

NoAH The Dirt Newsletter

September 2025



Coloring

The Purpose of NoAH is to:

- Promote all aspects of the growing of plants
- Provide education to our members and the public
- Community service
- Encourage the enjoyment of horticulture

NoAH membership is open to all who are interested in gardening.

UPCOMING GARDEN CLUB MEETING TOPICS IN



Hi everyone,

Just a quick heads-up on tentative topics we plan to discuss, but are not limited to, at our next meeting on September 11 at **6:00 PM** at the church. The meeting time was changed to give us enough time to cover our agenda items, hold the auction, and enjoy some refreshments.

- Secretarial and Treasurer Reports - Be sure to read June's and August's Business Meeting Reports.
- Christmas Party Committee volunteers are needed to plan the Christmas Party in December 2025.
- **Urgent!!** Members needed to fill officer positions (see above) for 2026. If interested in an officer position and have more questions, you can contact Nancy Fields (701-340-8784) or Alesha Keller (701-626-1716).
- The executive committee decided to stop using name lanyards. Instead, members can use single-use sticky name tags.
- How many members are planning to visit Berry Acres on October 9? If 10 or more members plan to attend, we can get a discounted rate. We can also look

into arranging a food truck for dinner if most members decide to join. There's no set time in the evening, and there won't be a business meeting.

- Proposal from the executive committee to change yearly membership fees to \$20 with no late fees for renewing membership. Will vote on this in November.
- Guests at NoAH meetings: Guests who attend meetings will receive one free visit. After that, they will pay \$5 for each additional meeting, regardless of whether the meeting is at the church or at an off-site event, such as a yard tour.
- How many club members would be interested in taking a day trip to the Peace Gardens on a Saturday in August 2026 for a club event, with bus transportation provided?
- A suggestion was made to consider holding the 2026 Christmas party in June instead of December. Refer to #3 under New Business for discussion items. How many would favor moving the Christmas party to May or June?
- If you have unwanted flower vases, please bring them to NoAH meetings at the church in February & March and give them to Jennifer Kraft. We are collecting them for the flower vendor to use during Gardening Saturday 2026. Thanks!
- Looking ahead to April 2026's program of cleaning up the depot, a trailer to haul gravel will be needed.
- Any other club-related topics from the floor?

We hope to see you all there!

An agenda of the September meeting follows the August minutes. You can use this to plan for the September meeting!

**Hunger
Free
Garden
Tour
in
August**





**Northwest Association of Horticulture
Business Meeting Minutes
Date: August 14, 2025, Rough Draft**

- The June/August Business Meeting Minutes will be approved at the September 11 meeting. There was no business meeting in July.
- The meeting was called to order by President Joan Bailey.
- 27 members attended the meeting before the Hunger Free Garden Tour.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The business meeting minutes from June 2025 were sent out in the newsletter and will be voted upon at the August Business meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Will be presented at the August Business meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Greeters: Cindy Neuharth-Black shared that greeter spots are filled!
- Hospitality: Sandy Horob shared that Dorathy Schatz and Kim Kraft on scheduled to bring refreshments for the September meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Members not getting newsletters or other club emails should contact Anne Smart at annemichellesmart@gmail.com with your information.
- Nancy Fry (E-mail nancyfry227@gmail.com) is our newsletter editor. Please send her your articles and pictures at that address before the end of the month.
- Christmas Party Committee volunteers are needed to plan the Christmas Party in December 2025. Any member interested should contact Joan Bailey at 701-240-8044.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Please consider applying for one of the open officer positions for the upcoming year: President, Vice President, and Treasurer need to be filled for 2026. Sitting officers will help the incoming officers! Outgoing officers will also assist their replacements! Remember, you can share the office with a coworker. (Treasurer is the exception.)
- Joan Bailey shared that Berry Acres (October 9-NoAH Club/ Family Outing) has a group discount rate of \$7 instead of \$9; children under 3 are free. A survey of members indicated that more than 10 planned to go. We won't be having a business meeting in October.

- A suggestion was made to consider holding the 2026 Christmas party in June instead of December. This could help increase attendance; we could have it in the park (shelter- grill the meats), at the church, etc.; we wouldn't have to worry about traveling in bad weather or centerpieces freezing; we wouldn't have to worry about driving home in the dark, summer potluck is easier for some to bring a side. This will be re-addressed in September to give everyone time to consider this option for the Christmas Party.
- Plant auction in September! Remember to label the plants you bring and note any growing conditions to help the auctioneer and potential buyers. Thanks!
- If you have unwanted flower vases, please bring them to NoAH meetings at the church. We are collecting them for the flower vendor to use during Gardening Saturday 2026. Thanks!
- Programs for monthly NoAH meetings are being finalized. Stay tuned for more information regarding the 2026 schedule!

PROGRAM:

Emily Howe presented information about the Hunger Free Garden at the North Central Research Extension Center. It's located in the same area as the grape vines we toured last year. Interesting details included that Master Gardeners harvested 7,000 lbs. of food to donate to food banks, shelters, senior living centers, or other agencies. This year's produce included cucumbers, eggplants, pumpkins, and tomatoes. The garden is funded by gaming donation proceeds and pollinator garden plant sales. Seeds are started around April, with a final cleanup in October.

The next business meeting will be on September 11 at @6:30 with the Outside Fall Plant Auction.

(Note: The 6:30 meeting time was not changed during the August meeting. It was only changed later as a result of needing more time to address agenda items, have the auction, and provide refreshments. The new meeting time is highlighted below for the upcoming meeting.)

Submitted by Barb Matteson,
NoAH Secretary



NoAH Agenda September 11, 2025

Meeting called to order by_____

***Moment of silence in remembrance of the tragic events on 9/11 2001, when al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes and carried out attacks in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania.

Guests: #_____Members : #_____

Introductions

Secretary June/August 2025 reports: Are there any changes/corrections? Motion to approve both reports: _____2nd:_____

All in favor, signify by 'Aye', those opposed, 'Ney'

Motion passed?_____

Treasurer's report: \$_____

Motion to approve _____2nd_____

Any questions or corrections?

All in favor, signify by 'Aye', those opposed, 'Ney'

Motion passed?_____

Committee Reports:

1. Depot Planting Update: Kelly Weinheimer
2. Hospitality?
3. Gardening Saturday update?
4. Scholarship?
5. Any other committee reports?

Old Business:

1. Nancy Fry (Email nancyfry227@gmail.com) is our new newsletter editor! Please send her your articles and pictures at that address before the end of the month.
2. Members not getting newsletters or other club emails should contact Anne Smart at annemichellesmart@gmail.com with their information.
3. Christmas Party Committee volunteers are needed to plan the Christmas Party in December 2025. Any Volunteers? Important information to consider:
 - a. Contact Joan by the end of September if you want to plan and start organizing what you and your committee envision for the Christmas Party. This gives enough time to purchase items for gift bags, door prizes, and to plan the auction

or other activities for the December event. Funds are available in the budget for an organized Christmas Party.

b. If no one volunteers to organize the Christmas Party, consider having a different activity for the December meeting, such as a potluck or social without organized activities, as an alternative. Does anyone have another idea for the December meeting?

c. Any other considerations?

4. A suggestion was made to consider the option of holding the 2026 Christmas party in June instead of December. This could help increase attendance; we could have it in the park (shelter- grill the meats), at the church, etc.; we wouldn't have to worry about traveling in bad weather or centerpieces freezing; we wouldn't have to worry about driving home in the dark, summer potluck is easier for some to bring a side.

a. If members vote to move the 2026 Christmas Party to May/June, the executive committee would like to organize it. This will provide others with a template for planning the Christmas Party in 2027 and future years.

b. Discussion

c. Motion to move the 2026 Christmas Party to May/June?

_____Seconded_____. Yea_____ Nea_____

5. Are there any members interested in filling an officer position? Please consider running for one of the officer positions opening in 2026. Sitting officers are eager to support their incoming replacements, and outgoing officers will assist their successors. Remember, you can even share an office with a coworker (except for the Treasurer). Your involvement can make a difference!

President_____

Vice President:_____

Treasurer:_____

6. If you have unwanted flower vases, please bring them to the NoAH meetings at the church in February or March to give to Jennifer Kraft. We are collecting them for the flower vendor to use during Gardening Saturday 2026. Thanks!

New Business:

1. The executive committee decided to discontinue using the lanyards. Instead, members can use single-use sticky name tags.

2. Proposal from the executive committee to change yearly membership fees to \$20 with no late fees for renewing membership. Vote on this in November.

3. Survey how many members will be going to Berry Acres in October 2025? (10 or more in group discount rate of \$7 instead of \$9; Children under 3 are free.)_____

4. Guests at NoAH meetings: Guests who attend meetings will receive one free visit. After that, they will pay \$5 for each additional meeting, regardless of whether the meeting is at the church or an off-site event, such as a yard tour. Vote on this?
5. Monthly programs for 2026 are being worked on. How many members would be interested in a Saturday day trip to the International Peace Garden with transportation provided by NoAH? _____
6. Looking ahead to April 2026's program of cleaning up the depot, a trailer to haul gravel will be needed.
7. Any new business from the floor?

The next meeting will be on November 13 at the church at 6:30, with the indoor plant auction and election of officers.

Motion to adjourn business meeting:

Name: _____

2nd: _____

The motion passed.

Executive Board

- a) President: Needed
- b) Vice-President: Needed
- c) Secretary: Barb Matteson
- d) Treasurer: Needed
- e) Newsletter: Nancy Fry

Committees

- f) Membership: Alesha Keller
- g) Hospitality: Sandra Horob Co-Chair with Nancy Fields
- h) Greeter: Cindy Neuharth-Black
- i) Education: Warren Graves
- j) Publicity: Anne Smart
- k) Depot: Kelly Weinheimer



Fresh Ideas for Making Herbs Last Longer

Maryal Miller Carter

USA Today

Fresh herbs of all kinds can turn bland dishes into culinary master-pieces, but the key word is “fresh”! All too often, herbs are allowed to wilt away in the fridge before they can work their magic, but that needn’t be the case. A little preparation and some simple tips and tricks can rescue herbs from an untimely demise, getting shoppers more bang for their buck. From proper home care to clever storage techniques, here’s how to keep those herbs fresh longer in the fridge and ensure their flavors can be savored.

How to keep herbs fresh longer in the fridge

Treat fresh herbs like fresh-cut flowers. Much like flowers, herbs are delicate, living plants that require proper care to ensure their vitality. This method works perfectly for leafy herbs including cilantro, mint, parsley and green onion.

To care for herbs:

- Use the bottom leaves on the stems first. Bottom leaves are usually the oldest and least vibrant, so using them first ensures diners can enjoy them at their peak flavor.
- Trim off half an inch from the bottom of the stem. This opens up the herb’s vessels, allowing it to take in more water and nutrients, which can delay wilting.
- Store herbs in a small jar of fresh water. Only about an inch of the stems should be submerged.
- Cover the herbs with an empty produce bag or something similar to help retain water.
- Store herbs in the refrigerator.
- Replace the water every few days to keep the herbs fresher for longer.

More Tips to keep herbs fresh longer

Some herbs require different methods of care to extend their freshness. Here are the proper methods of care and storage for different types of herbs.

- Woody Herbs (Thyme, Rosemary, Oregano, Sage): Wrap the herbs in a damp paper towel, place them inside a resealable plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator’s vegetable drawer.
- Basil: Basil is sensitive to cold temperatures. Trim the stems and place them in a glass of water. Cover loosely with a plastic bag. Keep at room temperature away from direct sunlight.
- Chives: Place the chives inside a resealable plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator’s vegetable drawer.
- Lemongrass: Trim the tips and wrap the stalks in a damp paper towel. Place them inside a resealable plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator’s vegetable drawer.