

# May 2025 Newsletter

Welcome Spring!

Some years, it seems as though spring is in hiding - unwilling to be coaxed or persuaded to appear, despite our best attempts. Spring doesn't notice that as soon as the new year begins we dutifully pack away all signs of winter by swapping out lush greenery for delicate blooms and heavy throws for light linens. Spring won't care what lays bare, it's simply content to show itself in its own time.

Nature is never in a hurry, and deep down, we know to be patient ... that just as it has every year before, spring will eventually arrive in promise of plenty. But the wait from here to there gets tricky. Trying to find comfort in the void is where we start to get a little uncomfortable when it comes to the changing of seasons. An unfinished project. Plans left up in the air. Milestones that are just out of reach. Any space, really, between a beginning and its ending. Without any honest cues about what comes next, with nothing to tether our feet to the ground, waiting can feel a lot like drifting.

There's a whole world of lessons that unfold in the waiting. In having that breathing room, that purposeful pause, there is space to be sharpened, to look up and take in all that we miss when we're busy looking down.

## ***MAY MEETING - LAST MEETING BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK:***

**Date:** May 14, 2025

**Time:** 9:30 AM - Set-up

10:00 AM - Business Meeting starts

10:30 - 11:00 - Social and Snack time

11:00AM - Program

12:30 - Clean-up

**Location:** Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South

Issaquah, WA

**Program:** Carol Schneider will present about peonies. Carol is a home gardener in Newcastle, WA and is the grand daughter of R.C. Schneider a Minnesota Peony Pioneer. She recalls spending hours with him in his "South Forty" as a young child. This early interest has spurred her to grow peonies in her own garden. Carol has even traveled to China to see the peonies in several cities and has shown peonies at the American Peony Society Convention. She has won Court of honor awards with her blooms.

**May Snack Committee:**

Hostess: Deb M.

Crew: Gloria W.

Marie W.

Joanne W.

Sandra R.

**LETS SAVE ON KITCHEN SUPPLIES:**

Please remember to bring your own plate, napkin and silverware so we don't deplete the club's supplies and reduces our garbage footprint! And, attention coffee and tea drinkers - remember to bring your own cup (THANKS)

**TIME TO PAY DUES FOR NEXT YEAR (2025-2026):**

It's that time again! Dues for the coming year will be \$25.00 but as we did last year please consider giving a little extra if you can. This way we can keep the bank balance from dwindling since we aren't planning on having a plant sale again this spring. ***Please give your cash, check or money order to Sandra.*** If you need to mail it to her you'll find her address in your yearbook

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**POST OFFICE TROUGH:**

A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to check on the trough and surrounding area to make sure it is tidy and to water during the summer months.

April - Thanks Lois for checking on the trough and reports are that it's looking good!

May - Lexie D.

June - Joan F.

July - need a volunteer

***THINGS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:***

***District Board Meeting on Monday, April 28 at Bellevue Botanical Garden:  
(Everyone is welcome to attend all Board Meetings)***

\*\* NEW OFFICERS were acknowledged and will be installed at the next General Membership Meeting (GMM) on May 19.

\*\* BUDGET FOR 2025 - 2026 was approved

\*\* GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM):

DATE: Monday, May 19

LOCATION: St. Andrew's Church

2650 148th Ave. SE, Bellevue

Note: It's easy to find and there is lots of free parking)

TIME: Registration begins at 9:30AM with the program starting at 10:00AM

THEME: "Flowers are the Music of Summer"

SPEAKERS: The Director of Bellevue Botanical Garden will do the horticultural presentation in the morning. After lunch (provided by West Sammamish Garden Club) the design presentation will be by two Avant members who will show some new and innovative ideas.

COST: \$10.00 (payable at the door during registration)

NOTE: **You need to reserve your spot!** Send an email to Joyce Voldal at [javoldal@hotmail.com](mailto:javoldal@hotmail.com). FYI, if you reserve a spot and do not show up you will be charged \$10.00.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY: Details to follow but it has been proposed that everyone will be asked to bring a clipping from their yard (flower or foliage) in a container (like you would for a flower show). Everyone participating will be given a description card to complete (like for a flower show) and receive a small gift of thanks for participating.

**\*\* ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION:**

After the meeting the Director of Bellevue Botanical Garden (James) escorted the group to the parking lot to see the two trees that were planted using funds donated by garden clubs, one individual and a WSFGC grant. There is actually \$145.00 that will be carried over to 2025 Arbor Day.

The two trees planted were a Yellow Magnolia and a Handkerchief Tree. Both are located in the parking lot and are young trees but beautiful. The Magnolia is blooming and the Handkerchief Tree blooms once it is mature but in the meantime as lovely variegated leaves!

***APRIL MEETING:***

**OFFICERS FOR 2025 - 2026 (nominated and approved):**

Co - President: Lexi and Lois

Vice President: Debbie D. And her team

Secretary: Lois

Treasurer: Sandra

**PROGRAM:**

Mandy Carter presented on Illuminary Design and Design Photography. Mandy is the President of the Avant Designers group of ELWD. She discussed ways to incorporate light for special effects and to make it an integral part of the design. She has recommended that this become part of flower shows in the future. The guidelines are in process of being written.

Mandy showed examples of using lights inside containers and as part of the actual design materials. She mentioned that all sizes, shapes and colors of lights (fairy lights, ribbon lights and up lights are examples) can be inexpensively ordered from Amazon. She discussed how lighting can create a mood.

She then discussed how to take improved photographs of gardens and floral arrangements. Some techniques include:

- \* Being thoughtful about where you focus (depth of field)
  - \* On phones you can touch the screen which determines the focal point of the picture
- \* Think about framing the design - remember that negative space needs to be incorporated into the overall design
- \* Consider if the picture is enhanced by taking it from straight on, from above or below
- \* Once you've taken the picture much can be done by cropping it
- \* If you have a controlled environment consider lighting and shadows. Lighting can be harsh, medium or soft.

### ***HORTICULTURAL CORNER:***

Gale presented about Peonies:

- \*\* Plants were developed 3,000 years ago in China
- \*\* Flowers are single, double and Itoh (named for Toichi Itoh and is a cross between the bush and tree peonies)
- \*\* Come in many colors - white, pinks, red and a new coral color which change color after being picked. Some have a gentle fragrance.
- \*\* Growing tips:
  - \* MUST have full sun!
  - \* Only want 1 inch of soil covering the tubers
  - \* Burying the roots too deep is the primary reason they don't bloom
  - \* In the fall, cut the plants to the ground
  - \* If you want to move a plant, do it when it is dormant
- \*\* Flower arranging tip:
  - \* Un-open buds can be wrapped in plastic wrap and stored in the refrigerator. When placed in a vase they will open.

## ***SAVE THE DATES:***

**May 16, 2025** - Work Day at Bellevue Botanical Garden from 9:00 to 11:00. Security clearance required to participate.

**May 19, 2025** - General Membership Meeting

**June 3 - 5, 2025** - WSFGC Convention "Wonderful World of Color" at Little Creek Casino in Shelton

**July 18 - 20, 2025** - District Flower Show - "Songs of Summer" at Bellevue Botanical Garden. **Volunteers needed!**

**September 29, 2025** - General Membership Meeting

## ***EDUCATIONAL CORNER:***

### Hummingbirds Are on Their Way — Find Out When They're Coming to Your Area

Since spring has finally sprung, you can look forward to seeing some gorgeous blooms all around (if you haven't already). And along with these blooms come everyone's favorite sweet-beaked tiny creatures: hummingbirds.

According to *Hummingbird Central's* [Spring 2025 Sightings and Migration Map](#), these flitting fliers are on their way north after spending their winter in sunny Central America. In order to increase your chances of sightings, and keep you up to date with the latest migration patterns,

here's everything you need to know about hummingbirds right now.

## Hummingbirds in Warming Areas

Hummingbirds are still in the process of trekking north; they haven't yet made it to cooler areas of the country. According to the *Hummingbird Central* map, over 10 different species have been spotted across the southern and western United States. The majority of these are ruby-throated hummingbirds flying through the southeastern part of the country en masse.

Second to this hefty population is the black-chinned hummingbird flying through Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, followed by rufous hummingbirds primarily in California.

All of this data is gathered by people who [submit sighting information](#) to *Hummingbird Central* for a greater understanding of general patterns and current migration status. So if you happen to see a hummingbird milling about, consider adding it to the database to contribute to a collaborative scientific effort.

## Fun Hummingbird Facts

"During migration, a hummingbird's heart beats up to 1,260 times a minute, and its wings flap 15 to 80 times a second. To support this high energy level, a hummingbird will typically gain 25-40% of their body weight before they start migration," the site says.

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## How to Attract Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are a stunning sight to behold, but because they are so small and quick it can be hard to spot them in the wild. However, there are a few things you can do in your own garden to increase your chances of attracting and spotting wild hummingbirds.

**Set out a [hummingbird feeder](#).** Hummingbirds have something of a sweet tooth, so they won't take from regular bird feeders. Ensure the [placement is ideal](#) as these birds are very skittish. Be sure to clean the feeder regularly to keep it clean and appealing, and try your best to deter other animals like [bees](#) or [ants](#) from invading it.

**Plant [their favorite flowers](#).** Bergamot, also known as bee balm, is a classic favorite of these tiny birds. Find out which plants work for your USDA zone and sit back as they enjoy the nectar.

**Plant a [hummingbird garden](#).** Hummingbird gardens include food, water, shelter, and nesting options. Include their favorite plants, but don't forget to plant them in a way that makes each flower accessible to these tiny creatures.