

June 2026 Newsletter

Happy Summer!

By its very nature, summer tends to call us up and out — up from our routines, out from our comfort zones. And isn't that a beautiful way to grow? Each time we change our pace or vantage point we stumble onto something worthwhile — to learn or see or experience. Summer invites us to chase adventure.

Chasing adventure can be done with grand gestures — far-and-wide experiences that bring us to the edge of ourselves or more modest outings close to home. These things are meaningful and worthy of seeking. But, adventure is already waiting in the spaces around us. No matter where curiosity leads you this summer, all you need to enjoy the journey is eyes to see, arms to reach out, and feet to follow ...

SUMMER OUTING:

Date: Wednesday, July 8

Time: 11:00AM

What: A tour of Gretchen Van Brunt's garden
13927 233rd Way SE
Issaquah, WA

Lunch will be provided so we will need an accurate head-count. Please RSVP to Lois (lahelbert@gmail.com) and/or Lexi (alexisdavison@gmail.com) by July 1st

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED:

MAY Meeting:

HORTICULTURAL CORNER:

Nancy G. presented about Parsley. Parsley is actually a member of the carrot family. It is originally from the Eastern Mediterranean area and there are three main varieties. The Greeks and Romans grew it but thought that it brought bad luck consisting of death and misfortune. They would use it to cover a corpse to help mask the smell. It was thought that to plant parsley seeds would result in them going back and forth to the devil a total of 9 times. It is challenging to grow from seed.

Parsley grows best in sun but can grow in partial shade. The flowers produce a strong scent and can be used as a border to protect other plants from pests. It is also commonly used in cooking and has many medicinal uses.

TREASURERS REPORT:

** We have \$3310.00 in checking and \$3052.00 in savings. We have 20 paid members as well as 2 new members for next year.

** Dues for next year is due. 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. Extra donations will help us avoid needing to have a fundraiser.

** Donation basket for 'Plant A Tree' was passed.

GARDEN THERAPY (JOAN H.):

** We will be making arrangements for Avamere Nursing Home right after the meeting today. The arrangements will be made here at the church and transported over to Avamere due to a report from them about positive COVID cases.

BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN (GALE):

** No report

POST OFFICE (GEORGANN):

** Connor and his ACT students joined the effort and have committed to an ongoing relationship with this project.

** Hen & chicks have been planted in front of the trough and gravel will be added to make it look more finished. Also the patch of Ajuga will be expanded.

** Sign-up was done for watering and maintaining the trough through the summer months. Remember that you need to bring water in jugs ... 3 - 4 gallons should be sufficient:

June: Helen S.

July: Lexie D. And Sandra R.

August: Deb M.

September: Maura E.

BLUE STAR MARKER (DIANNE):

** Work days are scheduled for May 14 (planting mini-rhodies and red, white and blue flowers) and 21 (spreading bark) at 10:00AM. Please bring gardening tools - trowel, shovel, rake etc.

** There will be a Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 25 at 10:00AM
** All celebrations will be at the Issaquah Senior Center with only flags being placed at the cemetery for appropriate holidays.

MEMBERSHIP (MARIE):

** We have one visitor today - Jane Tierney
** Both Peggy Watt (visitor from April) and Jane Tierney joined ... welcome Peggy and Jane!

NEW BUSINESS (LEXIE):

** Next year in lieu of "Horticultural Corner" we will have "Meet the Garden Club Members" where different members will introduce themselves and share their garden related experiences.
** Next year we will also add birthday month to each member's information in the yearbook as well as having Emergency Contact Information on file.
** We have recently been approached by a number of garden clubs about "advertising" their fundraisers in our newsletter. Often we've received incomplete information making this difficult. After discussion it was decided that Lois will use discretion as to which requests get included and those that don't.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM):

May 18 was the GMM. The morning horticulture presentation was by Emilie Castle on the topic of Herbs. She gave many reasons for growing herbs as well as tips such as most herbs prefer sun (6 hours/day), well drained soil, are disease and pest free, should be fertilized like all vegetables, taste best before they flower and to discourage flowering, pinch off developing buds. Also, don't plant Basil until June!

There was a brief business meeting followed by lunch and a design presentation by Amanda from the French Florist located in Bellevue. She talked about creating emotion through design and a different technique of clustering like flowers together and keeping the arrangement low for maximum effect.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION (BLUE STAR MARKER):

The celebration was a huge success with over 120 people attending. There was a wide variety of ages from a baby in arms to seniors. After the inside celebration where the ROTC presented the flag everyone filed out to the Blue Star Marker. Dianne had an

opportunity to explain that the Issaquah Garden Club commissioned, paid for and installed the marker as a National Federation Garden project which started in 1944 to honor veterans. The first marker in Washington was installed at the Peace Arch in 1948 and there are now over 60 markers in the state.

FREE WORKSHOPS AT BELLEVUE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN:

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](https://bit.ly/4PFXDZZ)

For questions please speak with Georgann L.

SAVE THE DATES:

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

June 12 - Join the ACT kids from the Issaquah School District for a Work Day at Issaquah Post Office. Arrive about 11:00AM and work until noon. Bring your gardening tools!

July 8 - Summer outing - tour of Gretchen Van Brunt's garden in Issaquah (see above for details)

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:

5 Ways to Use Grass Clippings to Make Your Whole Garden Thrive

Don't toss those lawn clippings after you mow! Use them for mulch, compost, and more.

When it comes to [cutting the lawn](#), many of us know that it's a multi-step process. Not only do you have to take care to remove any debris or obstacles from your yard *before* getting started, but once you've completed the task of mowing, you'll still have to complete other outdoor chores like edging, weed whacking, and sometimes even dealing with those grass clippings that get left behind.

Depending on how long your lawn had been before you used your mower, you may be looking at a significant amount of yard waste that needs to be disposed of. But before you consider putting those clippings out with the trash, you will want to see what our expert says you should be doing with them instead. Not only will this help keep your grass looking its best, but some of these methods can also improve the rest of your landscape.

RELATED: [How Often Should You Mow Your Lawn? Experts Weigh In](#)

Leave Clippings In the Grass to Improve Soil

If you want to help improve the quality of your grass with each mow, Russell Taylor, recipient of the 2023 Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Conservationist of the Year Award and vice president of Live Earth Products, says you can leave the clippings where they fall. "My first and obvious recommendation is to mulch the clipping on the lawn with a

mulching blade," he says. "Mulching the grass clippings helps to return nutrients and build soil organic matter."

Add Clippings to Compost

As long as your lawn hasn't been treated with herbicides, Taylor says they can also be [added to your compost pile](#). "Be cautious about using clippings from a lawn treated with herbicides," he says. "Picloram, for example, is a herbicide that can persist in compost for an extended period. These types of herbicides degrade very slowly in compost and soil, leaving residues that can be present in finished compost," This also applies to those who are using their compost for edible gardens and those who just want to add them to flower beds.

"Do not use clippings from lawns recently treated (within six weeks of application) with the growth regulator herbicides 2,4-D, dichlorprop, dicamba, MCPP, or triclopyr in fields, vegetable gardens, or ornamental beds," he says. "These herbicides can carry over to clippings, and compost can cause injury to broadleaf crops."

RELATED: [A Beginner's Guide to Composting, According to Experts](#)

Use Clipping to Mulch Garden Beds

Grass clippings can be used as mulch around trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants, Taylor says. "Apply a thin layer (1 to 2 inches) of clippings to suppress weeds, retain moisture, and regulate soil temperature," he says.

Just be sure you're spreading those clippings evenly across the soil. "Avoid thick layers to prevent matting and poor air circulation," says Taylor.

RELATED: [5 Clever Ways to Reuse Old Mulch, According to Gardening Experts](#)

Grass Clippings Contain Seeds

No matter which of these options you choose, Taylor says you'll want to remember that grass clippings can contain viable seeds. "Grass clippings can introduce seeds to garden beds, leading to volunteer grass growth," he says. "To minimize this, ensure

proper composting practices or choose alternative uses like mulching non-garden plants."

Add Clippings to Vermicomposting

Those who use [vermicomposting](#) as part of their gardening process can add pesticide- and herbicide-free clippings to their mix. "Vermicomposting uses worms to break down organic matter, including grass clippings," Taylor says, adding that this is a more controlled process than traditional composting.

"Worms can convert grass clippings into nutrient-rich worm castings, which are excellent for improving soil health," he says. "Be cautious and monitor the worms' health, as they can be sensitive to certain chemicals."

Make 'Grass Tea' With Your Clippings

Weed and grass clippings can be used to make a nutrient-rich liquid fertilizer known as "grass tea," according to Taylor. To make it, he says you'll need a large container (a 5-gallon bucket works well), your grass clippings, and captured rainwater, which he says you'll need to stir occasionally over several days.

"Strain the liquid and dilute it with water (1:10 ratio) before using it to water plants," he says, adding that grass tea can provide a quick nutrient boost to garden plants without the risk of introducing seeds or persistent herbicides directly to the soil.

Tips

The process of making the tea will not remove existing chemicals from the grass blades, so this shouldn't be done with grass that has been treated with herbicides and pesticides.

RELATED: [How to Make Compost Tea—and Use It to Encourage Plant Growth and Prevent Pests](#)

