

Class 4. “Barely A Whisper” A creative design staged in 5.5” high x 3” deep x 4” wide space with white underlay and white staging panel, provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

Class 5. “A Spot of Color” A creative design staged on 3” diameter plexi riser with 5” frame of reference. Plexi riser and white background provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

Class 6. “Reach for the Sun” A line design to be staged in 6” high x 3” wide x 2 1/4” deep space with light blue underlay and light blue background panel provided by committee. Exhibitor is free to use fresh and/or dried plant material.

All designs must have a 3”x 5” card with common or scientific names identifying the plant material used.

The current **Handbook for Flower Shows** is available on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org
Check the handbook for more information regarding exhibiting in flower shows.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Teenie Dillinger, Chairman

We are continuing with the subject of Invasive and Noxious Weeds.

Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

Class B: contain and reduce occurrence

This shade tolerant evergreen shrub grows 1.5 to 5 ft tall with yellow tinged gray bark. Leaves are dark green and glossy, spirally arranged around the stem and densest near branch tips. Inconspicuous, yellow green flowers are clustered at the base of the leaves and bloom in late winter or early spring. Fruits are bluish black. This plant has escaped cultivation primarily near urban areas where birds eat its fruit and disperse the seeds into nearby forests that compete with natives. Plant parts are toxic to people and animals.

Control: due to the irritating toxins in the sap, stem, leaves, and fruits it is advisable to wear gloves and other protective gear while handling. Seedlings can be hand pulled and small shrubs can be dug up. Herbicide applied to the cut stump prevents sprouting.

Yellow flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Class C: already widespread

This perennial grows about 3 ft tall with sword shaped leaves, clasping at the base like a fan and growing from thick brown rhizomes. The iris flowers are pale to dark yellow with brownish purple mottled markings. The flowers develop large drooping green seed pods in the summer and early fall. This iris spreads aggressively in wet areas dominating the edges of lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, and in shallow water. If ingested it will sicken livestock, and it has resins that can cause skin irritation.

Control: wear gloves for protection when handling plants. Plants spread both by seed and rhizomes, so remove seed pods and dig up all the rhizome. Do not buy or plant yellow flag Iris.

The Chinook Winds

Chinook District of Garden Clubs

1144 S. 229th Pl.

Des Moines, WA 98198

Dated Material

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY