



The Chinook Winds

The Official Publication for Garden Clubs in the Chinook District

August 2026

District Director – Erin Gregory **Editor** – Debbie Angel **Proofreaders** – Jeanette Pruin, Marilee Capodanno, Linda Haas
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WSFGC: 9 District Directors, 9 State Officers, 1 Pacific Region Director, and 1 NGC President

DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our friends and family love this time of year because it means Mike and I share the bounty of our vegetable garden. We have been harvesting for weeks, and this week we picked the first of what I am sure will be a bumper crop of tomatoes. For more than a decade, we have grown vegetables alongside strawberries, raspberries, and a wide variety of herbs. Many of you have heard me say, "Mike is in charge of the veggies, and I am in charge of the pretties," but I am happy to report that since his retirement, it has become much more of a collaborative effort. Some years, our friends and family have accepted our donations with more good grace than eagerness. This year, however, our mixed greens from the lettuce patch have been a top performer, and bags of our salad mix have graced many tables in the form of dinner salads of all kinds.

By far, the most sought-after gifts from our garden begin appearing in late July and continue through September, during my "Experimental Zucchini Bread Season." Yes, I grow zucchini. There, I admitted it. However, I have found that it is an easy way to include vegetables in the diet of even the most adverse palates. Simply put, in baking, zucchini is a very versatile veggie. The favorite recipe among my crowd is Double Chocolate Zucchini Bread, which I found through an online search more than ten years ago. Happily, it is still available online and can be found here:

<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/double-chocolate-zucchini-bread/#tasty-recipes-73586>

I usually bake any recipe exactly according to the directions at least once. After that, I tailor it to what I have in my pantry and to my own preferences. My pro tips for this recipe: use tender (younger) zucchini. Choose the oil for the recipe with care. In general, I use vegetable oil, but I have recently found that olive oil adds an earthy taste and a little interest. I use vanilla Greek yogurt and prefer semi-sweet mini morsels by Nestlé, though I have been known to use finely chopped Truffettes de France truffles in a pinch. Happy baking!

Erin Gregory
Chinook District Director

NEXT DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

10:00 AM September 9, 2026

The Cove (Normandy Park Community Club)
1500 SW Shorebrook Dr., Normandy Park

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 Horticulture Program: "Hydrangeas Demystified",
Michelle Prestin

12:00 Lunch and Flower Show

1:00 Design Program: "Feeling Fall", Midland Judges

Clerks for Flower Show: Auburn, Des Moines, Maple Trails,
Marine Hills

Club Presidents: Please provide the names of the clerk from
your club to Flower Show Chairman Susan Nash.

Horticulture Placement Assistant: Des Moines

Table Arrangements: Des Moines, Enumclaw, O'Brien
Each club will bring four table centerpieces.
Auburn 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 **September 1** to: Dorothy
Weaver.

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2025 - 2027

District Director: Erin Gregory, Auburn Garden Club (GC)
1st Assistant District Director: Tory Bennett, Enumclaw GC
2nd Assistant District Director: Debbie Angel, Marine Hills GC
Recording Secretary: Karen Arris, Enumclaw GC
Treasurer: Susan Miller, Auburn GC
Corresponding Secretary: Diane Goss, Marine Hills GC
Parliamentary Advisor: Linda Haas, Parkside GC
Immediate Past District Director: Penny Merriman, Marine
Hills GC

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1-3: WSFGC Board Meeting, Yakima Washington

September 9: Chinook District General Meeting and Flower Show, at the Cove, Normandy Park

October 7: Chinook District Board Meeting

October 12-14: Pacific Region of Garden Clubs Convention Thousand Oaks, CA

October 21: Traditional vs Creative Design Workshop at William C. Warren Building, Auburn at 10:00 a.m.

November 4: Chinook District General Meeting and Flower Show

November 12: WSFGC Winter Board meeting via Zoom

BLUE STAR MARKER TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Matti Munson, Chairman

The Blue Star Memorial Marker garden has grown beautifully this summer. Red petunias, white violas and blue astras are in bloom at the front of the garden and red and white geraniums are blooming at the center section. The deer have been less of a problem this summer but have taken an occasional interest in the geraniums.

If you haven't visited recently, I encourage you to stop by and enjoy the garden in full summer bloom.

I am so grateful for the continued support of the garden from all the clubs. As your club finalizes its budget, please consider ongoing support for maintaining and enhancing the garden. Please also remember to include Wreaths Across America in your plans, as you have done so generously in the past.

Thank you all for your commitment and support.

YOUTH EDUCATION GRANTS

Deb Andrews, Chairman

The Youth Education Grant Committee began this year by welcoming a new member and updating its work plan and the application form. Last year, the district awarded 6 grants totaling \$2,300 to local teachers and instructors. With the continued support of garden club members, we can continue to strengthen awareness of this unique funding opportunity.

The Chinook District awards grants of up to \$400 designed to engage youth in hands-on learning in horticulture, the environmental sciences, and related fields. The grants are available to instructors and projects located within the boundaries of Chinook District.

Club participation is essential to the grant program's success. Members are encouraged to identify local organizations that provide learning experiences in the plant sciences for youth in grades K-12. The grants have made a difference in the learning experience of the students, and some projects have multi-year use. For example, tools have been purchased, raised garden beds have been installed for student management, and a hydroponic garden was installed in a classroom.

Club presidents will receive the application form in October. The variety and quality of the applications this past year clearly show a need for the funds. We ask that you continue to promote this grant opportunity with your membership and your connections. Donations to the grant fund are greatly appreciated.

We look forward to continuing the success of recent years and to reaching new applicants within our district. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2027. Questions and suggestions can be sent to me or any committee member.

CHINOOK SCHOLARSHIPS

Jill Cooke, Chairman

Thank you to all Chinook District members for your support of Student Scholarships. We just received thank you letters from two scholarship recipients from Washington State University, College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

Caspern Marcoe was born and raised in Puyallup and is a WSU senior. Caspern is pursuing a degree in Landscape, Nursery and Greenhouse Management. Caspern says "Thank you so much for this opportunity. It means a lot to me to be able to say that I am the recipient of such generosity and kindness."

Izabella Mullen says "It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I accept the Chinook Scholarship. Izabella has just finished her freshman year and is a Landscape, Nursery, and Greenhouse management major. "My goal is to help advance food technology so we can provide fresh fruit and vegetables to populations all over the world".

AWARDS

Susan Nash, Chairman

The awards year is the calendar year, so the next applications are for activities from January 1 through December 31, 2026.

Yearbook applications with three copies of your yearbook and Yearbook cover applications with one copy of your yearbook cover are due to me or Erin at the October Board meeting. If you have them done, you can bring them to the September meeting.

CHINOOK DISTRICT WEBSITE

Linda Haas, Chairman

Send Linda photos, events, articles, or other information for the website.

<http://www.chinookgc.org/>

The password is **lavendar**

Traditional versus Creative Designs

Please reserve your spot for this workshop where the differences between American Traditional and Creative Designs will be explained with examples and handouts.

When:

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Doors Open: 9:45 a.m.

Program: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where:

William C. Warren Building
405 E St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

To Attend:

Reserve your spot with a \$10 donation

Contact Jeanette Pruin

206-212-6077

jbandrjpruin@comcast.net

Presented by Chinook District Judges Council and Designers Guild

Refreshments will be available

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Chinook District Meetings 2026-2027

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Design Program: Midland Judges, "Feeling Fall"

Horticulture Program: "Hydrangeas Demystified", Michelle Prestin
Hydrangeas come in an amazing array of size and color with varying sun and water needs. Learn which variety is best suited for your yard. We will break down the care needed for best blooms - especially pruning and timing. We'll also go over some of the newest varieties to market!

Table Arrangements: O'Brien, Des Moines, Enumclaw

Clerks: Marine Hills, Auburn, Des Moines, Maple Trails

Hort placement Assistant: Des Moines

Table Arrangements to donate Auburn

Lunch: Executive Board

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Design Program: Debbie Spiller, "Happy Holidays"

Horticulture Program: "The Resilient Yard – Battling Climate Change at Home" –Alma Cardenas, King County Master Gardener
This presentation will share simple steps you can take in designing and maintaining your yard to battle climate change. The discussion includes climate change, lawn maintenance, garden bed design and growing veggies.

Table Arrangements: Parkside, Maple Trails, Marine Hills

Clerks: O'Brien, Parkside (2), Enumclaw

Hort placement Assistant: Marine Hills

Table Arrangements to donate Auburn

Lunch: Auburn

FEBRUARY 3, 2027

Design Program: TBD

Horticulture Program: "Shrubs that Grow Well in King County Gardens", Cleo Raulerson, King County Master Gardener

Table Arrangements: Auburn, Des Moines, O'Brien

Clerks: Auburn, Maple Trails, Enumclaw (2)

Hort placement Assistant: O'Brien

Table Arrangements to donate Parkside

Lunch: Parkside

MAY 5, 2027

Design Program: Chinook Designers Guild, "Designs for Installation of Officers"

Horticulture Program: "Exploring Japanese Gardens", Molly van der Burch, King County Master Gardener.

Using examples from famous gardens in Japan, we will focus on three types of Japanese gardens – dry landscape, courtyard, and strolling.

Table Arrangements: Enumclaw, Marine Hills, Parkside

Clerks: Des Moines, Marine Hills, Parkside, O'Brien

Hort placement Assistant: Parkside

Table Arrangements to donate Maple Trails

Lunch: Maple Trails

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Auburn

President: Grace Robinson

At our June meeting we visited two member gardens, Rosy Carolan and Dianne Boerger. This was our final meeting for the year and included a potluck and a discussion about the success of our plant sale.

On July 7 we held the board meeting at Fay Lewis' house. Again, we had a potluck and discussed our year's budget and programs. We have some exciting speakers and tours planned for the coming year.

Our first meeting of the year will be on August 11 at the William C. Warren building. Our speakers are Patrick and Margaret Spence from the King County Iris Society. They will talk about their nationally renowned iris gardens.

Des Moines

Co-Presidents: Kristen Alcoba and Teenie Dillinger

On June 3, members toured Soos Creek Botanical Garden. The docent-led tour highlighted plantings of rhododendrons, azaleas, lupines, and heritage roses. Following the tour, members gathered for a potluck at the Pavilion, which provided an enjoyable setting.

On July 6, Co-Presidents Teenie and I met to discuss plans for the upcoming term. A motion was also introduced to relocate the plant sale to an indoor facility. The new venue will be Odd Fellows Hall in Des Moines.

On August 22, DMGC will host a booth at the Des Moines Waterfront Farmers Market. As a Community Partner, the club will provide information about DMGC and Chinook District Garden Clubs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

From August 21–23, Teenie and I will enter our designs in the Flower Show in Bellevue, presented by the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

On September 14, DMGC will hold the first meeting of the new term.

Enumclaw

President: Dee O'Connor-Nash

Enumclaw Garden club has had an incredibly busy and fruitful summer. Our first event after our May end of year meeting, was a booth on May 30 at the Foothills Trails event. It was the second of five opportunities to host a booth this summer promoting EGC and the WSFGC. Next up was the WSFGC conference in Leavenworth, which included great presentations and many inspiring people. Our club was honored with National, Regional, and State awards for excellence in a myriad of activities. The conference was followed by the Chinook District awards on June 17. Again, many efforts from club members were honored. We will hold our own award celebration at our September meeting.

Our float in the Enumclaw 4th of July parade reached new heights with a first-time float which won Best in Show for the entire parade.

On July 15, we held a new member orientation welcoming eight new members with lunch at Dee's and an informational discussion.

Our annual Tea & Tour took place on July 22. The club looks forward to this annual event when five members open their homes and gardens to a private tour. It was an exceptionally hot day ending in a pool party at the last home.

Our third outreach booth opportunity was the Enumclaw Rotary St. Fair. This two-day event drew huge crowds with many opportunities to promote garden club. Three new members signed up!

Our next booth event was the Buckley Hometown Market on July 28. Our members were a lively bunch, drawing in potential new members while distributing flyers, seeds, and candy. The last booth event will be August 27 at the Enumclaw Night Market.

EGC also provided horticulture entries in the King County Fair with blue ribbons for many members. Our club is also on deck with design and floral entries in the Pierce County Fair as well as the WSGGC at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

The summer has been fun with many opportunities to promote garden club growth. Looking forward to an exciting fall and the many adventures ahead!

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Maple Trails

President: Matti Munson

Maple Trails Garden Club ended the year on June 24 with a meeting at the home of Carole McKinney. We enjoyed light refreshments while finalizing plans for the coming year. Karen McLaughlin was installed to complete the term of Vice President. After lunch we enjoyed sharing our Container Challenge creations which Sharon Yeaman, horticulture chairperson, developed earlier this year. Members brought some wonderfully creative container plantings. We look forward to our next horticulture challenge. We also welcomed a new member!

Throughout the summer, we held work parties to care for the garden areas at Vine Maple Place in Maple Valley. In June, we planted over 40 dahlia tubers which were donated to Vine Maple Place. We are especially thankful to our Past President, Jeanne Buchanan, who has twice weekly watered the shrubs which we planted with funds from the Chinook District Arbor Day grant.

For our next meeting on August 26, we will travel to Bellevue Botanical Garden for a self-guided tour.

Marine Hills

President: Carrie Asselin

Marine Hills Garden Club had our last meeting on May 19 at Brookdale Foundation House in Federal Way. Our speaker was Diane Webb, who gave a wonderful presentation about prize-winning tall bearded iris. After hearing about our project with the Hylebos Blueberry Farm Park, she was so impressed that she used her speaker's fee to buy iris plants and lupine seeds for the park!

We had a quiet summer. Debbie, Maxine, Judy, Mary Beth, and Carrie brought 68 horticulture specimens to the King County Fair, winning many ribbons. We also continued bringing floral arrangements to Life Care Center. We are finalizing a great set of programs for the coming year. Our program on September 15 will be South King Tool Library Executive Director Amanda Miller telling us about the Federal Way Parks Community Stewardship Program, a collaborative effort to restore local parks through native planting, invasive removal, and volunteer stewardship.

O'Brien

Co-presidents: Susan Nash and Lisa Adsero

Our first meeting of the year will be held September 18th at the Kent Senior center. Our guest speaker will be Erin Gregory, District Director. We are planning a field trip to the Bellevue Botanical Garden for the WSFGC Red White And Bloom Flower show.

Parkside

President: Patrice Bonney

Our June meeting was a celebration of being Parkside Garden Club for 65 Years. We had the pleasure of celebrating with Erin and Dorrie; their presence made it all the more memorable. We watched the years go by on a wonderful video showing of collected photographs. The hairdos and clothes were great fun. Afterwards, many adjointed to the porch and made lavender wands, while we completed work needed to close the year and get ready for the new year. Our meeting ended with a real highlight; the handing out of awards the club and individuals received. We finished up with a delicious luncheon. and a fabulous 65th cake.

We all look forward to September when we gather once again.

Designers Guild

President: Debbie Angel

We had a joint meeting with the Judges Council on May 20. The design assignment was "Your Favorite Design." We planned the October 21 "Traditional versus Creative Designs" workshop. This workshop will replace the October 21 Designers Guild meeting, so our next meeting will be December 16.



CHINOOK DISTRICT MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE "Dancing through the Seasons"

For cut specimens one stem unless bloom size under 1.5 inches, then 3 stems. One stem for spray. (nothing longer than 30")

Eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence

Eligible for the Betty Belcher Horticulture Award

More awards listed in Sections

SECTION A. "You are my Sunshine" Annuals, flowering or foliage, cut specimens.

Eligible for an Award of Merit

Class 1. *Antirrhinum* (Snapdragon)

Class 2. *Coleus*

Class 3. *Cosmos*

Class 4. *Helianthus* (Sunflower)

Class 5. *Petunia*

Class 6. *Salvia*

Class 7. *Tagetes* (Marigolds)

Class 8. *Zinnia*

Class 9. Any other worthy annuals

SECTION B. "She's Like the Wind" Biennials or Perennials, flowering or foliage, cut specimens

Eligible for an Award of Merit

Class 10. *Anemone japonica*

Class 11. *Aster*

Class 12. *Coreopsis*

Class 13. *Chrysanthemum*

Class 14. *Fuchsia*

Class 15. *Hosta*

a. under 4" b. 4" to under 8" c. 8" and over

Class 16. *Phormium*

Class 17. *Salvia*

Class 18. Any other worthy perennial or biennial

SECTION C. "Have You Ever Seen the Rain" Tree or Shrub branches

Eligible for the Arboreal Award

Eligible for the Marva Lee Peterschick Award

Class 19. *Caryopteris x clandonensis*

Class 20. *Clethra alnifolia*

Class 21. *Hydrangea*

a. *H. macrophylla* (big leaf) b. *H. paniculata* c. *H. petiolaris* (lace cap) d. Any other type of *Hydrangea*

Class 22. Any other worthy tree or shrub

SECTION D. "Everything's Coming up Roses" *Rosa*

Eligible for the Award of Merit

Class 23. Hybrid Rose or *Rosa grandiflora*, one bloom per stem

Class 24. *Rosa floribunda*, one spray

Class 25. miniature

Class 26. Any other worthy *rosa*

SECTION D. "Here Comes the Rain Again" Bulbs, corms, rhizomes, or tubers

Eligible for an Award of Merit

Class 27. *Dahlia* — a. under 4" b. 4" to under 8" c. 8" and over

Class 28. *Gladiolus* — a. under 3" b. 3" to under 4" c. 4" and over

Class 29. *Lilium* (Lily)

Class 30. Any other worthy bulb, corm or tuber

CHINOOK DISTRICT MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE "Dancing through the Seasons", Continued

SECTION E. "Here Comes the Sun" Fruits and vegetables

Eligible for an Award of Merit

small – 6 ea. medium – 3 ea. large – 1; Washed but not scrubbed. Displayed on a white paper plate provided by entrant. Leave a stem or a part of a stem whenever possible. Average: Pumpkin 2"; leafy stems of carrots 1" etc.

Class 31. *Allium sativum*

Class 32. *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber)

Class 33. *Cucurbita* (pumpkin)

Class 34. *Cucurbita* (squash)

Class 35. *Lycopersicon esculentus* (tomato)

Class 36. *Malus* (apple)

Class 37. *P. vulgaris* (bean)

Class 38. Any other worthy fruit or vegetable

SECTION F. "Stormy Weather" – CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS – MAY HAVE MULTIPLE PLANTS BUT MUST BE **ONE SPECIES**.

Container no smaller than 6" and no larger than 14". No provisions for hanging plants.

Eligible for the Grower's Choice Award

Class 39. Flowering

Class 40. Foliage

Class 41. Sedum

Class 42. Any other worthy container grown plants

SECTION G. "I Can See Clearly"- COLLECTIONS –SPECIMENS **MUST** be related.

Eligible for the Collector's Showcase Award

Class 43. Five cut flowering specimens

Class 44. Five cut foliage specimens

Class 45. Five potted specimens (containers not over 6")

Class 46. Any other worthy collection

Information for Section G. Collections

Minimum of 5 different specimens. Must be related in some way: one genus or shade foliage or annuals or petite etc. Entire exhibit uses one entry card. Each specimen must be identified with the current binomial name, using either individual placards or a chart. (Make it clear) Space each specimen so that it is easily seen to be judged.

Page 60 in Handbook for Flower Shows.

SECTION H. "Colder Weather"

Class 47. Any other worthy NAMED specimen NOT listed elsewhere in the schedule.

See Chapters 5 and 6 in the NGC Handbook for Flower Shows for more information about exhibiting in the Horticulture Division. Can be found on the NGC website gardenclub.org.



CONSERVATION REPORT

Teenie Dillinger, Chairman

This year's topics will be about WATER.

From Nature Conservancy magazine (Is2) - **"Science of Forest Restoration and Western Snowpack"**

Understanding how to retain more snow longer in the summer is paramount .

Scientists are traveling by snowmobile to remote sites where they use cameras, measuring stakes, and sensors to track snowpack over time among the frosted pines. Ponderosa pines have an important role in Western water supplies as they hold and slowly release snow, filtering the water through the forest floor and releasing it to local lakes and aquifers. When forests hold the snowpack longer, they can provide a more sustained and regular flow of water to wildlife and communities. Researchers are turning to a method called snowtopography and finding that forest restoration activities, like tree thinning and prescribed burning, help forests hold snow for longer and are less vulnerable to severe fire.



The Chinook Winds

Chinook District of Garden Clubs

1144 S. 229th Pl.

Des Moines, WA 98198

Dated Material

DELIVER IMMEDIATELY