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Association

Sunset Cove Newsletter

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The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival:

by Vickie Cooley

The Annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival is one of the destination events for the Pacific Northwest, held normally each year from April 1-30. The tulips allow us to share our corner of the world as well as showcase Skagit Valley agriculture. Every spring hundreds of thousands of people come to enjoy the celebration of spring as millions of tulips burst into bloom. However, as with all things governed by Mother Nature, the tulips bloom according to their own schedule, usually sometime during the festival. This year, the tulips came early, so the fields opened early in March.

The festival is designed as a driving tour for visitor as there is no one "site" that you go to for your visit. The fields of tulips are scattered throughout the Skagit Valley, as are the many events and activities that comprise the festival. The tulip fields are different each year due to crop rotation. Both RoozenGaarde and Tulip Town also have displays of tulips in gardens for visitors to view and photograph.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival was officially inaugurated in 1984 by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. Chamber directors noticed that people were coming by the thousands to view the tulips, and decided to add events and festivities to enhance the visitors' trip to the Skagit Valley. In 1994 the Tulip Festival became a nonprofit corporation governed by an all-volunteer board of directors. In 2002 the separation from the Chamber was complete, and moved to its own offices.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival has a year-round staff who work to make sure the festival is a success each year. The office is open all 30 days of April, while the rest of the year (May thru March) the office is staffed Monday through Friday. Besides obtaining information you can purchase Official Merchandise items at the office, including t-shirts, mugs, magnets, posters, coasters, etc.

Businesses and groups large and small support the festival through sponsorships, ranging from \$275 to \$5,500. These sponsorship dollars are vital to the successful operation of the festival.

Each year tulip fans are treated to a new Skagit Valley Tulip Festival poster with a fresh rendition of what the tulips are all about. Some are pastoral scenes, others feature cats and birds, and some have featured children along with the flowers. No matter what, the poster art says "Skagit Valley."

Save the Date!

The 13th Annual SCHOA
picnic will be held on
Sunday afternoon, August
28, 2016 at
Washington Park.

More details will follow
later.

2016 Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting in January, the new slate of Board of Directors was approved, and the officer positions have been sorted out as follows:

- President, Jackie Etsell (term ends 12/31/16).
- Vice President, Jean Warner (term ends 12/31/16).
- Secretary, Amy Schnabel (term ends 12/31/17).
- Treasurer, Tisa Kniskern (term ends 12/31/17).

- Architectural Review Committee Chair, Alan Hanson (term ends 12/31/16).

- Landscape Committee Chair, Jean Warner (term ends 12/31/16).

- Publicity Committee Chair, Vickie Cooley (term ends 12/31/16).

Welcome aboard, and thank you to all of you!

Please note that the Board represents each and every

home, unit, or lot owner, so please let us know your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and/or concerns. To contact the board members by e-mail use board@sunsetcove.org.

You are also welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings, which are held at the Anacortes Library. The next meetings are at 7 p.m. on Thursdays, April 21 and May 19.

If we don't know, we can't help! Thanks!!!

Deer Resistant Plantings ... Give or Take

Planting for deer can be hard sometimes. You read all the books, buy "deer-resistant" plants, and the buggers still munch everything to the ground and give you that blank-eyed "what? I'm a deer!" stare when you shake your fist at them. No, it doesn't always go as smoothly as the books would have you believe.

But some plants are more deer-resistant than others. And the types of plants discussed below are generally left unbothered, even in that initial "hmm, it's a new thing, is that tasty?" stage. And even if you only used the exact set of species suggested, there are so many colors and textures available of these types of plants that you could create any number of design schemes from them. Shall we start?

Ornamental grasses:

Have you ever seen a deer eat ornamental grasses? That's not to say they don't do it, but the fact that grasses are pretty fibrous and not too high in moisture makes them an unattractive snack. Plus, there are generally a lot of softer grasses to eat out in the wild, so for most deer, the idea of traipsing into your yard, with all the weird sounds and smells, to eat something they can chomp in the relative safety of the wild just seems like a dumb idea to them.

You can try any ornamental grass, but the driest, most fibrous ones will be the most deer-resistant choices.

Silver Spear
Astelia, Astelia chathamica 'Silver Spear', is a great plant for full sun or partial shade (4 hours or more of direct sunshine). The silvery-blue leaves shimmer in the light and the plant has a bold, architectural look.



Cape Rush, *Chondropetalum tectorum*, is an evergreen rush with deep green foliage and dark brown papery sheaths at the stem joints. Full sun to partial shade.

Burgundy Festival Grass, *Cordylina* 'Festival Burgundy', prefers well-drained soil and full sun, but are otherwise easy-going plants that go well with almost anything. The white flower floes bring a gentle textural contrast to this wide-leaved plant.



Japanese Forest Grass, *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola', is happy in sun or shade, has a soft appearance and cheerful color that goes with anything, and it's easy to grow.

Red Hook Sedge, *Uncinia uncinata* 'Red', is an evergreen grass that can take damp, boggy soils or regular landscape conditions with ease, and has black flower spikes which contrast with the glossy orange foliage.



Native plants:

Much as deer don't actually need to be smart to live long and happy lives, they aren't stupid either. They're not going to brave your dogs and toddlers to eat something they can get down the road with a lot less stress.

While native plants aren't universally disgusting to deer, they just don't seem to hold enough appeal to go out of their way for. And since deer are creatures of habit, it's a very good thing indeed if they find your landscape boring.

That's not to say you should find your landscape boring! Designing with native plants is like designing with any other type of plant – the end result reflects the designer more than the plant. Choose native plants for their shape, texture, and colors, and feel free to experiment with varieties with different colored flowers or variegated foliage.

You'll have the best success with deer-resistance if you go for plants that are actually found locally to you. Look at what's growing naturally and choose exciting varieties of those plants.

Heathers of every stripe:

Summer- and winter-blooming Erica, large-flowered *Daboecia* with its long bloom season, and the wild foliage colors and interesting habits of *Calluna* give heaths and heathers a lot of versatility in the garden. They're evergreen, prefer acid soil and heavy applications of compost and mulch when planted, but are otherwise unfussy plants for a sunny spot.

White Irish heath, *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Alba', has crisp white blooms against deep green evergreen foliage. Irish heaths take more shade than most heaths and heathers, which generally prefer sun.

Silver Scotch heather and **Bright Pink Scotch heather**, *Calluna vulgaris* 'Velvet Fascination' and 'Dark Beauty', are late summer- to early fall-blooming plants which reach about 2' tall and wide.



Sister Anne Scotch heather, *Calluna vulgaris* 'Sister Anne', has soft grey-green foliage that spreads in a tight, low mound.

Firefly Scotch heather, *Calluna vulgaris* 'Firefly', has bronze-orange foliage in summer that becomes vivid brick-red in winter, and it looks great with grasses or herbs, or next to stonework.

Arielle Irish heath, *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Arielle', has the same large blooms and deep green foliage as other Irish heaths, with brilliant magenta blossoms spring through fall.



In the next Newsletter, **Herbs and Other Fragrant Foliage** and **Ferns** will be discussed as options for deer-resistant plantings.

Courtesy of *Genevieve Schmidt*, a landscape designer who owns a fine landscape maintenance company in Arcata, CA, and is also a contributing editor at *Garden Design Magazine* and assorted print and online publications.

Ssshhh!

The "secret" password to the documents section of the [Sunset Cove website](http://www.sunsetcove.org) is ssc98221 (lower case letters).

You'll find minutes from the Board meetings, past newsletters, both sets of CC&Rs, the by-laws, neighborhood roster, and other Association info.

Neighborhood Notes:

- Traffic safety and speeds are always a hot topic, and as the weather warms up children and animals become more frequent sightings. Please observe the **25-mile per hour** speed limit when driving up and/or down the boulevard, and actively watch for "hazards" of all kinds.
- The Anacortes Solid Waste crew reminds us to put our garbage in bags that are tied shut **before** they are placed in the cans and set out for pick-up. This also keeps garbage from blowing around as the trucks rumble along the boulevard.
- The free **Spring Clean-Up** is **April 9 from 9am until 1pm** at the City Operations Facility at 37th Street and D Avenue. On that day only, they will be accepting the **FREE** disposal of residential-only refuse and yard waste (all garbage must be bagged or bundled). Quantities are limited to one load per household, and proof of Anacortes residency will be required.
- The Anacortes Family Center Shred
- -A-Thon will be held on Saturday, **April 16 from 9am to 1pm** in the Walgreen's parking lot. With a suggested cash donation of \$20 for each banker-size box, you will be able to securely destroy your confidential paper documents and discs. No more excuses: time to clean up!
- Speaking of cleaning up ... everyone will thank you, so *please* clean up after your dog, who is of course on a leash at all times.
- The **Anacortes Senior College** has been in full swing this winter and spring, with many classes from which to choose. For the schedule and more info, visit their website www.seniorcollege.org.
- If you have received this newsletter via regular U.S. mail, this means we do not have an email address on file for you. Please contact rick@etsell.com with your email address, either **new** or **changed**, so we may update our records.
- Happy Spring!!



PARTY TIME!!! A neighborhood gathering - for wine & cheese or cocktails - is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, May 1, 2016, in the upper circle, between The Crest Condominiums and The Garden Townhomes. ALL SCHOA members are encouraged to attend, and to bring an appetizer, dessert, and/or drink to share. More information will follow in an email, so watch your inbox!

President's Corner:

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors!

In this, my sixth year, of serving on your Board of Directors, I am honored to be leading the way as president. For the last five years I have held the combined position of Secretary and Treasurer, but felt that it was time to turn over those jobs to "fresh blood."

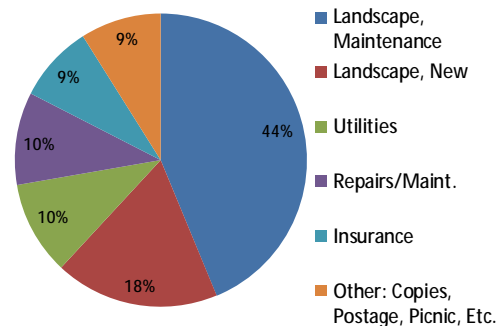
As treasurer, one has the responsibility of ensuring that all funds are handled with care and timeliness, that the financial records be kept orderly, and a reasonable budget is drafted. Every year, the Board is very thoughtful of what the Sunset Cove HOA budget entails, and respectful of the money collected from the members.

But, have you ever wondered where your \$200 annual dues actually goes? Everyone approves the annual budget

each year, which specifically outlines where the total funds are spent. The pie chart to the right is a visual representation of where your dollars will be going this year.

Meanwhile, I'd like to thank everyone who is serving on the Board of Directors currently, as well as those who have stepped up over the past few years. It has been great! We have dealt with many issues during that time, and will continue to do so.

What I would like people to remember, is that **ALL** of us are volunteers. We all chip in to make this the best place to live. If we see something that needs doing, we try to take care of it - whether it is keeping the trail cleared, hacking some scotch broom, traipsing water to a parched garden, keeping the lights on in the medians, or *whatever*, we are **ALL**



part of this neighborhood and can help when it is needed.

Thank you, everyone! Hope to see you at a board meeting or one of our events!

Jackie Etsell

Publicity Committee

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We're on the Web!
www.sunsetcove.org

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Sunset Cove Homeowners Association:

Located in Anacortes, Washington, at the western end of Fidalgo Island, Sunset Cove is uniquely situated with views of the San Juan Islands, Rosario Strait, and Burrows Bay, and enjoys the privilege of adjoining beautiful Washington Park, with miles of beaches, trails, and picnic and camping sites.

The Sunset Cove community and HOA consists of **Washington Park Estates** (homes along

Washington Boulevard), **Sunset Cove Estates** (homes along Washington Court), **The Crest at Sunset Cove Condominiums**, **The Gardens at Sunset Cove Townhomes**, and the soon-to-be-built **Garden Village Homes**.

Welcome to all our neighbors, new, "established," and those who haven't moved here yet!



Community Calendar:

Be sure to experience some of the many activities in our community this spring and summer:

- **Skagit Valley Tulip Festival**, April 1-30, Skagit Valley; tours and flowers galore! (tulipfestival.org) (See the longer article on page 1.)
- **Anacortes Annual Quilt Walk**, April 1-30, downtown Anacortes; for more information, visit fidalgo-islandquilters.com.
- **Trawler Fest**, May 19-21, Cap

Sante Marina, Anacortes; seminars, demos, new products, and boat show; passagemaker.com.

- **Anacortes Waterfront Festival**, June 4-5, 10am to 6pm, Cap Sante Marina; features car and boat shows, milk carton derby, free boat rides, vendors, food, entertainment, and more. (cityofanacortes.org)
- **Bark in the Park Dog Festival**, June 11, 10am to 3pm, Storvik Park, 32nd Street, Anacortes; pet

parade, costume contest, demos, games, and more! For more info, 360.293.1967.

- **37th Annual Shipwreck Festival**, July 16, 8am-4pm, all around downtown Anacortes; flea market time! Amazing treasures and one of a kind antiques mean fun for the whole family! For more info, shipwreckfest.org
- **San Juan Island Summer Arts Fair & Lavender Festival**, July 16-17, 10am-5pm, Friday Harbor; lavender everything! See, smell, touch, and hear all about lavender - even taste it! (visitsanjuan.com)
- **55th Annual Anacortes Arts Festival**, August 5-7, 10am-6pm, downtown Anacortes; arts, crafts, demos, music, & food! Family fun for all! anacortesartsfestival.com