

April 2026 Newsletter

It's official ... it's Spring!

Sometime life is enough. You can fall asleep during the day with the window open and the curtains blowing softly in a faint breeze. You wake up to the sound of nature or family. The world is waiting for you. It's a blessing to be alive ...

For many spring is a time of new beginnings. As we get older and world's noise gets louder, it's easy for us to fall into autopilot, to just do what we always do.

So here's one thing for us to ask ourselves when we get up tomorrow morning:

What an I learn or discover today?

Put away your routine and your to-do lists for a second ... just long enough to see what curiosities and questions pop up. Pull on the thread and see where it takes you. Have an adventure and try something new!

APRIL GARDEN CLUB MEETING:

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 9:30 AM - Set-up

10:00 AM - Meeting

10:45AM - Social Time and Snacks

11:00AM - Speaker

12:30 - Clean-up

Horticultural Corner: Cilantro by Georgann Lennon

Program: Master Gardener Cleo Raulerson will present on "Shrubs That Grow Well in King County Gardens". She will cover evergreen and deciduous shrubs that grow well in our Western Washington climate. Some varieties are tried-and-true while others will be more unusual.

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church
745 Front Street South
Issaquah, WA

Snack Crew:

Hostess: Georgann L.

Crew: Lexie D.

Joy J.

Lois H.

Shadi W.

May Meeting: **May 13, 2026** (final meeting until September)

Horticultural Corner: Parsley by Nancy Gunderson

Program: Debbie DeFillips will do a hands-on workshop where we will learn the materials and steps needed to sand cast a leaf print. We will all create small leaf prints that we can take home.

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)

DO YOU HATE YOUR PICTURE IN THE GARDEN CLUB YEARBOOK?

At the April meeting you will have an opportunity to have your picture re-taken. If you want this done come with your best outfit on, your hair and make-up done and we will make it happen. This is a chance for a "new you" in the 2026 - 2027 yearbook!

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

March Meeting:

HORTICULTURAL CORNER: Maura presented on Rosemary. It is Latin for Dew of the Sea and can be used as a medicinal herb to increase memory, treat joint pain including headache, cure head cols and as a breath freshener. It also has culinary applications to season meat and poultry.

In ancient times it was used in bridal bouquets as it represents both love and fidelity. They also burned it to decrease the smell of the plagues.

It should be pruned late spring to early summer. Cut back by a third. The trimmings can be used to propagate new plants.

TREASURERS REPORT:

** Dues for next year is now payable. It's still \$25.00 but everyone who can financially handle an extra donation is encouraged to do so. This will keep the annual dues amount low so as to not exclude anyone and keep it so we don't have to have a fundraiser unless we choose to do so.

GARDEN THERAPY (JOAN H.):

** The next Garden Therapy at Avamere Nursing Home will be May 13 - right after the meeting

** Joan has submitted a grant application (thank you Joan!)

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN (GALE):

** No report

POST OFFICE (GEORGANN):

** Everything looks good except the cypress is getting a bit large. It was discussed if the tree could be trimmed and it was decided that planting something tall on the other side of the planter would be best. This will be addressed during a clean-up being scheduled for mid-April or May.

** Sign-up was done for watering and maintaining the trough through the summer months:

April: Joan F.

May: Debbie D.

June: Helen S.

July: Lexie D. And Sandra R.

August: Deb M.

September: Maura E.

BLUE STAR MARKER (DIANNE):

** Dianne has done two grant applications (thank you Dianne!). One is from Washington State Garden Federation for \$1000 (will find out if approved on April 1) and the second from Plant America for \$500. The Plant America request has already been approved. She anticipates using all of the money to improve the site and help with the Memorial Day celebration since it is a big birthday year for our country!

GROWING GREAT GARDENERS (DIANNE):

** The school is no longer supporting this effort so it's time for us to go and get the tools etc. from the storage shed. It was suggested that we can sell these at the pine Lake Plant Sale in early May.

OUTING OPPORTUNITY:

Pine Lake Garden Club is sponsoring a trip to see the Blue Poppy Garden

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Time: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Location: Rhododendron Species Garden in Federal Way

Cost: \$25.00 which covers the cost of the privately hired bus to get you there and back, entrance fee and tour

RSVP: Nancy Way at nancyway77@gmail.com
Tell her your club affiliation

FREE WORKSHOPS AT BELLEVUE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:

April 25	Fire Prevention for Your Yard	King County Natural Resources
May 23	Basics of Successful Vegetable Growing	Jim Olson
May 30	Garden Tool Sharpening	John Harmeling
June 6	Water Wise Gardening	Dawn Rubstello
July 11	Growing Garlic	Lory Armitage
July 25	Beavers: Ecosystem Engineers	Joe Mouser
Sept 26	Seed Saving	Colleen Donahue
Oct 3	Soil Nutrition	Karen Adams

All classes are held 10:00 - 11:30AM at Bellevue Demonstration Garden located at 15500 SE 16th Street, Bellevue.

For planning purposes please register at: BIT.LY/4PFXDZZ

For questions please speak with Georgann L.

SAVE THE DATES:

May 13 - Garden Therapy at Avamere Nursing Home (immediately after our meeting)

May 18 - General Membership Meeting at St. Andrews church, Bellevue

June 9 - 11 - State Convention at Icicle Village in Leavenworth. Registration must be in before May 6

August 21 - 23 - Washington State Flower Show "Red White, & Bloom" (celebrating the 250th Birthday of the United States. This will be held at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

EDUCATIONAL CORNER:

6 Ways to Use Lemon Peels in Your Garden to Prevent Pests, Boost Soil, and More

Make the most of your fresh lemon peels with these ideas.

The fresh tang of a juicy lemon is a welcome complement to sweet or savory recipes. But what do you do with leftover peels and rinds? During gardening season, you can put them to good use in your outdoor spaces.

Lemons have natural acids that make the peels an effective [repellent for mosquitoes](#), ticks, and other pests while also [attracting pollinators](#). Rather than throwing them away, we spoke to experts who shared the [best ways to use lemon peels](#) in your garden.

Meet the Expert

Adrienne Roethling, head gardener for a private estate and former curator of Juniper Level Botanic Gardens at [Plant Delights Nursery](#)
Carrie Spoonemore, co-creator of [Park Seed's From Seed to Spoon app](#)
Sara Rubens, certified garden coach and founder of [Seed to Sanctuary](#)

Make a Pest Repellent

Try using lemons to [make a pest spray](#) for your garden. Boil six cut lemons in 4 cups of water and let it steep overnight, then decant the liquid into a spray bottle (and compost the fruits). "One can [add mint leaves](#) to the recipe to add another level of fragrance pests hate or a teaspoon of dish soap to spray on [plants with aphids](#)," she says. Use the all-natural spray in garden beds and reapply as needed to maintain the scent.

You can also place the peels around the base of your plants or the edge of your garden to make a [physical barrier that deters pests](#) in tandem with the peels' unwelcome fragrance, says Carrie Spoonemore of Park Seed.

Boost Soil Acidity

The [citric acid in lemon peels](#) can also [affect the acidity of your soil](#) when added to your [compost pile](#). Place lemon peels in your compost bin with other organic material; after six months of turning the piles or bin, the aged compost can be applied to the soil around acid-loving plants, like blueberries and azaleas, Roethling says

If you don't have a compost pile, you can still use the peels to adjust the soil's acidity. "Dried and ground into a powder, they can be sprinkled directly into the soil to subtly adjust pH levels," says Sara Rubens, certified garden coach and founder of Seed to Sanctuary.

Fertilize the Soil

Use the vitamins and nutrients in lemon peels to improve your garden's health by turning them into a [liquid fertilizer](#), says Rubens. To make a "gentle, homemade" fertilizer, she says to soak chopped peels in water for a couple of days, then strain and use the nutrient-infused water to feed your plants.

Attract Butterflies

[Encourage butterflies to visit](#) and pollinate your garden by leaving lemon peels around your backyard, says Roethling. "Lemon peels attract butterflies, who are drawn to the acidity," she says. "Keep lemon peels in dishes throughout the garden, and be sure to replace them before mold sets in." This approach offers aromatherapeutic benefits, too. "Gardeners find fragrances relaxing, and the aroma of lemon throughout the garden may reduce stress or make memories just as well as fragrant flowers," she says.

Clean Your Tools

[Keeping your garden tools clean](#) minimizes the spread of disease in your garden. "The natural citric acid in lemon peels makes them excellent for cleaning garden tools—just rub the peel over dirty surfaces to cut through grime before rinsing and drying," says Rubens.

Grow New Seeds

Start new plants in hollowed-out lemon peels. "For a fun and eco-friendly seed-starting option, consider using halved lemon peels as biodegradable pots," says Rubens. "After scooping out the pulp, poke a drainage hole in the bottom, fill with seed-starting mix, and plant your seeds. When the seedlings are ready to transplant, the whole lemon cup can be planted directly into the soil, where it will decompose and enrich the earth."