



Produce

Next General Meeting 12:00 PM MARCH 5th Fruitdale Grange

March 5th General Meeting Presentation: Stan Mapolski

Quarterly Potluck: Salad & Desserts

April 2nd Presentation: CarolAnne Durante: Annual Plant & Garden Sale

Message from the President

Spring is creeping in. It's been an interesting winter – weather-wise. As you know, our General Meeting had to be cancelled due to the rain/snow/wind storm that passed through. It is rare when we have to completely cancel a meeting but everyone's safety is the most important thing. Selfishly, I don't want to lose any of you!!!

Our March 5th General Meeting is a Salad & Dessert Potluck. The Club will bring Greens and Dressings. It is up to everyone else to bring things to complement salads and desserts. Please have your food at the meeting by 11:30 so we can start eating at 11:45.

For the first time in a long time, we will be holding an election this year (positions are being challenged) – more on that from Carole Genovesi in the Produce. Lots of exciting things coming up this year!!!

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!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Sharon Bader | 19. Rebecca Hove |
| 3. Roi Pietrzak | 20. Lucy Saldana |
| 3. Katharyn McDonnell | 20. Sharon Snyder |
| 6. Janise Pratt | 30. Linda Price |
| 6. Jimmie Whitwam | 30. Patty Reed |
| 8. Trudy Bradley | |



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4. Debbie Weske | 27. Lynn Montgomery |
| 9. Joan Giles | 28. Pam Zaklan |
| 9. Marylou Hansen | |
| 10. Sue Cope | |
| 14. Carol Belveal | |
| 17. Darlene Garske | |

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. 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. PLEASE remember to pick-up your serving dishes/spoons/ladels/tongs, etc., plus your left over food during the break.

NEW MEMBER: We want to welcome our newest – new member: Cheryl Patrick!

My name is Cheryl Patrick, and I am so excited to participate in the Grants Pass Garden Club. I've always enjoyed flowers and gardening, but never lived anywhere that provided a climate that would allow me to grow anything other than irises and zucchini! I spent most of my life ranching in both Eastern Oregon and Northern Nevada where I raised my five children. I relocated to Merlin over three years ago and am looking forward to being part of the garden club community where I hope to learn and grow.



Election of Officers

At the March meeting we will be presenting the current nominees for the club officers and requesting additional nominations or volunteers for the offices. Voting will happen at the April meeting.

We REALLY NEED nominations for Assistant Treasurer to help Rebecca. Duties for the Assistant Treasurer are as follows:

The main duties for the assistant would be doing things like sharing with the Treasurer the duties of going to the mailbox to retrieve our mail and making the deposits at the bank, helping to cashier at our fundraisers, and giving the Treasurer's Report (that the Treasurer has already prepared) at meetings when the Treasurer is unable to attend.

We have 93 active members in the club. Hopefully one or more will step up for this critical position.

Carole Genovesi
Chairman, Nominating Committee

Get Ready, Get Set, PLANT SALE! -- Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9AM - 3PM

By CarolAnne Durante, Plant Sale Chair

Your Garden Club's largest annual fundraiser is the Spring Plant Sale. It's time to start thinking about and planning this fun annual event!

Here are some things that you can be doing **now** to get ready and help out:

- **Label Your Plants.** These cold, frosty mornings and showery afternoons are the perfect time to label the plants you dug up last fall and transplanted into 1-gallon, or larger, pots. The *Sunset Western Garden Book*, or an online search, are both excellent sources to find the botanical identity and common name of your plant, and what conditions it needs to thrive. Contact Carlene Honeychurch at 541-441-3351 or carlenemh@gmail.com for labeling stakes and information on the labeling format.

- **Gather your gently-used "collectibles" for the Country Store.** Go through your closets, garage, gardening shed or greenhouse for items you no longer need or use: yard art, pots, yard furniture, outdoor rugs, strings of patio lighting, dish garden containers, garden "bird cages," watering cans, trellises, bird baths, pathway pavers, etc. BE SURE TO CLEAN THEM UP so that they are attractive to shoppers! Working household items are Welcome!

- **Collect cardboard "trays"** -- those flat boxes from Costco, Winco, Walmart and other stores that hold canned foods. Our shoppers use them to haul plants to our Cashiers and then their vehicles. BRING THEM to the April Nursery Clean-up Days and to Plant Sale Set-up on Friday, April 25.

- **Shop Garage Sales.** Look for white, PLASTIC mini-blinds for Carlene, and medium-size containers that Cherrie Lynch might use for her Planter Gardens. She needs unique and unusual containers with larger openings that can hold several plants. AVOID GLASS AND CERAMIC; they break. BRING THEM to the March 5th meeting, so that Cherrie can get started planting.

These next few weeks are an exciting time as we work together to get started planning and preparing for Your Annual Plant Sale. I will have more details, information, and Sign-up Sheets at the March 5th meeting!!

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER TO DO FOR EARLY SPRING IN YOUR GARDEN

Fertilizing:

In February your rhododendrons should be fertilized (do it again after they finish blooming—usually here in June). Also, using the same fertilizer I apply it to the dogwood trees (only in February/March, not again in June).

Then in March, when I see the flower buds start to “swell” on the blueberry plants I do a light application of the same Rhododendron fertilizer (and another application after the flowers are totally open—maybe April, depending on warm weather).

Japanese Maples: Here, at the Giles’ Garden we fertilize our Japanese Maples in February, using a fertilizer called “Roots”—we poke 4 holes around the drip line using a heavy bar, and then we pour in some fertilizer in the holes and then fill in the holes.

Peonies: When you see the shoots coming up, fertilize around them with a total bulb food.

Hydrangeas: Fertilize in March and again in June.

Pruning:

If needed do Rhododendrons after they are done blooming (usually around June or so...).

Cut blueberries now, removing a few old canes, and we usually have to “lower” the height some to fit inside our netted frames.

Hydrangeas: Macrophylla Hydrangeas can be “cleaned up”—cut out dead limbs, and you can do a little shaping, but remember these bloom on old wood, so if you remove too much you will not get flowers!

Paniculata Hydrangeas come out later, so I prune these when I can see “life” coming at the nodes (where the new branches/leaves will form)—I do this so I can see which branches may not be alive anymore, and then I cut off those dead branches. I prune back to 2 or 3 nodes on each branch—remember these hydrangeas bloom on new wood, so if you do not prune these back your plant will be hanging on the ground, because the flowers are usually heavy and long and will drag the branches down!

There are many other plants you may have, but I have covered the big ones we deal with in the Giles’ Garden. If you have any questions feel free to ask me anytime, and you can call or e-mail me too. Happy gardening!!

Joan Giles

541-471-3404 (land line)

glencrag2@yahoo.com

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

Respect the Speakers!

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.

HELP CLEAN UP AFTER THE MEETING!

Donna Rewick, Community Director Report

Grange Garden, Riverside Gardens and Three Rivers Community Seed Library:

ALL PHOTOS FROM DONNA REWICK

Grange Garden:

Thank you to Debbie Crook, Grange Garden Chair, for the dedication given in coordinating the volunteers and overseeing the garden for our Club.



Thank you to the volunteers who helped at the Grange Garden these past two months:
January 2025— Diane Lewis and Trisha Kohut
February 2025 — Sue Cope and Sandy Goodell



Riverside Park Gardens:

With *great appreciation* to Bonnie Shaw for chairing the Riverside Gardens. Bonnie is a dedicated volunteer checking on the adjacent gardens of the Marguerite Riddle Memorial and the Bird & Butterfly pollinator. These winter months have the grounds of hardy plants and dormant plants wishing like us all for Spring. Bonnie pruning rose bushes and lavender in getting the Bird & Butterfly garden spruced a bit.

Three Rivers Community Seed Library:

TRCSL has had a busy couple of months! Dorit and Donna have enjoyed it all! So many in the community are grateful for the packets of seeds and the knowledge Dorit imparts to the ones having questions about growing them. We also share about the GPGC Plant Sale coming up on April 26.

January 25 — JoCo Fairgrounds Growers Market



January 29 — Seed Packing at the home of Pat and Adrienne Powers led by Dorit Brown

A big thank you to the Powers and the volunteers: Don & Pamela Davies, Curt & Valerie Hall, Rebecca Hove, Terry Miller, Lilly Radbourne, Lucy Saldana, Sandy Schramm, Bonnie Shaw, Sharon Snyder, Debbie Weske, Jan Wyllie, Donna Rewick, Dorit Brown and Carole Genovesi. Numerous coin-sized envelopes were packed with these seeds: Chiba Green Soybean, White Icicle Radish, Lacinato Kale, Blondkopfchen Tomato and Aunt Molly's Ground Cherry Tomato.



Continued:



February 22 — Seed Swap in the Arts & Crafts Building at the JoCo Fairgrounds

The event was a huge success with numerous attendees selecting packets of seeds for their garden growing. Many of our Club members stopped by for seeds and socializing. A thank you to Mike Zerwer and Jackson Brown for helping Dorit and Donna.



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

Strawberry Cheesecake Brownies

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, cubed
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- TOPPING:
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- ¾ cup seedless strawberry jam



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt butter. Stir in sugar, cocoa and vanilla. Add eggs, 1 at a time, whisking to blend after each addition. Add flour and salt; stir just until combined. Spread into greased 13x9-in. baking pan.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add egg and vanilla; beat on low speed just until blended. Spread cheesecake mixture over batter and drop strawberry jam by tablespoonfuls on top. Cut through jam and cheesecake mixture with a knife to swirl.
3. Bake until filling in center is almost set, 30-35 minutes. Cool 1 hour in pan on a wire rack. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. Cut into bars.



Thanks to Merlin Self Storage for your Support!