



The Chinook Winds

The Official Publication for Garden Clubs in the Chinook District

January 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

The lights on my tree are still twinkling, however as always at this time of year, I am giddy with anticipation of the growing seasons to come. I think that gardeners are optimists. We are gleeful at our successes and contemplative about our challenges. This time of year is our chance to reflect on those and formulate a plan.

One of the gifts of being your director is the opportunity to visit clubs. I was impressed with programs that Marine Hills Garden Club and Enumclaw Garden Club presented at their general membership meetings recently. One was gardening for seasonal interest, and the other was pruning best practices. Both were timely and thought-provoking.

I will be going out to my little greenhouse on the deck off my kitchen to give it a thorough clean-up, organize my supplies, and assess the state of my tools. I imagine that I am not alone in thinking about the processes (and purchases) required to allow for repairs, upgrades, and stylistic or aesthetic revisions. Our outdoor spaces are truly a reflection of our personalities. Since we are always evolving ourselves, it makes sense that as our choices become more informed, we will adjust our options accordingly.

Take the time now to ponder. Go for a little walk around your garden and see what is getting ready to pop. Imagine what it could look like with a little tweak here and there. Then clean and sharpen up those tools. Get your soil tested, your seeds ordered and plan your pruning.

I look forward to seeing you soon and wish you all good fortune and peace in this new year.

Erin Gregory
Chinook District Director

NEXT DISTRICT GENERAL MEETING

10:00 AM FEBRUARY 4, 2025

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

Entry times for Horticulture: 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Be prompt – no entries after 9:45 a.m.

To save time, fill out entry cards before arriving.

10:00 Welcome & Business Meeting

11:00 Horticulture Program: "Building Better Soil Inexpensively",
Mary Machala, King County Master Gardener, Master Composter, Master Pruner

12:00 Lunch (provided by Marine Hills GC) and Flower Show

12:45 Design Program: "Design Demonstration",
Hill and Dale Arrangers

Clerks for Flower Show: Auburn (2), Enumclaw, Maple Trails Club Presidents: Please provide the names of the clerk(s) from your club to Flower Show Chairman Susan Nash.

Horticulture Placement Assistant: Enumclaw

Table Arrangements: Auburn, Des Moines, O'Brien

Each club will bring four table centerpieces.

Marine Hills 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 **January 27** 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

Interest in the Youth Education Grant program has increased over the years. Since it was formed in 2017, 12 grants have been funded. With the donations of \$1,550, we'll be able to fund four grants of up to \$400 in 2026.

While we have already received several applications for 2026, now is the time to send out additional applications or to follow up with organizations you've already contacted. The application deadline is March 1.

We would like to expand the list of applicants throughout the district. Consider scout troops, youth groups, or community after-school programs. This grant addresses the needs of teachers and instructors who have wonderful ideas about connecting kids to the natural world but not the funding to do so. Think of community gardens and groups that engage youth in the removal of invasives and replanting. A lot of great programs within the district just need to be made aware of this funding opportunity. Please help us achieve this goal by sending out an application! Thank you for supporting hands-on learning opportunities for youth living in the Chinook District.



CHINOOK DISTRICT AWARDS

Susan Nash, Awards Chairman

There are a couple of individual awards that club members can apply for. These include the Shirley Lins novice award (for designers with three or fewer blue ribbons) and the Dianne Green best horticulture. We have had several flower shows during 2025 in which novice designers and horticulture exhibitors have had opportunities to enter and win. Chinook District award applications are due May 1 or at the May district meeting and can be emailed to Susan Nash.

The WSFGC awards year is the calendar year, so the next applications are 2025. The following is a list of deadlines.

January 15

- Flower Show Schedule Awards
- Youth: Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Posters

February 1

- Corsages
- Garden Club Growing Project
- Honor Club
- Landscape Design
- Past Presidents' Awards
- Recycling
- Youth: Pollinator Power Poster

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 4: Chinook District General Meeting and Flower Show

February 18: Enumclaw GC Breakfast for the Birds

March 2-4: WSFGC Board Meeting

April 1: Chinook District Board Meeting

May 6: Chinook District General Meeting and Flower Show

BLUE STAR MARKER TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Matti Munson, Chairman

As winter begins, the Blue Star Memorial Marker garden is mostly dormant. It weathered recent storms without damage. Deer continued to visit and decimated the pansies, so three wintergreen shrubs were planted in their place. Their red berries add welcome winter color. Future plantings may need to focus on deer-resistance.

In early December, a simple wreath was placed in the garden. On December 13, Wreaths Across America volunteers placed wreaths at veterans' graves throughout the US and abroad, including 7,356 at Tahoma National Cemetery. Thanks to our clubs and members, 93 wreaths were purchased from Chinook District this year, with five additional wreaths purchased with district Blue Star funds. It is inspiring to see our veterans honored in this meaningful way.

Thank you for your continued support of the Wreaths Across America and Blue Star Memorial Marker garden.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is sponsoring NGC Landscape Design School via Zoom on January 30-31.

https://www.wagardenclubs.com/files/ugd/249f52_684ca3312ef54dccb6cdd6251e2e2426.pdf



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Auburn

President: Grace Robinson

Our monthly meeting on December 9 was our club's potluck and plant gift exchange holiday party. We collected food and warm clothing for the homeless and gifts for the Auburn Terry Homes residents. Additionally, our club and individual members sponsored 36 wreaths for Wreaths Across America.

Our next meeting will be held on January 13 at the William C. Warren Building at 10:00 a.m. Teenie Dillinger will give a presentation on Puget Sound Beach Restoration.

Des Moines

Co-Presidents: Kristen Alcoba and Teenie Dillinger

Des Moines Garden Club's November 3 meeting included an informative and helpful presentation on Fall Prevention and Safety. The speaker demonstrated how to do Chair exercises.

In lieu of a December meeting, Jill Wright kindly opened her home so we could make Christmas wreaths for friends, neighbors, and family. On December 3, our club had a lot of fun at the Chinook District's Christmas Luncheon. We purchased and decorated two tables. We also donated a raffle basket with a lot of goodies.

We will meet next on January 5 at Covenant Life Center, 2130 South 248th Street, Des Moines at 10:00 a.m., with a meet and greet at 9:30 a.m.



Enumclaw

President: Dee O'Connor-Nash

December was a very busy month for Enumclaw Garden Club, with community projects, holiday festivities and great camaraderie. Our month kicked off on December 2 with a community project at the Enumclaw Senior Center. Members decorated their holiday tree to bring cheer to seniors. Our merriment continued December 3, with 24 members attending the Chinook Holiday lunch. Our happy elves Shannon and Yolanda sold raffle tickets while songstress extraordinaire Shiela led a sing-along. We were thrilled to have Fred win 'Fan Favorite' for his beautiful tablescape in a Forest theme.

On December 13, EGC members, along with Chinook District, joined thousands of volunteers nationwide for Wreaths Across America. Wreaths were laid at Tahoma National Cemetery to honor those who have served.

Our holiday celebration was December 17, with hosts Trish B. & Julie M. creating a gingerbread wonderland. Beautiful table settings, a scrumptious potluck, a cookie exchange, games and a singalong made for a festive and fun gathering.

Another community service event was postponed from December 11 to December 18 due to power outages, flooding and wild weather. Members gathered to make small table arrangements to distribute to local senior living facilities. These bright spots of color are much appreciated by the community. To round out our busy month, members also volunteered to refresh the flowerpots at the VFW and the Purple Heart Memorial with beautiful evergreens.

We are excited to have the Tacoma Rose Society present at our January 28 general meeting.

We are busy planning the annual Breakfast for the Birds.

61st Annual
Breakfast for the Birds
Enumclaw High School
Wednesday, February 18

Reserve your table today!
Tickets available now: \$30 each

Contact Joan Meyer: jdmeyer8486@gmail.com

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Maple Trails

President: Matti Munson

Maple Trails Garden Club held its November meeting at Squak Mountain Nursery in Issaquah. Nursery staff explained the history, propagation and care of poinsettias. Members toured the nursery; and following the program, the meeting was held in one of the greenhouses surrounded by beautiful poinsettias.

Our December meeting featured a potluck lunch and gift exchange hosted by Sharon Yeaman, our Horticulture Chairperson. Sharon also presented a fun challenge: members had three minutes to write down a flower or plant for every letter of the alphabet. The person with the most complete list won a gift card to a local hardware and garden center. We always enjoy Sharon's challenges!

Our next meeting on Wednesday, January 28, will be held at Mountain View Fire Station #96. Teenie Dillinger will present a program on restoration efforts at Saltwater State Park.

Marine Hills

President: Carrie Asselin

Marine Hills Garden Club met November 18. Erin Gregory was our honored guest. Our speaker was the fabulous Sue Goetz, and the topic was "Landscaping for Winter Color".

We had two tables at the Chinook December 3 luncheon and brought two raffle baskets. Maxine, Debbie and I were in the skit. We all had fun.

Fourteen members created and delivered 53 floral arrangements to Brookdale Foundation House and Life Care Center. We purchased gifts to fulfill Christmas wishes of five residents of Life Care Center who don't have anyone to give them gifts. The huge gift bags included: electric shavers, backpack, art supplies, radio, baby doll with blanket and sleeper, hair supplies, a lot of clothing, and more. We provided another 20 gift bags for residents with items like calendars, snacks, lotions, throws, playing cards, puzzles, games, cosmetics bags, tote bags, fidget toys, socks, and note pads. We thank Dorothy Hitchcock for coordinating the gifts.

Our Christmas party was on December 16 at Judy McDonald's house. Each member brought an appetizer or dessert. A huge thank you to Maxine for choosing and wrapping a wonderful assortment of gifts; there was some "stealing" in the exchange this year!

Our January 20 meeting will be via Zoom. We look forward to Alma Cardenas' program "The Resilient Yard."

O'Brien

Co-presidents: Susan Nash and Lisa Adsero

Our club had a great time at our Christmas lunch and white elephant gift exchange on December 12.

Our next meeting is at 11:30 a.m. on January 19 at the Kent Senior Center. The speaker will be the author Bruce Bennett, "Gardening in the Sky".

Parkside

President: Patrice Bonney

At our November meeting, the speaker was the new director for the Highline SeaTac Botanical Garden. She told us about additions and changes which are occurring, including an update on the Lins Peony Garden and the new Hicks Rhododendron Garden. Dana Lasswell shared how to grow healthy microgreens and sprouts during winter. We enjoyed both presentations.

Our Christmas Luncheon was well attended. Our speaker, Tory Bennett, shared how best to put together a vase flower arrangement. Her program was extremely informative, plus she created a beautiful arrangement. Our own Brynn Tavasci shared her fun and creative use of pinecones. They were adorable.

Parkside had two tables at the Chinook District Christmas luncheon and received the Most Festive Table award.

Elle Designers

President: Nora Fisher

Elle Design group met November 4 at Nora Fisher's home with nine members attending. We welcomed Shelly McQuerrie as a new member. We installed Linda Cantwell as Secretary. Our design segment was a Holiday Design of your choice. Barb conducted informative critiques of the various designs. A potluck lunch followed. Our next meeting will be March 3, an all-green design for St. Patrick's Day.

Designers Guild

President: Debbie Angel

Designers Guild members created seven designs for the silent auction at the December Chinook District luncheon. At our December 17 meeting, we each created a Still Life Design or Angular Design. Our next meeting will be February 25, with Framed Spatial or Panel Designs.

CHINOOK DISTRICT MEETING FLOWER SHOW

GENERAL RULES

1. Competition is open to all Chinook District members. See General Rule #2, Horticulture Rule #1, and Design and Artistic Crafts Rule #1.
2. Student judges (or anyone needing exhibiting credits) from any District may enter any Flower Show to obtain credits.
3. This Standard Flower Show is judged by Accredited judges, whose decisions are final. No one will be permitted in the judging area except judges' chairman, judges, clerks and classification chairmen.
4. Entries will be received from 8:30 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. Late entries cannot be judged but will be shown for "Exhibit Only". Entries may not be removed until the afternoon program starts (preferably not until after the program).
5. Entrants must register with the Classification Committee. Entries must conform to schedule.
6. Horticulture will be placed by the committee.
7. Designers and Crafters will be assisted with placement.

The NGC Handbook for Flower Shows can be found at www.gardenclub.org Currently, login access is required by creating an account using your email address.

HORTICULTURE RULES

1. All clubs may enter exhibits in the Horticulture Division of each Flower Show. Individuals are not limited to number of entries they may exhibit.
2. **Entrants must supply their own clean, clear glass containers.** Containers should be in scale to the specimens.
3. Horticulture entries will be limited to 30" in length for the arboreal section, or optimum growth for any other section.
4. Unobtrusive wedging and double potting are permitted.
5. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class or subclass if each is of a different variety/cultivar, type or color.
6. Classification Chairman may add or divide classes or subclasses as deemed necessary on the day of the show.
7. Horticulture entries must be grown by the exhibitor and correctly named.
8. All specimens must have been in the exhibitor's possession 90 days except woody ornamentals/6 months. See chart in handbook.
9. The same cut specimen may not be shown again if it has already been shown in a Standard Flower Show.
10. Horticulture Collections and Displays must include at least five similar specimens. See page 60 in the Handbook for staging information for collections and displays.

DESIGN & ARTISTIC CRAFTS RULES

1. The Design Division is open to members from all clubs listed in the Chinook District Directory and those listed in General Rule #2. Except for the club providing lunch for the general meeting, all clubs are expected to have at least three design entries, but no more than five, and at least one artistic craft entry.
2. **ADVANCE ENTRY ONLY FOR DESIGN (Division II) and BOTANICAL ARTS (Division III). All advance entries should be registered with Tory Bennett, TVBennett@aol.com or 253-880-6553**
3. "Novice Only" classes are to be entered only by those who have won no more than three blue ribbons in a Standard Show. Novices may enter other classes but will be judged in open competition.
4. There shall be only one entry per entrant in each class or subclass.
5. Artistic exhibits may be moved by the placement committee and for critique. All care will be exercised by the show committee, but they cannot be responsible for loss or damage.
6. Maximum space allowed for a design is 24" wide and 30" deep on a table, unless otherwise stated.
7. See information on page 80 in the Handbook regarding use of fantasy flowers.
8. Accessories and featured items are permitted unless otherwise stated.
9. Some fresh plant material must be used unless otherwise stated. Dyed, painted or otherwise embellished fresh plant material is not allowed. **Artificial plant material is not permitted.**
10. No Design or Artistic Craft is to be entered if it has been shown previously in a Standard Flower Show.
11. **Each Design and Craft exhibit must have a 3x5-inch card listing plant material included.** Botanical or common names are accepted.
12. Careful study of the Flower Show Rules and the Flower Show Schedule will eliminate points being deducted for nonconformance. Remember, the schedule is the "**Law of the Show**" and is binding on the judge as well as the exhibitor.

CHINOOK DISTRICT FLOWER SHOW AWARDS

Standard System of Awarding: Blue for first place; Red for second; Yellow for third, and White for Honorable Mention. Only blue-ribbon winners are eligible for top design awards.

Best Horticulture Exhibit Award (*Green and White Rosette*) may be given to the named exhibit judged as the finest in the entire Horticulture Division.

Show Chairman's Award (*Yellow Rosette*) for the **Best Design in the show.**

District Director's Award (*Burgundy and Mauve Rosette*) for **Best Novice Design.**

Crafters Award (*Lavender Rosette*) for the **Best Artistic Craft.**

Collection or Display Award (*Light Blue and Dark Blue Rosette*) for the **Best Collection or Display.**

Horticulture Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the club winning the most blue ribbons in Horticulture (Division I) in a district flower show. Monetary award of \$50 given at the annual district awards ceremony.

CHINOOK DISTRICT MEETING FLOWER SHOW

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

“I Love You to the Moon and Back”

Entry time for design and horticulture is 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. on the day of the show.

No entries after 9:45 a.m.

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE

Section A. Needled Evergreens, needled or scaled, must be ornamental (exhibit placed on table or in clear glass bottle)

Class 1. *Cedrus* (Cedar)

Class 2. *Picea* (Spruce)

Class 3. *Pinus* (Pine)

Class 4. Any other named needled or scaled cut ornamental evergreen

Section B. Broadleaf Evergreens

Class 5. *Acuba*

Class 6. *Euonymus*

Class 7. *Ilex* (Holly) a) with berries b) without berries

Class 8. *Viburnum*

Class 9. Any other named cut ornamental broadleaf evergreen

Section C. Flowering Tree or Shrub Branches – may be forced

Class 10. *Camellia*

Class 11. *Forsythia*

Class 12. *Prunus*

Class 13. Any other named flowering tree or shrub branch

Section D. Flowering Plants – cut specimens

Class 14. Bulbs

Class 15. Perennials

Class 16. Any other named flowering specimen

Section E. Potted or Container Grown Plants – note if grown in a greenhouse

Class 17. Flowering – must be in bloom

Class 18. Foliage

Class 19. Forced bulbs in flower

Section F. Any Other Worthy Named Specimen not listed above

Section G. Collections

Class 20. Five cut flowering specimens

Class 21. Five cut foliage specimens

Class 22. Five potted specimens each container not over 6 inches

Horticulture Additional Rules

Grooming of plant material is essential. It may mean the difference between a blue ribbon and no ribbon. Use botanical names. An exhibit without a botanical name may cost an exhibitor a top award.

Chinook District Meeting

NGC Small-Standard Flower Show

"I Love You to the Moon and Back"

February 4, 2026

All designs and crafts must be pre-registered with Tory Bennett, 253-880-6553, TVBennett@aol.com Encouraged to contact Tory by January 29, 2025.

Entry time for design and horticulture is 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. on the day of the show.
No entries after 9:45 a.m.

DIVISION II: DESIGN

Designs staged in a space 24" wide x 30" deep, on a rectangle table draped in black, unless otherwise stated.

All classes are designer's choice of plant material.

No artificial plant material allowed.

4 exhibits per class

SECTION A.

Class 1. "Cupid's Arrow" – Creative Design
Novice Only

Class 2. "You Stole My Heart" – Creative Mass Design

Class 3. "Silly Love Song" – Creative Design

DIVISION III: BOTANICAL ARTS

All exhibits must have some plant material, either fresh and/or dried. No artificial plant material allowed. Exhibits staged in 20" x 20" space on table draped in black.

SECTION A. Crafts. (Designers choice of plant material.)

Class 1. "Thinking of You" – A Valentine's Day Card for an adult.

Class 2. "Be My Little Love Bug" – A Valentine's Day Card for a child.

All designs and crafts 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.

Yellow Archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* is a low growing groundcover. It has variegated leaves that are evergreen with square stems that can root at leaf nodes. Leaves are opposite in a silvery-white to gray variegation with a purple underside, oval, hairy with toothed edges. It has upright yellow flowers in April. Removal of all roots and stems are required and put into garbage or commercial yard waste. Do not dump on roadside. You can also smother the plant with cardboard mulch. Monitor over time for resprouts and seedlings.

Use instead –Wintercreeper *Euonymus fortunei*, Alumroot *Heuchera micrantha*, or Wild Ginger *Asarum caudatum*

Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* was brought here by gardeners to make a big statement; it grows 15-20 ft tall. It is in the parsley carrot family, with two-inch diameter stems with distinctive purplish red bumpy blotches and stiff hairs. Leaves are compound deeply divided with toothed edges up to five feet. White umbrella-like flat topped flowerheads are up to 2.5 feet wide, that turn into seedheads. TOXIC watery sap that causes blisters and is worsened by sunlight. ALWAYS WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING. Remove all the roots and flowers or seedheads in trash bags. Monitor for resprouts and seedlings. Ask for help to identify.

Giant Hogweed has a similar look to native Cow Parsnip *Heracleum maximum*. Cow Parsnip is shorter at two-to-five feet tall; its leaves are not as deeply divided; and the stem is green, ridged, and fuzzy with a slight purplish sheen. It can also cause a rash.

The Chinook Winds

Chinook District of Garden Clubs
1144 S. 229th Pl.
Des Moines, WA 98198

Dated Material
DELIVER IMMEDIATELY