

Produce

Next General Meeting 12:00 PM MAY 7th Fruitdale Grange

May 7th General Meeting Presentation: Creative & Modern Flower Arrangements by Mike Zerwer

June 4th Presentation: Wildlife Images by Sheri Teague

Installation of Officers, Recognitions, Quarterly Regular Potluck

Message from the President

Spring has finally sprung!!! Flowers are blooming, vegetables and berries are coming up and we had our wonderful Annual Plant and Garden Sale despite the few showers and cold winds at times! It's time to begin planning for a glorious Oregon summer season...

Reminder: On May 15th, we will be having our Tour at Wildlife Images at 9:30 in Merlin. Sign-up sheets will be out at the May General Meeting if you want to Car Pool. Questions? Contact Linda Price – 541 / 761-5820.

Birthdays are a new start, a fresh beginning, and a time to pursue new endeavors with new goals. Move forward with confidence and courage. You're a very special person. May today and all of your days be amazing!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2 Joe Gecsey | 17 Barbara Byrd |
| 6 Retta Kent | 21 Debbie Bergener |
| 7 Kay Sholes | 24 Brooke Foyt |
| 8 Clare Frazier | 26 Jan Wyllie |
| 14 Dorit Brown | 29 Jennifer Edgerton |
| 15 Joan Foley | 31 Sandy Goodell |



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

| |
|--------------------|
| 17 Valerie Hall |
| 20 Randy Norley |
| 21 Cherrie Lynch |
| 28 Shirley Schmidt |

Remembrance – by Donna Rewick

If you wish to have our club membership informed of any illnesses, deaths or other concerns please contact me by e-mail dlrewick@gmail.com or phone [\(808\) 220-9477](tel:(808)220-9477). I will submit this information for mass e-mailing on your behalf. If you know of a member who may be uplifted by receiving a card, please let us know. _

POTLUCK CLEAN-UP

We all really enjoy our quarterly Potlucks. So many great dishes to share and taste.

The Next Potluck: June 4th!!! We will leave the food out and available for getting seconds DURING THE BREAK! PLEASE remember to pick-up your serving dishes/spoons/ladles/tongs, etc., plus any of your Left-Over Food after the meeting! Your assistance in helping clean-up at the end of the meetings, potluck or not, is always very much appreciated.

NEW MEMBER: We want to welcome our newest – new members: March/April 2025

3/5 – Julie Clark, 3/5 – Curtis Hall, 3/5 – Julie Herndon, 3/5 – Jaime Kammann, 3/5 – Sheri Teague, 3/5 – Carolyn Woods, 4/2 – Amelia Bensen, 4/2 – Kate Bortells, 4/2 – Michele Lucas, 4/2 – Sue Whitmore and 5/3 – Kay Sholes (came back, inactive since 2020). EVERYONE – Welcome them!!!

Donna Rewick, Community Director Report
Grange Garden, Riverside Gardens and Three Rivers Community Seed Library:
Photos by Donna Rewick

Grange Garden:

Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the Grange Garden these past two months:

March 2025— Sue Cope and Sandy Goodell

April 2025 — Marylou Hansen and Nan Hughes

With great appreciation to Debbie Crook for overseeing and coordinating volunteers for the garden. We are fortunate that Debbie is the Grange Garden Chair, and we thank you.

Riverside Park Gardens:

Chair, Bonnie Shaw has everything in place in getting the gardens spruced up for this year’s Boatnik event. Our next Produce will have pictures to showcase what has been done. Thank you, Bonnie!

Three Rivers Community Seed Library:

TRCSL continues to busily share knowledge about growing plants from seeds. Chair, Dorit Brown leads in making sure seeds are continuously available to the JoCo community. She dropped off a package of seeds and supplies to the Gladiola High School in April.

More plans for being at the Growers Market downtown and another seed packing session are in the works. Thank you, Dorit!

March 2025 — Illinois Valley Seed Swap at Jubilee Park

Dorit’s team that day was a happy family affair in helping her. A thank you to Club member, Jillian Brown and Jackson Brown.



April 2025 — A new site for signing up for free seeds: St. Vincent de Paul, Grants Pass Thrift Store.

Thankful for our GPGC and all you do... Truly, we are making a positive impact for our community.

Seed Planting Class: February 26, February 28, and March 1



SAVE THE DATE ... Members Only Plant Sale, May 17
by CarolAnne Durante, Plant Sale Chair

YES, we are having a Plant Sale for Members Only, so mark your calendars for: Saturday, May 17, 10AM - 2PM!!

Below Bargain Pricing:

1-gallon pots = \$3.00

2-gallon pots = \$4.00

5-gallon pots = \$5.00

Other pot sizes will be priced individually, and will also be at Below Bargain Prices.

In addition, if you are aware of another Community Service Organization, a 501 (c) (3), or a school in need of garden beautification, please email me/text me/call me and let's discuss. We may be able to donate plants to them AFTER the May 17 Members Only Sale!!

The Home Show at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in the Floral Building on April 11 - 13 was an enjoyable success. Numerous attendees picked up flyers for the April 26 Plant Sale. Many gained information about their plants from their discussions with the volunteers. President Nena Heitz (who did the setting up on Thursday) was there all three days as was new member, Jaime Kammann. The Friday and Saturday volunteers included: Darlene Garske, Carole Genovesi, Joan Giles, Jenny Grippando, Rebecca Hove, Donna Rewick and Mike Zerwer. For Sunday at the Home Show, 4 members of the Illinois Valley Garden Club joined Nena and Jaime to greet people at the Home Show and Jaime stayed to help Nena tear down the booth at the end of the Show.



Siskiyou District Annual Meeting 4/15/25

Thank You to all the Members of the GPGC who attended the meeting hosted by the Medford Garden Club at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. An enjoyable, entertaining time of fun especially for those who won the raffles and the Garden Art auction items. A big thank you to Carole Genovesi for donating the gorgeous decorated bowling ball on the iron stand. President Nena Heitz is soooo lucky to have won this!!!



Nursery Clean-Up Days

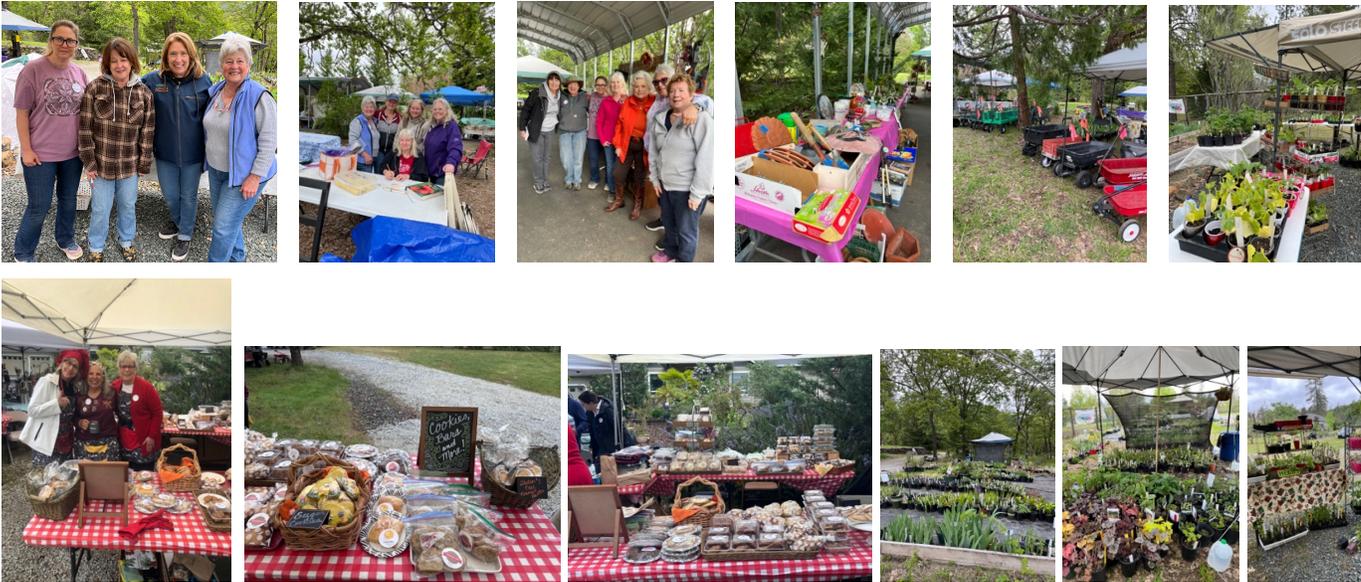
The three clean-up days of April 7, April 17, and April 21 led each day by Plant Sale Chair, CarolAnne Durante had so many wonderful volunteers showing up to help more than once, including President Nena Heitz all three days, and, of course, our hostess property owner, Carole Genovesi being there each day. All the dedicated work by the volunteers proved quite successful because by the day of the Plant Sale on April 26 everywhere looked great!



Set-Up for the Plant Sale and PLANT & GARDEN SALE DAY...



From CarolAnne: Set-Up for the Plant Sale and the Plant Sale



Thank You, Plant Sale Volunteers

by CarolAnne Durante, Plant Sale Chair

Thanks to the enthusiasm and consistent "pitching in" of your Members, YOUR PLANT SALE made (drum roll!...) **\$7,602.20** for your Club and the Grants Pass community organizations that your Club supports!! CONGRATULATIONS to each of you who Volunteered! I've heard from several members that they also deepened friendships and had *FUN*. That's exactly what our activities are about ... making/deepening friendships, learning about gardening and plants, *and Having Fun!*

My personal Thank-You-and-Shout-Out goes to your **Sale Area Captains: Rebecca Hove, Ruth Salvatore, Curt and Valerie Hall, Terry Miller, Cherrie Lynch, Lilly Radbourne, Nena Heitz, Bonnie Shaw, and Katharyn McDonnell**. Your Parking Directors did an incredible job organizing traffic flow. Your Purchase Haulers worked so hard making trip-after-trip to shoppers' vehicles and making sure that your Wagons were returned. Your Nursery Volunteers were critical to successful sales of our plants!! Your Country Store helpers laughed and talked with shoppers as they loaded up with gently-used treasures!

AND what an explosion of vegetable/berry/herb offerings!! You really Stepped Up and planted seeds in February/March to produce an abundance of tomatoes and a great assortment of other vegetables, herbs and berries for shoppers!! Thank you to each of you who stepped "out of your gardening box" and tried raising seedlings!! You were beyond Successful!!

I must also mention **Corinne Zavolta** who made and donated dozens of sandwiches and chips for hungry volunteers, and **Sandy Schramm** who donated warm beans and corn bread!! Thank you, both!

THANK YOU to each for being willing to bundle up on a cold, windy, rainy, miserable day and work hard for your Club and Community!!! You are Beyond Amazing!

PLEASE – DO NOT park in Eddy's Restaurant Parking Lot. If the Grange lot is full, we have Permission to park at the Recycling Center across the street – at the back side of the building.

Chicken Tortilla Soup



• Ingredients

- 2 whole boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 - 1 1/2 tsp. cumin
 - 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
 - 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 1/4 cup diced green bell pepper
 - 3 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 (10-oz.) can Rotel tomatoes & green chilies
 - 32 oz. low-sodium chicken stock
 - 2 (15-oz.) cans black beans, drained
 - 5 whole corn tortillas, cut into uniform strips around 2 to 3 inches
 - Sour cream, diced red onion, diced avocado, pico de gallo, grated Monterey Jack cheese and/or cilantro, for garnishing
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
 - 1 tsp. chili powder
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1 cup diced onion
 - 1/4 cup red bell pepper
 - 3 Tbsp. tomato paste
 - 4 cups hot water
 - 3 Tbsp. cornmeal or masa

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Mix cumin, chili pepper, garlic powder, and salt. Drizzle 1 tablespoon olive oil on chicken breasts, then sprinkle a small amount of spice mix on both sides. Set aside the rest of the spice mix.
2. Place chicken breasts on a baking sheet. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until chicken is done. Use two forks to shred chicken. Set aside.
3. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a pot over medium high heat. Add onions, red pepper, green pepper, and minced garlic. Stir and begin cooking, then add the rest of the spice mix. Stir to combine, then add shredded chicken and stir.
4. Pour in Rotel, chicken stock, tomato paste, water, and black beans. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a simmer. Simmer for 45 minutes, uncovered.
5. Mix cornmeal with a small amount of water. Pour into the soup, then simmer for an additional 30 minutes. Check seasonings, adding more if needed---add more chili powder if it needs more spice, and be sure not to under salt. Turn off heat and allow to sit for 15 to 20 minutes before serving. Five minutes before serving, gently stir in tortilla strips.
6. Ladle into bowls, then top with sour cream, diced red onion, diced avocado, pico de gallo, grated cheese and/or, cilantro if you have it! (The garnishes really make the soup delicious.)

REMINDER: At our General Meeting – Turn your Cell Phone Off (or to silent) \$5 fine for not!
Keep your visiting with others before the Meeting, during the Break and for
after the Meeting: *Respect the Speakers!*

HELP CLEAN UP AFTER THE MEETING!

May 7th Program Presenter, Mike Zerwer – A Brief Overview

Mike Zerwer's design style passion tends toward modern, creative and abstract design, because it offers a certain freedom of expression that feeds her sometimes "out of the box" ideas.

For the May program Mike will provide some guidelines and tips for designing a modern/creative flower arrangement. Examples of designs will be provided, and she will demonstrate the difference between traditional and modern styles.

Mike has been studying flower arranging since 2002. She is an Associate Member of Siskiyou District Judges Council and belonged to Rogue Arrangers, a design study group. She has competed in many flower shows and rose shows, winning several Best of Show awards.

She has done both teaching and demonstration designs for National Garden Club Flower Show Schools, Symposiums and State Garden Club Conventions as well as for a PNW District American Rose Society Convention. In 2018, the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs Convention asked her to do the Speaker's Podium two designs. Mike has taught and written programs on designing and arranging for Garden Clubs, Rose Societies, Master Gardeners and the Josephine County Fair, including this year's fair, throughout the Southern Oregon area. For several years she was Superintendent of the Josephine County Fair and is currently the Floral Design Superintendent since the year 2017. Pictures of Mike's designs.



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