

Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club History



May 12, 2025



The Vashon Heritage Museum stands on the ancestral lands of the sx̣wəbabš or Swift Water People, who inhabited Vashon-Maury Island for millennia.

The Donation Land Claim Act encouraged large numbers of settlers to claim land, even before the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854 extinguished Native claims to it.

The sx̣wəbabš were imprisoned on Fox Island during the Puget Sound Treaty Wars by the Territorial government and later relocated onto the Puyallup Reservation.

We acknowledge the people of the Puyallup Tribe whose stewardship of and relationship with Vashon-Maury Island continues today.

We commit to amplify the voices of Indigenous People, making space for them to tell their own story, both past and present, in our exhibits and programs.

Sharing Our Passion

Whether it's called the Peach Festival, the Harvest Festival, the Vashon Island Festival or the Strawberry Festival, the Garden Club has been celebrating with the rest of the island — with floats, Flower Fairs, even a Drill Team! And to encourage others to become passionate gardeners there are the plant sales and holiday craft shows.

Stages of Garden Club Development

First Stage – sx^wəbabš or Swift Water People

Second Stage - 1880s to 1910s – Horticultural

Third Stage – 1910s to 1930s - Beautification

Fourth Stage – 1940s to 1960s – Flowers and Arrangements

Fifth Stage - 1970s to 1990s – Shift

Sixth Stage – 2000s to 2010s – Inclusion

Seventh Stage – 2010s to 2020s – Community

Vashon Maury Island c.1750



First Stage
Vashon Gardens
sx^wəbabš or Swift Water People

Swales

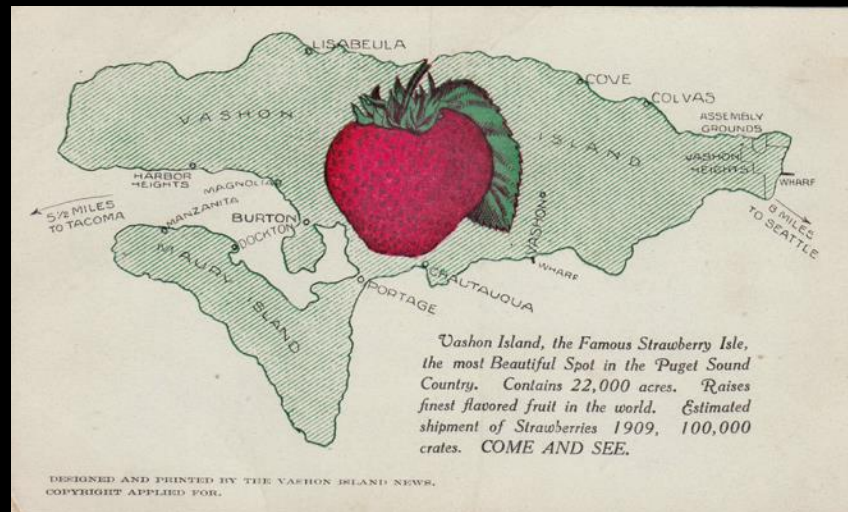
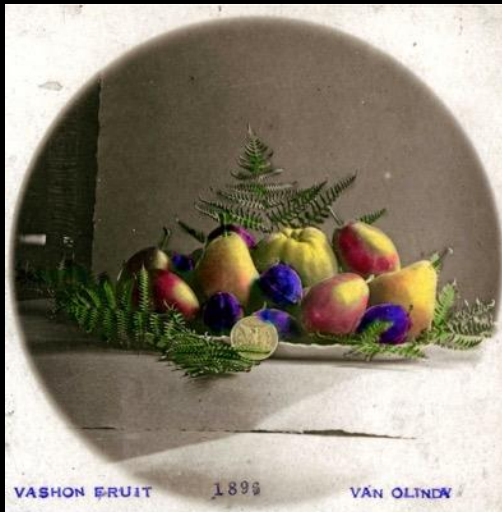
Clam Gardens

Second Stage - Horticulture Vashon Horticultural Clubs

Chautauqua 1888

Vashon Horticultural Club 1892
First in State of Washington

Fruit Growers Horticultural Society 1900



Second Stage - Horticulture

World War I Victory Gardens



Ida Van Olinda in her Victory Garden - 1918

Third Stage - Beautification

Vashon Garden Clubs: The Beginnings

Burton

1927 – Burton Improvement Club

1928 - Burton Garden Club

1929 – Burton Flower Show

1930 - Vashon Lily Club



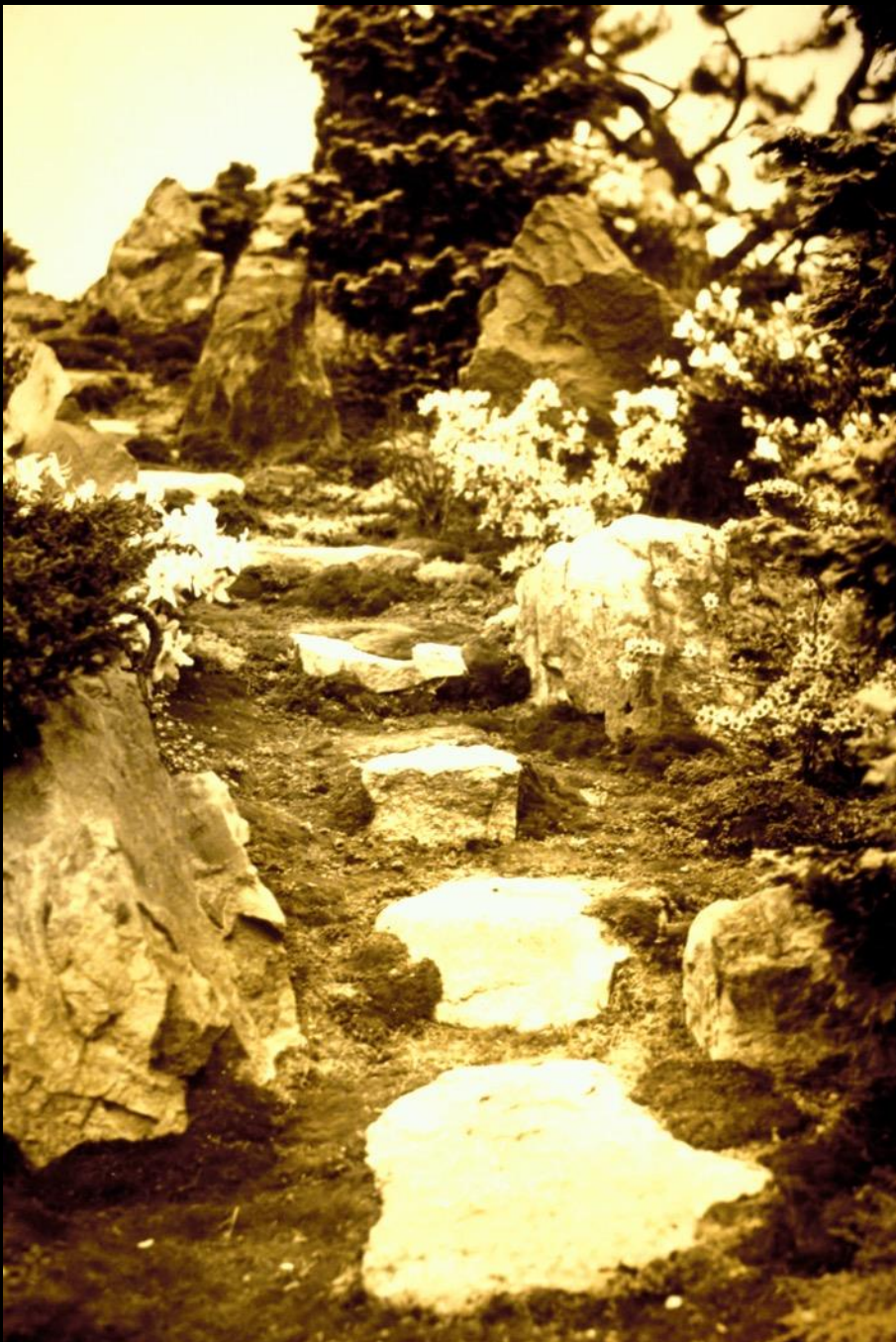


Vashon Gardens

Twickenham Estates

1920s

Water Gardens



Vashon Gardens

Mukai Gardens

1930s

Japanese Stroll Garden

Vashon - April 9th 1945

On March 19th Mrs. Wallace Beall invited a number of ladies to her home to discuss the organizing of a Garden Club. Those present were Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Beall, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Gabourel. All were in favor of such a club, and decided to accept the invitation given by Mrs. Hansen to meet at her home April 9th to complete the formation and elect officers. Mrs. Beall then served tea which was greatly enjoyed by all.

With Mrs. Hansen acting as chairman the Garden Club was organized with the following ladies elected to serve as officers.

President - Mrs. Gorsuch

Vice-President - Mrs. Howe

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Gabourel

Committee appointed by Mrs. Gorsuch were: Constitution and By-Laws.

Mrs. Gibson - Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Wise.

Program.

Mrs. Beall, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Gorsuch.

Magazine - Mrs. Day.

Transportation - Mrs. Boyd

Social.

Mrs. Friend, Mrs. Brandt, and Mrs. Gabourel.

It was voted that the club meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m., and that dues be \$1.00 per year.

It was also voted that no refreshments be served at future meetings for the duration, unless the club was having a guest speaker or special meeting.

There were ten ladies present. Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Gorsuch, Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Brandt, Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Friend, Mrs. Day and Mrs. Gabourel.

Like Mrs. Beall, Mrs. Hansen also served tea to celebrate the occasion.

Peggy Gabourel. Secretary

Fourth Stage

Vashon Garden Club - 1945 Organized with 80 members

April 9, 1945

President - Mrs. Gorsuch

Vice-President - Mrs. Howe

Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Gabourel

The election of officers for 1946 was as follows:-

President - Peggy Gaborel

Vice-President - Kathryn Hansen

Secretary-Treasurer - Alice Boyd.

Two new members were elected to the club, and the secretary was instructed to notify them. They are Mrs. Isobel Beale and Mrs. Kathleen Harpuling. Meeting was then adjourned and tea, with delicious home made nut bread sandwiches and cookies, was served by Mrs. Howe.

Treasurer's Report:-

Balance on hand after payment of bills
in connection with luncheon

Dues

Total

\$ 6.18

2.00

\$ 8.18

Peggy Gaborel.
Secretary pro. tem.

Vashon Garden Club

1946

Balance on Hand - \$ 6.15

Dues - \$ 2.00

Total - \$8.18

Vashon Island Garden Club 1950 Festival Parade



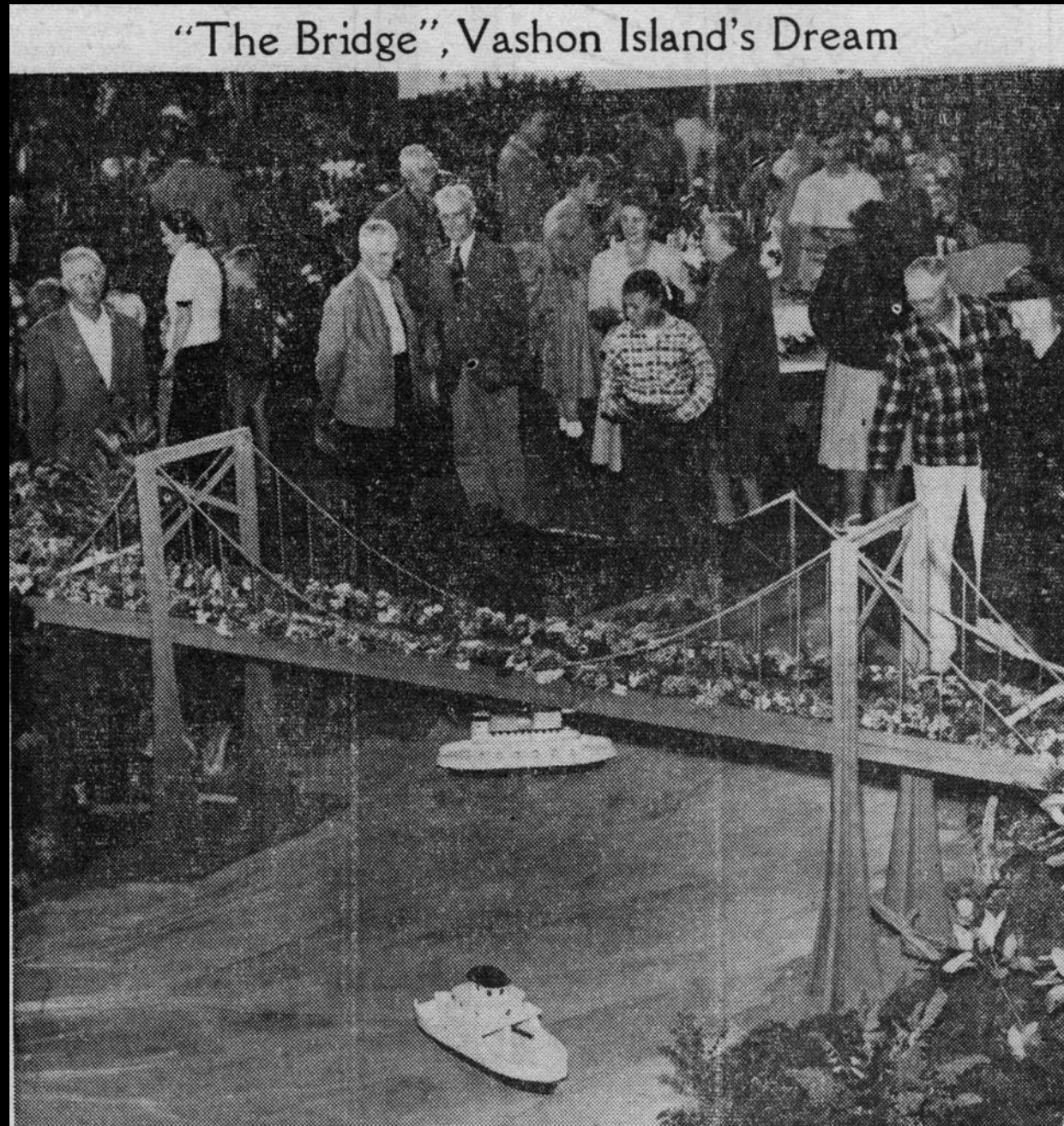
Monty Arrowsmith & Mr. Langley

Vashon Island Garden Club 1951 Festival Parade – Vashon Queen and Princesses



Susan Wadleigh, Queen, Court: Helen Krancevich, Phyllis Brown, Nancy Reed, Nancy Dahlgren

1951
Vashon Island
Garden Club
Flower Show
The Bridge
Wins State Award



1952 Merger

Vashon Island Garden Club
Unit 1
and
Vashon Island Garden Club
Unit 2

VASHON ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

On October 6, 1952, the present Vashon Island Garden Club was formed by the consolidation of the former Clubs known as Vashon Island Garden Club Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Vashon Island Garden Club

Flower Arranging

Flower arranging was such a focus in the earlier days of the Club that in 1952, members were required to bring three horticultural specimens or flower arrangements to each meeting, with a fine of 25 cents per arrangement if they did not! The Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club belonged to the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, whose conferences included elaborate flower arranging competitions, as did our local Flower Fairs and Festivals.

Vashon Island Garden Club

Flower Shows & Flower Arranging



WOMEN IN THE NEWS:



PROUD GARDENERS: Mrs. Robert J. Russell, left, was chairman of the flower show in connection with the Vashon Island Harvest Festival Saturday. Mrs. Margaret E. Bard, right, is president of the island's Chamber of Commerce. The Vashon Island Garden Club received first prize in a state-wide competitive flower show last year and the award was made at the festival.

Vashon Island Garden Club

1952
Flower Arranging

Vashon Island Garden Club

1953
Hat Day

Garden Club Hat Day Shows Millinery Flair

By GENEVIEVE WHITE

Lily Dache' and Mr. John may decide to retire since the annual hat parade of the Vashon Island Garden Club Monday. There was enough talent disclosed in the hat design field to take over that department for the entire industry.

The judges Bea Garrison, Mae Pruner and Janice Lee, had a very difficult time awarding prizes as there were so many beautiful and clever creations, using flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Prizes were given to Doretha Miller for the prettiest hat, Freda Koski for the most becoming, Bessie Siegrist for the funniest and Olive Williams for the most original. The sweepstakes award was given to Fern Downer for her creation of braided iris leaves, trimmed in pink peonies and batchelor buttons.

The luncheon tables were unusually lovely, with large hat baskets of mixed garden flowers on a center runner of pale pink, with pink flower-crowned hats at each end.

The committee of the day was Olive Williams, chairman, and Ethel Johnson, Nina Gorsuch, Alma Hubbard, Freda Koski, Grace McNeil and Mae Pruner.

After a very interesting and informative talk on making cuttings by Mrs. Glenn W. Trittle, the following officers for the coming year were installed: President, Mrs. Kenneth Phelan; first vice-president, Mrs. W. L. DeTreville; second vice-president, Mrs. Ted Gorsuch; third vice-president, Mrs. E. D. Engeset; recording secretary, Mrs. Erl McCormick; financial secretary, Mrs. Clarence Wright; treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Hall, and historian, Mrs. Donald Clancy.



Fifth Stage - The Shift



Celebrate Earth Day
WASH-A-HIPPIE

Earth Day – Earth Faire

Fifth Stage – The Shift



1980s Entrance Arrangement

C. 528
Membership List for 1961-62

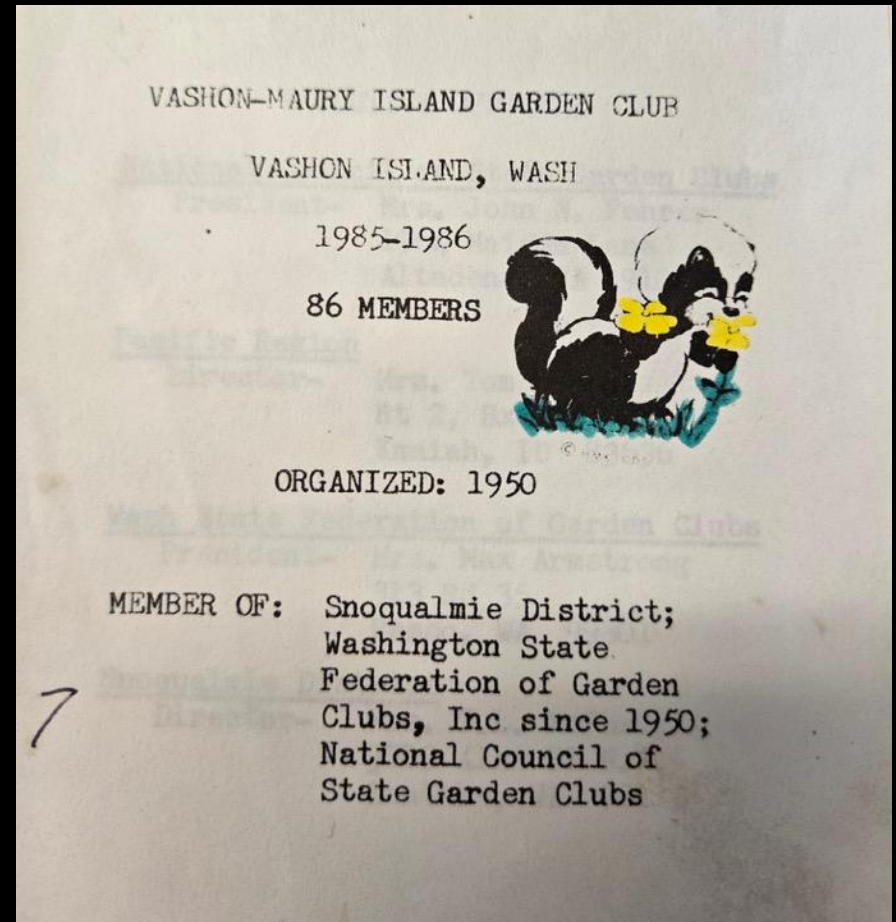
Mrs. James Allen	Charlotte
Rt. 1, Box 506, Uashon	
Mrs. W. F. Barnett	Irene
Rt. 1, Box 200, Uashon	
Mrs. Ike Beal	Martie
Rt. 1, Box 77A, Burton	
Mrs. L. C. Benson	Rachel
Rt. 2, Box 235, Burton	
Mrs. Frederick Blake	Grace
Rt. 1, Box 583, Uashon	
Mrs. S. E. Bokland	Marj
Rt. 1, Box 507, Uashon	
Mrs. Earl Boynton	Charlotte
Rt. 2, Box 140, Burton	
Mrs. A. C. Carleton	Hazel
Rt. 1, Box 75, Burton	

From Mrs. to Names

Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club



1973 VIGC Membership Book



1985 V-MIGC Membership Book

Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club Federation of Garden Clubs



GREETERS: When delegates arrive next Sunday for the National Council of State Garden Clubs' convention, they will be greeted at the registration desk in The Olympic by hostesses wearing green hats trimmed with (of course) pink rhododendrons, the Washington State flower. Among those manning the desk will be,

from left, Mrs. Stanley Roberts, Mrs. Edwin J. Osols and Mrs. F. Parley Davis, registration chairman. State pennants will point out where each state's delegation should register. (The Montana pennant was made first since it's the home of the national president.) Scenic tours are planned for delegates. —Condiotty photo.

1958 National Convention

It's Magic!

*Washington State
Federation of Garden Clubs*

60th Annual Convention

June 2-4, 1993
SeaTac, Washington

Hosted by Chinook District

1993 State Convention

2000 Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club leaves Federation of Garden Clubs

In 2000 the Club voted to break away to focus on local horticultural interests. That ended the judged flower displays that brought bushels of ribbons back to Vashon. Presentation topics switched from workshops on flower arranging to such things as native plant gardening, or water wise plants.

Sixth Stage – Inclusion

2012 “Through the Garden Gate”
Terry Hershey’s *Soul Gardening*



Patricia Kelly, Tom Pruiksma, Terry Hershey, Ellie Hughes, Gordon Millar

2012 Vashon Heritage Museum Exhibit

Passion in the Dirt: Sixty years of Plant Lust and Flower Power

The exhibit is designed to highlight the various ways the changes in the Garden Club have represented the historic changes in Vashon-Maury Island. The whimsical central theme of the exhibit, *Passion in the Dirt*, is reflected in the various sections of the exhibit. *A Flair for Flower Arranging, Frolicsome Fun and Fellowship, Galluptious Garden Gifts, Glorious Community Gardens, Sharing Our Passion, and Splendor in the Class* all embody the passion Garden Club members have exhibited over the past sixty years.

2012 Vashon Heritage Museum Exhibit



Curators:

Karen Baer
C. Hunter Davis
Lynn Greiner
Susan Hedrick
Pat Nesland

Carla Okigwe
Jaralene Spring
Cindy Stockett
Nancy Studer

2013 Garden Club Drill Team



2016 Strawberry Festival Garden Club Float



Seventh Stage – Community
2020 Certified Wildlife Habitat Community
National Wildlife Federation - Julia Lakey



CERTIFIED
**WILDLIFE
HABITAT**



FOOD • WATER • COVER • PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG



This property is recognized for its commitment to sustainably provide the essential elements of wildlife habitat. [nwfwildlife.org/garden](https://www.nwfwildlife.org/garden)

Thematic

Community Gardens
Annual Garden Awards
Garden Tours
Education
Plant Sale

Community Gardens

From its beginning, sixty years ago, the Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club has wanted to 'flower' beyond our own gardens. With money from our sales and shows we have bought plantings for gardens at the Nike site, the Food Bank, the Vashon Pharmacy, and the Vashon Library. We have planted bulbs at Point Robinson, cleared brush and landscaped Inspiration Point, and cared for the gardens at the Vashon Community Care Center and the Vashon Health Center.

Community Gardens

Inspiration Point



1958 Garden Club helps landscape Inspiration Point Lookout



Community Gardens

Nike Base

Community Gardens

Memory Garden – 1974 Vashon Elementary

Students turn out on a bright, sunny day for dedication of a memory garden to Brian Jorgensen at Vashon Elementary.

Memory Garden Dedication

When Brian Jorgensen met a premature death this spring, his Vashon Elementary classmates wanted to build a memorial to him, and felt it should be a living, growing thing.

After much discussion, they decided upon a memorial garden, and pitched in with work and contributions. The Vashon Garden Club was approached for ideas, and contributed not only ideas, but also plants and funds for materials.

As word of the project spread in the community, help came in the form of labor, tractor and backhoe work, fill dirt and other materials and contributions from parents of the children and others.

Although the project is not completed, a dedication was held September 11, with four of Brian's classmates speaking. A poem written by Brian was read as a part of the service.



Brian's classmates, now students at McMurray School, display the plaque to be placed in the Brian Jorgensen memorial garden.

Vashon Community Care Patio Garden 2012



Community Gardens

9/11 Memorial Garden at Point Robinson 2002



Community Gardens

Breast Cancer Awareness Garden Sunrise Ridge 2005



1974 First Annual Garden Awards

The Garden Club is passionate about beautiful gardens! Members are always on the lookout for unique gardens growing on our idyllic island. In 1974, The Garden Club began recognizing these unique gardens with an annual "Community Garden Award". What fun! A committee of garden detectives tromped around Vashon, following up on leads from the membership, keeping their eyes peeled for that perfect garden. After a delightful summer of garden visits, three residential gardens and one business garden are selected as our winners

Annual Garden Awards



Karen Garrison's Garden 1980s



Pam Haulman's Garden 2000

Annual Garden Awards



Garden Tours

Open Gardens



1950s Open Garden



2014 Open Garden

Garden Tours

Off Island Tours



Garden Tours

First VAA Garden Tour 1990



Education Prizes



Garden Club Beautification Essay Contest
Polly Helzer presents Paul Fitzpatrick \$5.00 Garden Club Prize
Pam Cornutt 2nd Place \$3, John Montague 3rd Place \$2

Education

Kay White Scholarships



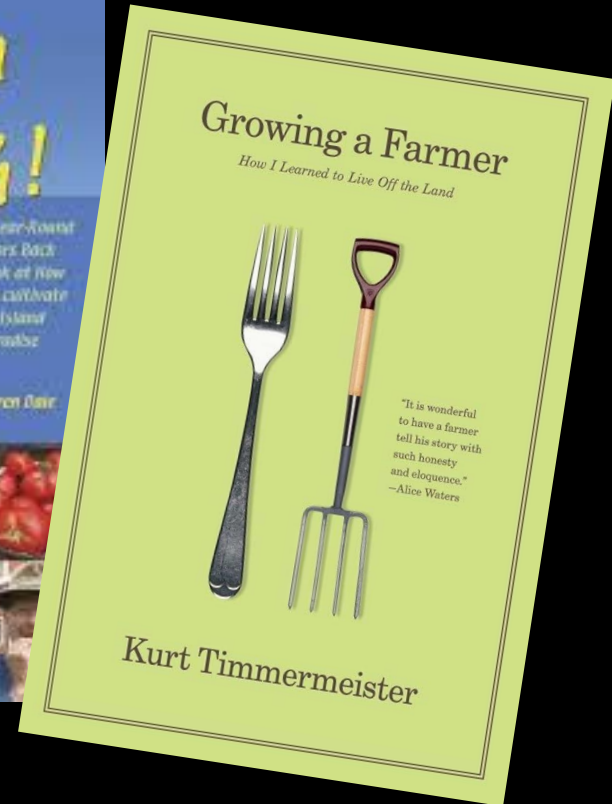
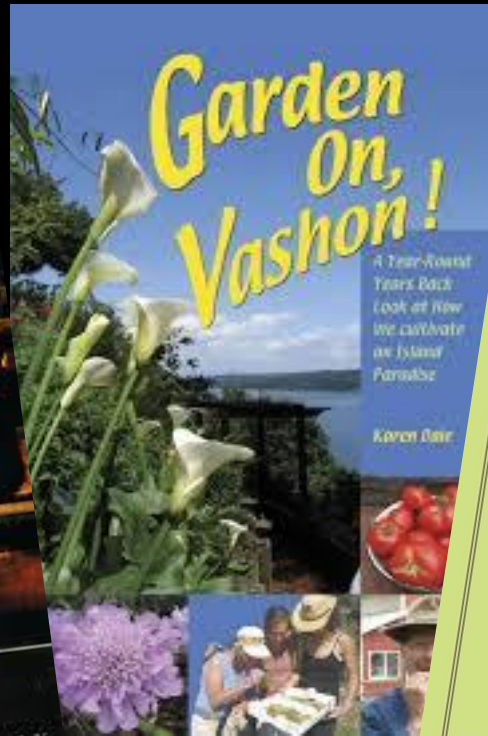
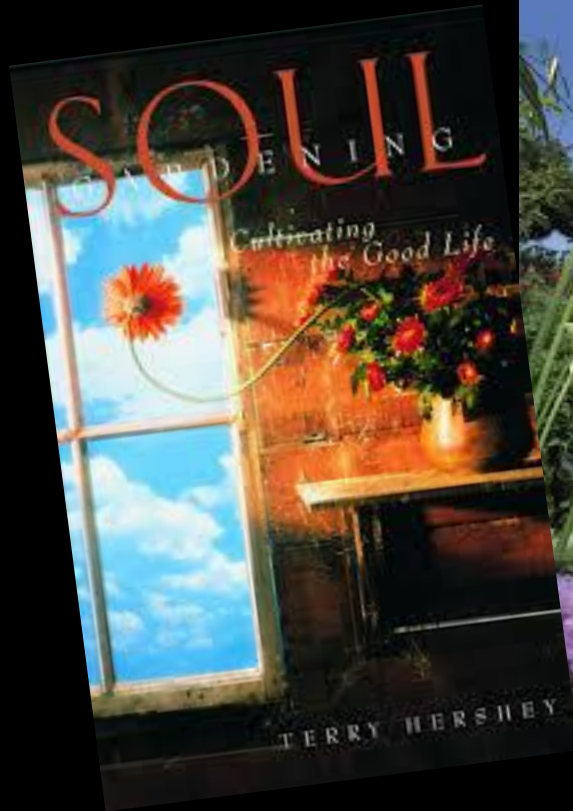
Education

Helen Puz Horticultural Grants



Education

McMurray Library -1990s Librarian Julie Jaffe



Education

Chautauqua Garden – Jeri Wilson and Carolyn Candy



Education

Greenhouse Propagation – VHS & Matsuda Farm



Plant Sale

First Plant Sale 1948

\$8.65

Plant Sale



1974 Vashon Health Center Plant Sale - \$ 353
Mrs. Wilber G Burr, Bea Garrison, Kay Putnam

Plant Sale



2023 Plant Sale Group Photo - 2024 \$ 12,977

2012 Past Presidents



“It is all about being social”



“It is all about being social”

Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club members have a lot of fun. One member summed it up when she said:

“The meetings introduce us to new people with similar interests. We indulge in a lot of laughter and trading of ideas and plants. Work parties in homes teach us to make special items such as dried floral arrangements or wreathes from our member experts, among whom are several Master Gardeners as well as self-taught geniuses. We are active involved people who enjoy coming together for a meeting where we talk about mucking about in the dirt.”

Vashon-Maury Island Garden Club History



May 12, 2025

Pam's Porch
Photo by Mary Liz Austin



Sunset Magazine
Birds and Blooms
Magazine
Backyard Living Magazine
Ideals Country Magazine
A View from the Porch -
Calendar
Gardens – Calendar

Vashon Allied Arts Garden
Tour Notecard

Tom Haseltine
Photography Notecard

Community Garden Award,
Vashon-Maury Island
Garden Club