

## Rainier Garden Club – Annual Sale

On Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, the Rainier Garden Club held their annual sale in the parking lot of J & R Sales. Organized in 1945, the Rainier Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., as well as the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs. During the annual sale, members donated plants, bulbs and other garden related items for sale. This year they also raffled off two amazing baskets full of fun themed items. Items for sale included trees, perennials, annuals, native plants, dahlias, and Mother's Day gifts. Proceeds earned will help the club's beautification efforts as well as other garden-related projects.

The Rainier Garden Club is involved in many other projects including the Blue Star Memorial which honors service men and women. Started by the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs in 1944 who planted 8,000 Dogwood trees as a living memorial to veterans of World War II, the project now spans across the nation and into Alaska and Hawaii and is denoted by large Blue Star Memorial Marker at appropriate locations along the way. The Rainier Garden Club updates their planting the first Saturday before Mother's Day and then does regular upkeep as needed throughout the year. Another project of the Club is the Welcome to Oregon sign located on the Oregon end of the Lewis and Clark Bridge. The Club works to choose the various plants to be planted around the sign, sets up their work days and holds planting parties each spring and fall to maintain the beauty of the sign and its landscaping. They also work throughout the summer to ensure watering and maintenance as necessary.

In addition to the various community projects they perform, the Rainier Garden Club sponsors a \$500.00 scholarship to a student of either Rainier Junior/Senior High School or who is homeschooled in the community. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must enroll in a two or four-year college, trade or professional school and work towards earning a degree in the field of agriculture, forestry, ornithology, protection and conservation of the environment or any other field related to horticulture. The application can be found on the Rainier Garden Club's web page:

<http://www.rainiergardenclub.com/Projects/Scholarships.aspx>

If you would like more information on the Rainier Garden Club's annual sale, any of their projects or scholarship, you can contact the club's president (Bill) at 503.556.3969, or attend one of their meetings. Meetings are held at 9:30am on the first Wednesday of the month (except January) at the United Methodist Church on C Street in Rainier.



Submitted by Andrew Demko, CCCCB Board Member