



# WEST LINN GARDEN CLUB

A SHORT 100+ YEAR HISTORY

# The early days...

1915 - Mr. B. F. McBain and Mr. John Draper, both with large rose gardens, decided to put on a Rose Show. They enlisted other gardeners to join in the effort.

We assume that was the impetus to form the West Linn Rose Society in 1916, the precursor to the West Linn Garden Club.

John William Draper was born in June 1867, in Texas. He married Aurie May Moore on 23 July 1889, in Clackamas, Oregon, United States.

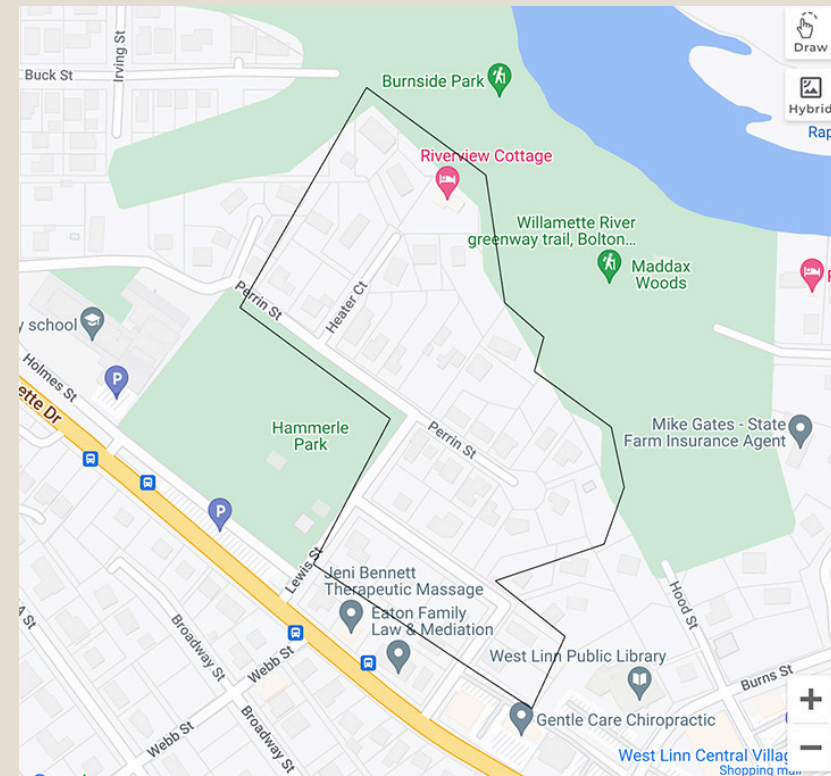
They were the parents of at least 5 sons and 3 daughters.

He lived in West Linn, Clackamas, Oregon, United States in 1920 and West Linn Election Precinct 4, Clackamas, Oregon, United States in 1940.

# 1920's

The club was known as the West Linn Rose Society, with members noted for their roses in the Holly Gardens area. The Rose Show, along with the eventual Parades by the area children, occurred until 1925.

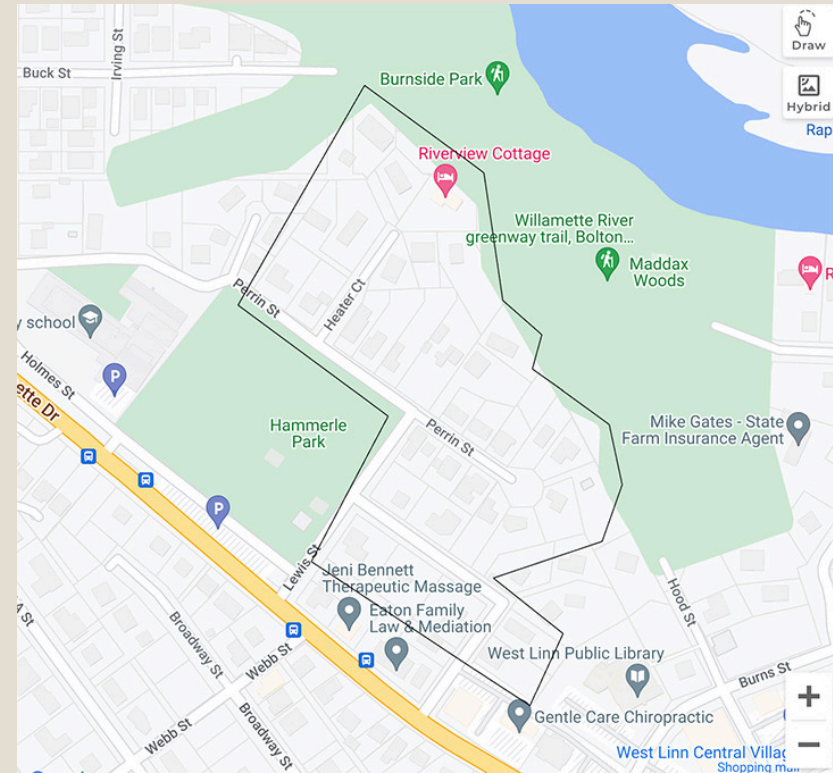
Our club was one of the first officially organized garden clubs in Oregon. They were already in the Portland Rose Society, which began in 1889.



# From West Linn Rose Society to West Linn Floral Club

On September 9, 1925, nine people interested in the cultivation of fall flowers met at the home of Mrs. Nels McKilican and formed the society for the propagation of fall flower, to be known as the “West Linn Floral Club.”

Mrs. Harry Greaves, wife of the the third Mayor of the city (1921-1922) was acting President and Mrs. John Draper, acting Secretary. On September 19, 1925, they held their first floral show.



# 11 Years later, the Club was renamed the West Linn Garden Club

Mrs Glifford Robbins was elected President of the group on March 16, 1926, and Mrs. R. Reddick her Vice President. The first rose show was held on May 22, 1926.

Mrs. Maybell Hogan was president of the group from 1933-1938.

The name was changed to West Linn Garden Club in 1934. The club affiliated with the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs in 1936, and is a member of Clackamas District 15.

The Crimson Rose was designated the Club flower.

Photo [84955628](#) © [Kingan](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)



# 1930's

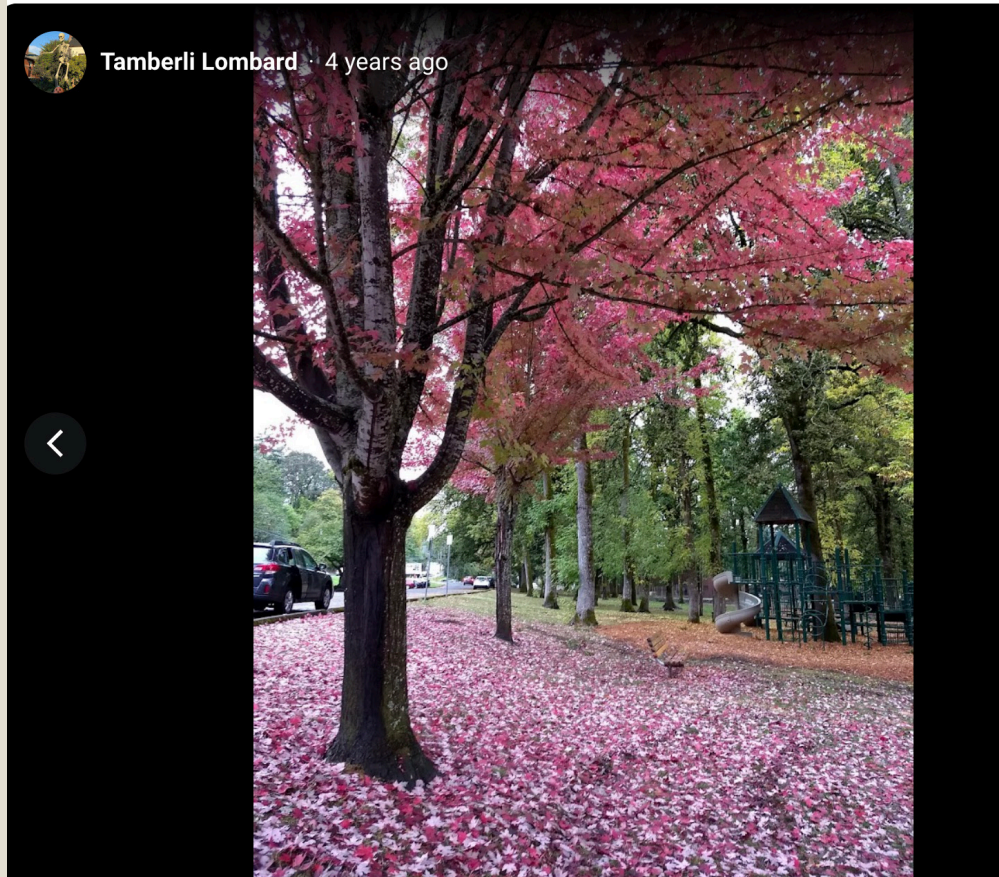
Members made their first effort to beautify the community in the spring of 1935. The first planting was made at the west end of the old bridge, with landscaping around the drinking fountain, near the West Linn City Hall .

The club contributed to Garden Therapy-Garden of Enchantment, Willamette National Cemetery Landscaping Fund, the Clare Hanley Fund for Horticulture Scholarships and the Audubon Society.

Later plantings were made of petunias and azaleas in the triangle about the City Hall. Flowering plum trees on Portland Avenue in Hammerle Park were planted by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lenz and their committee. For many years these plants were cared for by the members.



# 1930's



Flowering plum trees on Portland Avenue in Hammerle Park were planted by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lenz and their committee. For many years these plants were cared for by the members.

In 1966, members appeared before the West Linn City Council, who approved their request for expanding the project, with planting financed and cared for by the city. Those trees are big shade trees today.

# Club Presidents 1930s -2000s

1933-38	Mrs. Mabelle Hogan	1967-68	Mrs. Isa Silver	2017-18	Mrs. Marilyn Elwood
1938-40	Mr. Hugh Peeples	1968-69	Mrs. William Schultze		Mrs. Judith Hutchinson
1940-43	Mrs. Lester Louden	1969-73	Mrs. Gilbert Scholle	2018-19	Mrs. Barbara Bronson
1943-45	Mrs. C. Enghouse	1973-75	Mrs. William Schultze		Mrs. Nancy Ebsen
1945-48	Mrs. GW McKillican	1975-77	Mrs. Virgil Maddax	2019-21	Mrs. Barbara Bronson
1948-49	Mrs. Isa Silver	1977-79	Mrs. Lester J		Mrs. Nancy Ebsen
1951-53	Mrs. DanMcMahon	1979-81	Mrs. Virgil Maddax	2021-23	Mrs. Diane Awalt
1953-55	Mrs. Herbert Lenz	1981-89	Mrs. Ed Holland	2023-24	Mr. Gordon Piper
1955-57	Mrs. G. Hammerle	1989-90	Committee		
1957-58	Mrs. William Wilant	1990-94	Mrs. Virgil Maddax		
1958-59	Mrs. E. Glen Harvey	1994-98	Mr. Allen Poppe		
1959-60	Mrs. Charles Gildea	1998-02	Ms. Amy Nakano		
1960-61	Mrs. John Denholme	2002-06	Ms. JoAnne Forsyth		
1961-63	Mrs. Oscar Larsen	2006-10	Mrs. Elaine Mahoney		
1963-65	Mrs. William Schultze	2010-15	Mrs. Jane Sercombe		
1965-67	Mrs. W. Oldenstadt	2015-17	Mrs. Marilyn Elwood		



# 1950s

Former President Jane Sercomb (2010-2015) noted that prior to the 1960s, members dressed up, wearing corsages, hats, gloves and stockings with seams! “Back then most women did not work outside of the home and the club was their gathering place.” She said that the club met at different locations in the community, often at the County Grange, and brought their own lunch to meetings.



# 1970s



In the 1970s, meetings were held on the first Monday of the month.

May was the plant sale; June 1<sup>st</sup> was a flower show, July was a club picnic, August a club tour and December was a Christmas Party. *(from notes written by Mrs. Schultz, president 1973-75).*

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# 1970's-2013

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Please help fill in the blanks!!!!

# 2013

The West Linn Garden Club sponsored a Blue Star Memorial Highway marker on I-205 overlooking Willamette Falls.

The Blue Star Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. This program began with the planting of 8,000 Dogwood trees by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 as a living memorial to veterans of World War II.



# 2016–100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



2016 heralded the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club, which members commemorated by planting a Ginkgo tree at the West Linn Adult Center.

During that year, members faithfully brought flower arrangements each week to the West Linn Public Library.

# 2016 – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On July 18, 2016, members of the West Linn Garden Club rededicated five “firefighter” rose bushes at the Tualatin Fire and Rescue District’s newly constructed Bolton Fire Station. For years roses had been growing at the former fire station next door. Landscapers moved the roses to their new location after the new Bolton Fire Station opened.

The dark red rose was named for firefighters who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Elaine Mahoney, one of the garden club's long-time members, said that the plan to place the roses at their local fire station was in the works for some time.

"West Linn Garden Club's intent with this planting is to honor all emergency responders, especially our own West Linn firefighters," Mahoney said.



*From Oregon Live, Rick Bella, July 18, 2016*

*From Oregon Live, Rick Bella, July 18, 2016*

# 2017

In addition to our monthly meetings, members took field trips, such as this one to the Portland Japanese Garden.

*L-r: Barbara Sanne, Barbara Bronson, Heidi Street, Marilyn Ellwood, Elaine Mahone, Laurel Buncak, Monique Harris, Maxine Borosund, Cathie Kappel and Alma Coston.*



# 2020-McLean House



In April, 2020, the West Linn Garden Club entered into an agreement with the City of West Linn to take on management of the front area of the McClean House on River Road in West Linn.

Since then, the Club has handled improvement of the gardens, cultivating, transplanting, installing, grooming, weeding and/or other needed attention to enhance the beauty and appropriate display of the area.

This year, the Club will plant different varieties of lavender in the front area. The project is led by member Judy Hutchinson.

The McLean House was built by Dr. Edward Mclean for his family. He founded both the McLean Clinic in Oregon City and he Oregon Medical Association. The house was purchased by the City of West Linn in 1969 with federal funds and a partial donation by the family.

The Friends of McLean Park and House worked with the City in maintaining the house and grounds from 1980 until 2022.



# 2002-Prospering Post Pandemic

After Covid, the West Linn Garden Club came back like a well-pruned rose!



We held our first “Pot Party” in April to prep plants for the upcoming annual Plant Sale.



In the fall, we learned how to save seeds for the coming planting season.

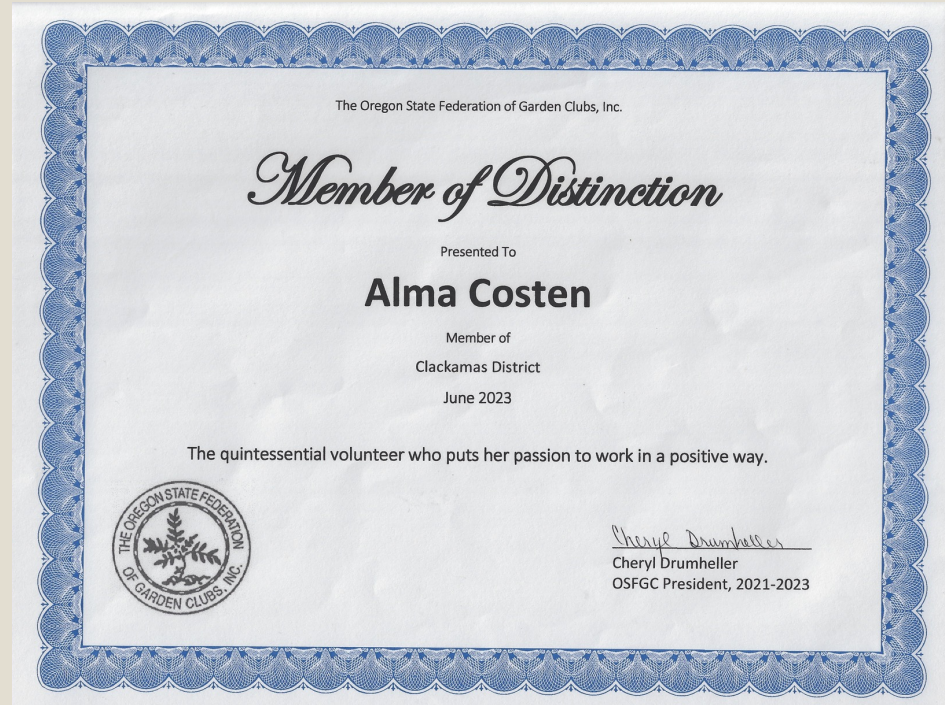
# 2023 Plant Sale



Every year on the weekend before Mother's Day, the West Linn Garden Club hosts it's annual Plant Sale with varieties from member's gardens. The sale is our annual fund raiser– and friend raiser as we recruit new members at the Hammerle Park event.

*L-r: Jane Sercomb, Stephanie Scott, Monique Harris and Laurel Buncak*

# Alma Costan 2023 OSFGC Member of Distinction



# Special Projects



Over the years the club has held Daffodil Shows, Rose Shows, supported pollinator plants at Mary Young Park and projects at Maddox Woods and McLean House.





# THE FUTURE IS OURS

Help us make history