



# WACONIAH Feb 2025



Newsletter Of The Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Washington Arizona California Oregon Nevada Idaho Alaska Hawaii

*From the Desk of Carol Norquist,*

*PRGC, Inc. Director*



Wow time flies by fast. Here it is almost time for the Pacific Region Convention in April. Arizona has invited us from the 28-30<sup>th</sup> and they have lots of fun things planned. I am looking forward to seeing Boyce Thompson Arboretum and they have many workshops and other tours. I find I learn so much when I attend a garden club convention, and it is so fun to meet people from all over who have similar interests to mine. Convention information can be found on the website:

[www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025).

Also be sure to check out the home page of the Pacific Region website and view the Idaho Chinden Gardeners' video on their pollinator garden. They have been working on this project for nine years and it is a wonderful place to be. Besides beautiful, it is also very educational. I hope all of our clubs continue to educate the public on the various topics and goals of what being a garden club is all about. It takes active participation to accomplish this, so figure out where you can contribute. Also don't forget to get your garden on the Home Grown National Park map as a wildlife biodiversity site. Go to the PR website [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/directors-project](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/directors-project) for more information.

This is where our states are as of today:

State	# of Acres	# of Sites	# of People reporting
Washington	883.8	867	851
Arizona	19.4	190	165
California	1162.7	2182	2060
Oregon	779.4	891	692
Nevada	18.1	33	54
Idaho	30.3	160	22
Alaska	2.9	11	22
Hawaii	2.9	37	19

Use the link below to enter your garden on the biodiversity map (just click sign up) at <https://map.homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Since the start of the term Idaho has had the biggest % increase in both number of sites and the number of people reporting while Nevada has the biggest % increase in number of acres reported. The Home Grown National Park website has lots of useful information about creating biodiversity in your own yard. I hope we all continue to consider this in our own garden practices.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention and hearing about how your club is making a difference in your community.

## Ants and Butterflies... Oh My!

Karen Bowen, Pacific Region Butterfly Chairman

When you think of butterflies, you don't think of ants. However, there is one family of butterflies that has an interesting relationship with ants. The Lycaenidae family, also called the Gossamer Wing family, is the second largest family of butterflies and makes up 30% of known butterfly species. With about 4,700 species worldwide, 2,500 Gossamer Wing species depend upon ants to care for their caterpillars in one way or another and protect them from predators.

Gossamer Wing butterflies are found from southeastern Oregon and southern Idaho to South America, and east through the southwestern quarter of the U.S. to Nebraska, Arkansas and Missouri. These tiny creatures live for a year or less, with some species living only a few months.

The family includes blues, coppers, hairstreaks and harvester butterflies. These tiny butterflies have delicate wings that remind people of sheer, gossamer fabric, hence the name "Gossamer Wing".

The mutualistic relationship some Gossamer butterflies have with ants is called myrmecophily, which means "ant love". Three species of ants (Formicinae, Myrmicinae and Dolichoderinae) are known to protect Gossamer caterpillars. "Ant love" is shown in many ways, depending upon the variety of caterpillar. Some Gossamer caterpillars have pores on their skins that secrete a sugary substance that attracts ants. While feeding on this sweet food, the ants keep predators away from the caterpillars. Others have tentacle-like organs on their backs that pop out and secrete pheromones that alert ants to possible enemies. The ants gather to protect themselves while also protecting the caterpillars from predators.

Some caterpillars secrete a pheromone that lulls the ants and encourages them to stay close to the caterpillars, which helps protect the caterpillars from predators.

Others emit pheromones that make ants think they are ant larvae. The caterpillars are carried into the ant's nest and fed regurgitated leaves or flowers until they turn into pupae. Once these tiny butterflies emerge from their chrysalises, they crawl out of the ant's nest, spread their wings to dry, and fly away.

It is amazing how many ways Gossamer Wing caterpillars rely upon ants for protection.



Photo 1 B. Peterson  
Ants care for a Gossamer Wing caterpillar through a symbiotic relationship.  
Photo 2 PBS  
Around 2,500 different species of Gossamer Wing butterflies rely upon ants for survival of their caterpillars.





**CGCI Gardening Schools**  
*Greg Pokorski, Chairman*

Southern California Garden Club is pleased to invite you to the National Garden Clubs (NGC) Gardening School it will be conducting in 2025 at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino, California. ***Courses will be held on Thursdays and Fridays as follows:***

**Course 1 - July 10 & 11**  
**Course 2 - August 14 & 15**  
**Course 3 - September 25 & 26**  
**Course 4 - October 23 & 24**

This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> Gardening School Series in California and the fourth Gardening School presented by Southern California Garden Club which is deeply committed to the educational missions of CGCI and NGC, having also conducted Landscape Design School, Flower Show School and two Tri-Refreshers.

Mark your calendars now and see detailed information on the club's website,  
[SouthernCaliforniaGardenClub.com](http://SouthernCaliforniaGardenClub.com)

Expert instructors provide gardening information of interest to novices and experts on a wide variety of topics. Those who complete all four courses can become NGC Gardening Consultants. Gardening Consultants can refresh their credentials at any one of these courses.



**Pacific Region Governing Documents**

By Greg Pokorski, Organization Study Committee Chairman

Governing Documents for Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. are the Bylaws, the Standing Rules and the Convention Procedures. These are posted on our website. Board members (including officers, state presidents, former region directors and all chairmen) should be familiar with all of these. Suggestions for changes (which are enacted at our annual conventions) may be sent to this chairman for consideration by the Organization Study Committee. ***In order for changes to be considered at the 2025 convention, please submit any recommendations soon, and no later than February 28, [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)***

## Come to Convention

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



Information about the 2025 Pacific Region Convention is included in this issue. PRGC Board members (officers, state presidents, former directors and committee chairmen) are expected to attend. Our standing rules state that committee chairmen attend the annual convention and report as requested, and if unable to attend, request permission to be excused from the Region Director, and prepare written reports as requested.

Convention includes committee meetings limited to members of those specific committees, the Board of Directors meeting (all are welcome, but only board members have a vote) and general convention sessions open to all (Board members and official delegates of the member states have a vote). Each of our eight-member state garden clubs is entitled to two to twelve official delegates, depending on its membership numbers as stated in our standing rules. Be sure your state is represented!

Convention is not only when the business and administration of the organization is carried out on behalf of the membership, but is also an opportunity for networking, education, celebration of garden club accomplishments, and planning for the year ahead. There are also workshops, informative speakers at meals, presentation of awards and tours.

Board members and convention delegates should know which meetings they are to attend and be familiar with the issues that are to be voted upon. If in doubt, ask the Parliamentarian or the Director. Come to convention in Arizona to be part of parliamentary procedure in action and to have fun, learn, and get information to share with your clubs, districts and state organizations.



## Pacific Region Convention

April 28 – 30, 2025

### “WILD AND WATER WISE”

Wyndham Phoenix Airport/Tempe

Dear Garden Club Members,

You are cordially invited to join the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc as we host the 2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs Convention! As you can see, registration is now open! Sign up soon so you do not miss out on all the great activities!

We look forward to seeing you in Tempe, Arizona in April 2025

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!!**



## REGISTER NOW TO BOOK YOUR SPACE AT TOURS AND WORKSHOPS!!

All garden club/plant society members are invited to attend the Pacific Region Garden Club Convention (PR25) April 28 - 30, 2025

Hosted by the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.





The Convention will feature KEYNOTE speakers, workshops, floral designs, educational sessions and displays, social receptions, an “Art in Bloom” exhibition flower show, silent auction, club and sponsors tables, and Garden Tours throughout the Convention as well as amazing” Only In Arizona”

Pre and Post Tours!

Check out more information and register at: [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025)

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS ON MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>!

DO NOT MISS THIS VERY SPECIAL GARDENING EVENT OF 2025!

<p>Brent Leech Master Floral Designer AZ Flower Market</p>	<p>Kim Gray Land Conservation Boyce Thompson Arboretum</p>	<p>Karen Cesare Water Conservation Central Arizona Project</p>	<p>Linda Larson Traveling Gardener 1000 Gardens</p>
 <p>Sunday, April 27</p>	 <p>Monday, April 28th</p>	 <p>Tuesday, April 29th</p>	 <p>Tuesday, April 29th</p>

## Youth Pollinator Poster Contest Terry Critchlow

Grades K-6<sup>th</sup>

This is a great hands-on teaching tool to use when teaching our youth about pollination, farms, orchards, flowers, forests, etc. We all know our world cannot survive without pollinators. Help your club promote our environmental concerns by exciting our youth about their outdoors and introducing the many pollinators in their landscapes. Send the original poster, 8.5 X 11, using any medium. Check with your state's award chairman for your deadline. There is still time, the PRGC deadline is March 1.

For more info, go to the link below, scroll down for info and see samples.

[pacificregiongardenclubs.org/pollinator-poster-contest](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/pollinator-poster-contest)

### NGC Youth Recycled Sculpture contest

Grades: 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades

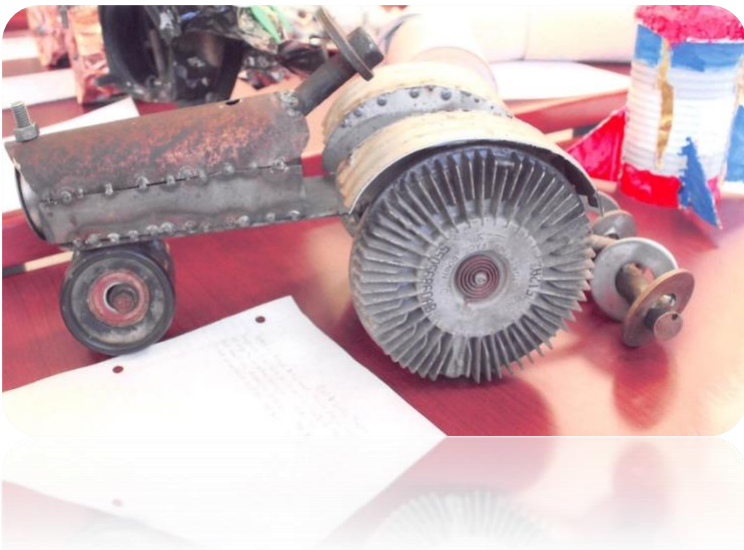
Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle

A super hands-on project to help teach our youth the 3-Rs. Our youth educators are already teaching lessons about our environment. Ask any kids about the 3-Rs of environmental awareness, they instantly shoutout the Rs. Introduce this contest to your local youth groups, school, church, after school programs. Don't forget about your grandchildren and friends' grandchildren, and your neighbors.

Check with your state's youth chairman for your deadline. PRGC deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> so you may still have time to participate.

Go to the link below for more information and the application form.

[gardenclub.org/youth-sculpture-contest](http://gardenclub.org/youth-sculpture-contest)



98<sup>th</sup>

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB

Established June 13, 1927

Season

“Garden and Grow Together”

Member of: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC. - NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) is a non-profit association of garden clubs devoted to all phases of gardening, the betterment and beautification of the community, and the protection and conservation of our natural resources. The objectives of Southern California Garden Club are (1) to create, promote and further interest in amateur gardening, in plant and bird life and in appreciation of the natural beauties of the State of California; (2) to encourage civic beautification and roadside development; (3) to assist in projects for the conservation of our natural resources.

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PUBLICITY RELEASE

November 2024

No. 4

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Southern California Garden Club, the oldest and largest garden club in the San Fernando Valley, announces that club members and friends dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at 11:11 a.m. on Veterans Day, November 11, 2024 at VFW Post #3834, 111 N. Hagar Street, San Fernando.

The Blue Star program was adopted by National Garden Clubs, Inc. in 1946 as the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale. Initially highways were dedicated as a Blue Star Highway system and large metal Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers were placed at appropriate locations along the way. Two additional markers were added since then. While the program originally began to honor World War II veterans, it enlarged its mission in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Since its inception, garden clubs have dedicated approximately 3,000 Blue Star Memorials and Markers throughout the country. This is the fifth Memorial Marker sponsored and dedicated by our Southern California Garden Club (four are in the San Fernando Valley and one is at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley).

The marker was unveiled by Southern California Garden Club President Gail Vanderhorst and California Garden Clubs, Inc. President Carol Vallens. Southern California Garden Club has 163 members and is responsible for planting many Arbor Day trees throughout the City of San Fernando over a period of many years. Among other philanthropic activities, the club awards more than \$6,000.00 in scholarships annually and is currently renovating the rose garden at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Club meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (Sept. through June).







## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! DON'T MISS OUT!

“Wild and Water Wise”

**Pacific Region Garden Clubs 2025 Convention (PR25)**

**April 28 – April 30, 2025**

**Early Registration Closes March 1; Online Registration Closes April 20**

ALL garden club members in Pacific Region are invited to attend the 2025 region convention at Wyndham Phoenix Airport/Tempe in Arizona. Full of sunshine, dry air, mountain landscapes, and desert vegetation, this area is known as The Valley of the Sun. It is a sight to be seen and experienced! April typically offers temperatures in the 80s and bright, sunny skies!

**What better place to hold a Garden Club Convention?**



This year’s theme, “Wild and Water-Wise,” emphasizes a major issue within our region. Populations are growing, temperatures are rising, and severe droughts are happening! All of this affects water availability. Various PR25 speakers will address water-wise practices promoting sustainability and conservation. Using proper water-wise strategies within our gardens optimizes water resources, reduces water waste, and fosters healthier plants. Keynote speakers will include **Karen Cesare**, the Pima County representative to the Central Arizona Water District who has played a key part in Arizona water rights negotiations and water management and **Kim Grey**, the Executive Director at Boyce Thompson Arboretum, the nation’s first botanical garden established in a desert environment. Our awards banquet keynote speaker **Linda Larson**, author of *Traveling Gardens*, will share highlights of her journey visiting 1,000 gardens worldwide. Closing out the convention, representatives of the **National Forest Service** will discuss reforestation programs including the efforts we support through the NGC Plant A Tree program (formerly Penny Pines).

PR25 offers something for all garden club members across the region. Throughout PR25, you can participate in several hands-on workshops such as building a travel-worthy bee/insect “hotel,” learning grafting techniques to grow several varieties on the same plant, and “Make and Take” a petite floral design using recycled containers and fresh floral materials. Most of these workshops have limited capacity, so register soon to ensure your spot!

Between business meetings, you can choose from eight educational sessions distributed throughout PR25 with topics ranging from wildlife art and using color theory in design to

low-water use gardening and seed saving. Also be sure to check out NGC Membership Chair **Robin Pokorski's** "25 Tips to Boost Membership" at the very beginning of convention! While PR25 attendees can enjoy the amenities of the newly renovated Wyndham hotel with its courtyard swimming pool, restaurant/coffee shop and bar, you can also use any down time to peruse the Art in Bloom Exhibition Flower Show throughout the Wyndham's lobby, bid on silent auction items, and visit sponsor booths.

But there will be more fun outside the hotel, too! We've set up free guided tours of the Mesa Community College Rose Garden where you can see more than 9,000 roses in bloom, and the Arizona Herb Association's Demonstration Garden with its unique blend of herbs and native herbal plants.

**But do not just come for the Convention days! Allow for a longer visit to see Arizona!**



Several pre- and post-convention activities have been planned, so come early and stay a few extra days! On Saturday, April 26, join us in a guided walk through Arizona State University's Date Palm farm where rare types of date palms are grown. And/or spend the afternoon in one of Arizona's most famous gardens, Boyce Thompson Arboretum showcasing desert plants from the around on nearly 400 acres. Register for Arizona's State Convention on Sunday, April 27 to hear Brent Leech, Senior Floral Education Coordinator at Arizona Flower Market and former National Board of Directors at Large of the American Institute of Design in a floral design demo and separate hands-on workshop.

Post-convention on Wednesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 1 offers some amazing, ONLY-IN-ARIZONA Tours. After closing ceremonies on April 30, you can visit the house and gardens of architect Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and institute, Taliesin West. Or spend the afternoon exploring nearby Desert Botanical Garden with more than 50,000 drought-tolerant plants on 40 acres; its Plants and People of the Sonoran Desert Trail provides a wonderful introduction to Southwestern ethnobotany (human use of plants).

Then stay Thursday, May 1 to visit one of the most scenic and amazing places on earth,  
**Sedona. Arizona!**



Sedona is known worldwide for its vibrant red rock colorings, cliffs, and canyons; boutique shopping areas; and beautiful Oak Creek flowing throughout the town. Sedona Area Garden Club will host you on a tour of a member's historical property to learn about the history and culture of the area. After lunch, you can embark on one of three optional tours featuring the Arts District and Chapel of the Holy Cross; western red rock formations and the Sedona Historical Museum; or exploring the area on an ATV and hiking tour into the wilderness! Any will give you an experience of a lifetime!

Online registration is open at [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025). Early bird pricing lasts until March 1 and online registration closes on April 20. Mail-in registration is available but must be postmarked no later than April 10. Any questions, please email <mailto:azgardenconvention@gmail.com>.

The Pacific Region Garden Clubs 2025 Convention offers something for all garden club members! It is not to be missed!

**SIGN UP TODAY!!**



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
81st Annual Convention
April 28 – 30, 2025



Registration Form – One Name Per Form, Please

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Status: \_\_\_\_\_ PRGC Board of Directors \_\_\_\_\_ Official Delegate (authorized by State Pres.)

Badge Information (Please check all that apply)

- PRGC Director PRGC Officer PRGC Chairman (Committee \_\_\_\_\_)
PRGC State President PRGC Former Director PRGC Life Member
NGC President NGC Board (Committee \_\_\_\_\_)
Guest/Spouse First Time Attendee NGC Life Member
Garden Club Member Garden Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Package Plan: (includes registration, 2 dinners, 2 lunches & 1 brunch) Select one option below or the Partial Plan options:

Table with 3 columns: Plan Name, Price, and Amount. Rows include Full Time Pacific Region (\$310.00) and Full Time Arizona Members (\$295.00).

Partial Plan, Spouses, Guests Only: (a la carte choices):

Table with 3 columns: Description, Price, and Amount. Rows include Part Time Registration (\$75.00), Arizona Members Part Time Registration (\$60.00), Dinner guest and non-NGC member additional fee (\$10.00), and various meal options for 4/28, 4/29, and 4/30.

Optional Workshops and Tours:

Table with 3 columns: Description, Price, and Amount. Rows include various workshops and tours such as Bee/Insect Hotel, Make and Take, Grafting Workshop, Sedona Tour Full Package, and Sedona Afternoon Tour Options.

After 3/01/25, please add late fee \$25.00

Total Registration Cost - No Refunds after 4/01/25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Diet Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Free Tours with Registration: Pre-registration required, please check those you wish to attend
4/28 MCC Rose Garden 4/29 AHA Demo Garden

Please Make Check Payable to PRGC Convention and mail with this form postmarked by 4/10/25 to Peggy Ahola, 150 Quail Track, Sedona, AZ 86336 or register & pay online at pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025

For more information? Contact Peggy Ahola, azgardentreasurer@gmail.com, or Kim Rosenlof 480-710-8830, or Carol Norquist, 907-248-9563, pacreggardenclubs@gmail.com.

Wyndham Phoenix Airport / Tempe. Group rate link can be found at pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2025
By registering for this convention, you give the Pacific Region permission to use the images, photos, and/or videos to promote PR in the future.

Happy New Year  
 Happy Valentines Day  
 Happy President's Day  
 Happy Tax Day (if there is such a day)  
 Happy Arbor Day  
 See you in May, so to speak.

As always, please, feel free to send in your articles by April 15<sup>th</sup> but no earlier than April 1<sup>st</sup>, and no, that's no joke. That way I don't miss your contributions. It's been a rough start for 2025, so lets all find peace and comfort in each other through our gardens.

Yours Truly,  
 Myrna Cabanban, Editor  
 PrgcWaconiah@gmail.com

