



**A BEGINNING...**In 1967, four Eureka residents met for the purpose of establishing a permanent organization to create, promote, and increase interest in amateur gardening. An invitation to all interested persons to meet at the YWCA appeared in the February 3, 1967, newspaper. The meeting was well attended and the “**Sequoia Garden Club**” was created. The Club was also affiliated with the Save the Redwoods League. In May 1967 the club was accepted as a member of California Garden Clubs, Inc. Later “Eureka” was added to the name and the **Eureka Sequoia Garden Club’s** corporate charter for incorporation in the state of California and application to the IRS, 501(c)(4) as a non-profit organization were both filed in March 1977.

**THE EARLY YEARS...**This was the start of over 55 years of community projects and activities:

- **Arbor Day celebrations** with tree plantings in various community locations.
- **Supporting community-based projects** that encouraged plants, gardens, preservation, education and conservation. Projects included the Humboldt Botanical Garden, The Sequoia Park Zoo and the Stagecoach Hill Azalea Reserve.
- **Civic beautification projects** in Eureka Old Town, and Redwood Acres Fairgrounds.
- On November 11, 1995, Eureka Sequoia Garden Club dedicated a **Blue Star Memorial By-way Marker** as a beautiful reminder of the debt we owe to those who have served, are serving and will serve.
- A project launched in 2012, was a landscape design contest “**Garden Jewels**”. Homeowners landscaped front yards on Eureka’s H Street was the first street honored, with award certificates presented to the homeowners at the club meeting.
- In 2016, a spring **Bottles and Bloom Flower Show** began with members bringing in a variety of blooms, stems and arrangements from their own gardens, for a non-judged show. It became a welcome opportunity for members to share their plant and garden knowledge, experience and enthusiasm with fellow club members. *The tradition continues and in 2025 we added a fall Bottles and Bloom flower show.*

**PANDEMIC RESILIENCE...**The year 2020 brought new challenges as we faced a pandemic that endangered the health, livelihoods and well-being of ourselves, our families and our neighbors. Our activities were severely restricted with no gatherings possible and no public activities permitted. By the time of lock down, our Arbor Day plantings at various locations were completed. We managed Arbor Day celebrations again in 2021 with few members in attendance and masks on our faces. Though challenged, Eureka Sequoia Garden Club answered with virtual electronic meetings, programs and workshops to stay connected throughout 2020 and 2021. A “Secret Buddy” outreach for keeping members connected and active provided a bit of fun to compensate for our missed meetings and gatherings every month.

**PRESENT DAY...**Eureka Sequoia Garden Club members are innovative and committed to the Club's Objectives and Purpose as set forth in our bylaws. Our projects and activities reflect this commitment:

- **Civic Beautification:** In 2018, club members began a hands-on project with the **Sequoia Park Zoo** in Eureka to support the Zoo's goal of using native plants in the Zoo gardens. That work continues in 2025 with a dedicated ESGC "**Zoo Crew**" that meets on Monday afternoons (weather permitting) to help maintain the Zoo's gardens.
- **More Civic Beautification:** In the spring and summer months, ESGC volunteers water the hanging baskets three times a week in front of businesses in the Henderson Center area of Eureka. The community appreciates our efforts and the baskets are beautiful. We receive a donation for our efforts.
- **Garden Therapy:** We are proud of our "**Garden Therapy Project**". ESGC members (Garden Therapy Crew) work with the Eureka Wellness and Rehabilitation Center to enhance and maintain their gardens for clients and staff to enjoy. Planters have been designed so those in wheelchairs can enjoy gardening. Working with plants and gardens contribute to better physical and mental health especially during recovery.
- **Fundraising:** In 2021 ESGC held their first **Plant and Yard sale**. The funds raised enabled us to revitalize our scholarship program as well as support other projects. Plant sale events have been held through 2025.
- **Scholarship Program:** Applications are distributed to counselors at our local high schools, charter schools, College of the Redwoods and CalPoly Humboldt. Through our fundraising efforts, along with donations, we have awarded 10 scholarships ranging from \$500 - \$1,000.
- **Outreach and Education:** ESGC members participate in the Humboldt County Fair with both a garden themed display and an educational display. These displays have been awarded blue ribbons for our efforts.
- **Arbor Day Celebration...**In 2024 and 2025, as a part of the California Arbor Day celebration, the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club arranged for the Tree Circus to come to local schools to present their high-energy, educational program on the importance of trees in the environment and in everyday life. Tree Circus founder Timmy Womick and colleague Grayson Keating added 400 local students to the thousands of children who have benefited from this show in California and throughout the country over the past 10 years. Every March the Tree Circus educates and delights students, celebrating Arbor Day all month.

**MEETINGS...**Club meetings offer opportunities for fellowship, learning, and hands-on activities. Educational programs are offered on subjects such as gardening tips, floral and landscape design, the environment, local history and more. The members enjoy workshops and activities such as planting techniques, garden and floral craft projects and more. Club members reveal many of their hidden talents to share at meetings and in community activities.

**THE FUTURE...**As each year unfolds, Eureka Sequoia Garden Club continues to seek and implement the ideas that further horticultural education and participation, the benefits of gardens, gardening, plants and people in their communities. There is a wealth of knowledge, energy and purpose in continuing our programs and activities from each member. We welcome new members and their contributions to continuing the history of the Eureka Sequoia Garden Club. Join us!

*Updated November 2025*