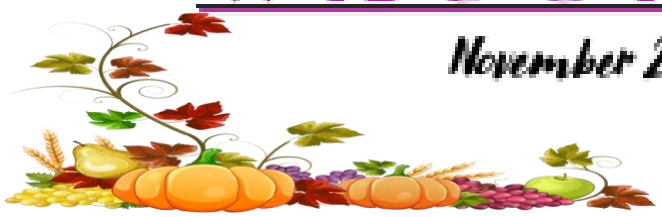
WACONIAH

November 2026



It's been a loooong year…

It really has! It's been eighteen months since we saw each other.
It's been a wonderful year though! You have all been so helpful, generous, kind, patient and welcoming to me.

I have tried to keep in touch with all of you through my "Tuesday Thoughts" and with our regular "Pacific Zoom, Chat to connect" Meetings. Both of these are open to all members to join!
It seems like I joined many National Zoom meetings, but all for a good cause.
The Regional Directors have been meeting on Zoom also and I recommend that the next PRGC Director does the same.

Of course, no year goes by without some setback. We lost some real good members and especially the passing of Carol Norquist was such a blow, not only for the Region, but at all levels of Garden Club and especially Alaska Members missed their leader.
So many of you stepped in and took over our website and all the other things that Carol took care of. We still need someone to fix our Facebook.

I am sorry that we lost Idaho and Hawaii… (It would have been fun visiting those states). We are keeping their names in our rotation, and they are always welcome to come back.
My special project is Firewise Communities, and I hope you were able to participate in some of the five webinars that were put on by the Pacific Region. If you missed them or want to review them, all of them are on the website now.

I wrote articles for the National Gardener and for the Waconiah and answered questions from members all over the Region.
Sat in and had input on different committees. So, I kept busy these last 18 months!

PLANT AMERICA: Wild, Wise and Wonderful!

At times the going was Wild, I have had so much Wise advice, and you all have been so Wonderful!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Pacific Region Director!

Tanja Swanson
Pacific Region Director

Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze



Pacific Region. I am so proud of you! We must have the kindest, sweetest, hardest working people in all of the regions!

What a magnificent convention we just finished. California members under the leadership of their tireless leader Robin Pokorski put on a convention that everyone can learn from. And learning we did! First, during the tours to a Historic Park and Museum in Simi Valley and the Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College on Saturday. Both very interesting!

On Sunday we visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum also in Simi Valley. The beautiful building is situated high in the hills with a splendid view of the whole area. The museum itself is a maze that follows President Reagan's life from a young boy to his school days, college, movies (so many of them) and California Governor to President, to "Tear Down This Wall" speech. To the very end of his extraordinary life. It showed how much Nancy Reagan was involved and there were mannequins showing some of her dresses.
A big part of the museum is the Hall where you can actually walk through Air Force One. See the Marine One Helicopter and his parade limousines in a motorcade. It's big! Another fun part of the museum was where you could see the menus of different state dinners, and you could virtually arrange flowers for these events. Too much to see in one visit.

On Monday the fun started with 11 workshops from: "Ask the Parliamentarian" to Making Bird Nests, Tissue Flowers, and Napkin folding. So many ideas to do back at home with your members.

Tuesday the Convention was officially opened with a welcome from the California Garden Clubs President Adele Kelly and a moving recitation of the Johnny Cash poem "Ragged Old Flag" by Robin. In between there were meetings and we got all our business done. (see Greg Pokorski's report). There were two programs after lunch On

Tuesday: Jorge Ochoa – "Up Close and Personal with Bugs". Just Jorge's enthusiasm was inspiring!

On Wednesday Nicholas Staddon talked about plants and flowers throughout the Pacific Region. In the morning we held a very productive Round Table Discussion which was good for everyone.

Monday night was Game Night and who knew you could have so much fun playing games?! Wednesday night, we did many rounds of Pacific Region Bingo. Another one of Robin's clever inventions!

The food was excellent every breakfast, lunch and dinner and on Monday night and Tuesday we were so honored that our National Garden Clubs President; Donna Donnelly joined us. She had as much fun as we all did!



Donna gave her speech on Tuesday night. Members with Life Memberships were recognized and Sue Bennett managed to add many more, so perhaps we have enough money to add a second scholarship next year? THANK YOU, Sue!!! The recipient of the Pacific Region Scholarship, Cherise Hunt was present to be recognized by Martha Smyser and all of us. Jennifer Moreland made a fantastic very professional video showing all the Award Winners and the many different judges. Everyone did such an amazing job!

And if you want to be part of the next convention, please start planning now. You don't want to miss the fun and be part of the decision making. And I am almost forgetting the best part of it all, the many wonderful, sweet, interesting, phenomenal people you will meet.

"Palm Trees 'n' Ocean Breeze! The Hotel was such a beautiful setting for a Garden Club Convention. Plenty of palm trees, Birds of Paradise plants and other flowers all over. Gazebos and statues and fountains. Just beautiful!

Thank you All for an Awesome Convention!
Let's do it all again in six months!

Love from Tanja!







The Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (AFGC) would like to invite you to continue your gardening educational journey with us and register for our upcoming Landscape Design School (LDS) courses. **Registration is now officially open for Course 4 in December 2026.**

The Course will be held virtually via Zoom in a convenient two-day format (Friday and Saturday) which means no travel or hotel expenses required.

LDS Course 4: December 4–5, 2026 from 9:30am - 4pm MST via Zoom

Course Topics to be covered include Contemporary Landscape Design Trends, Community Participation in Landscaping Project, History and Development of Community Gardens, Suburban Design, Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs of Residential, Public and Commercial Property, Evaluations of Landscape Designs.
Achieving and Maintaining Your Status

- **Becoming an NGC Consultant:** To achieve full status as an NGC Consultant, a garden club member must complete all 4 courses and pass the course exams. If you have already taken Courses 1, 2, or 3 this is the perfect opportunity to fulfill your requirements! Courses 1,2, and 3 will be offered during 2027. You do not have to have taken any of the previous Courses to take Course 4.
- **Refreshing Your Consultant Status:** If you are already an accredited LDS Consultant and need to refresh your credentials, you may take either course. Please note that refreshers are not required to complete the exam.
- **Audit Only:** If you are simply looking to learn without receiving official credit, you are welcome to register as an auditor.

Registration Pricing

- **AFGC Members:** $95 (Students) | $90 (Refreshers) | $80 (Audit)
- **Non-AFGC Members:** $110 (Students) | $105 (Refreshers) | $95 (Audit)

- *Please note: All participants must attend a brief, mandatory pre-course orientation session prior to the classes.*

HOW TO REGISTER:

You can download the full course brochures, review the daily schedules, and register online by visiting the AFGC Schools Page. Online Registration Due Date is November 27, 2026

Contact Peggy Ahola at azgardenschools@gmail.com for any questions.

Thank you for your continued dedication to landscape design. We look forward to having you join our Course!! Jan Wells AFGC Schools Marketing Coordinator



OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN
NGC President Donna Donnelly
AFGC President Jennifer Moreland

AFGC Schools Chair,
Local School Chair, Registrar
Peggy Ahola
150 Quail Track
Sedona, AZ 86336
azgardenschools@gmail.com
651-303-8972

All participants must have a desktop, laptop, tablet or iPad with integrated camera and microphone. Smart phones are not permitted unless for "hotspot" connectivity.

All participants must participate in brief Pre-Course Orientation Session on Saturday, October 31, 3 pm Arizona time (If schedule conflict, contact Peggy Ahola, azgardenschools@gmail.com)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Prospective consultants must take a written examination. Each course includes:
- Ten hours of lectures, including a supplemental subject lecture
- A multiple-choice exam (open book/notes) based on the lectures. Exams are optional, but must be taken by those who apply for NGC certification.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT
National Garden Clubs (NGC) Certification is only available to members of an NGC garden club. Exams are optional but must be taken by students wishing to be certified as an NGC Landscape Design Consultant.

Each of the four courses consist of ten hours of lectures. Attendance is mandatory for the student to be able to take the exam and receive credit. Refreshers do not need to take the exams.

For certification students must complete all four courses and exams with a passing grade of 70 or above.

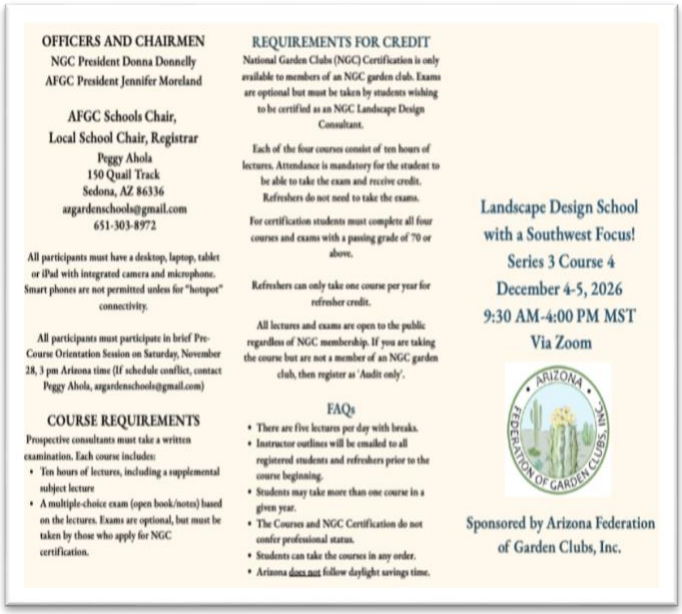
Refreshers can only take one course per year for refresher credit.

All lectures and exams are open to the public regardless of NGC membership. If you are taking the course but are not a member of an NGC garden club, then register as 'Audit only'.

FAQs
- There are five lectures per day with breaks.
- Instructor outlines will be emailed to all registered students and refreshers prior to the course beginning.
- Students may take more than one course in a given year.
- The Courses and NGC Certification do not confer professional status.
- Students can take the courses in any order.
- Arizona does not follow daylight savings time.

Landscape Design School
with a Southwest Focus!
Series 3 Course 3
November 6-7, 2026
9:30 AM-4:00 PM MST
Via Zoom

Sponsored by Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN
NGC President Donna Donnelly
AFGC President Jennifer Moreland

AFGC Schools Chair,
Local School Chair, Registrar
Peggy Ahola
150 Quail Track
Sedona, AZ 86336
azgardenschools@gmail.com
651-303-8972

All participants must have a desktop, laptop, tablet or iPad with integrated camera and microphone. Smart phones are not permitted unless for "hotspot" connectivity.

All participants must participate in brief Pre-Course Orientation Session on Saturday, November 28, 3 pm Arizona time (If schedule conflict, contact Peggy Ahola, azgardenschools@gmail.com)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Prospective consultants must take a written examination. Each course includes:
- Ten hours of lectures, including a supplemental subject lecture
- A multiple-choice exam (open book/notes) based on the lectures. Exams are optional, but must be taken by those who apply for NGC certification.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT
National Garden Clubs (NGC) Certification is only available to members of an NGC garden club. Exams are optional but must be taken by students wishing to be certified as an NGC Landscape Design Consultant.

Each of the four courses consist of ten hours of lectures. Attendance is mandatory for the student to be able to take the exam and receive credit. Refreshers do not need to take the exams.

For certification students must complete all four courses and exams with a passing grade of 70 or above.

Refreshers can only take one course per year for refresher credit.

All lectures and exams are open to the public regardless of NGC membership. If you are taking the course but are not a member of an NGC garden club, then register as 'Audit only'.

FAQs
- There are five lectures per day with breaks.
- Instructor outlines will be emailed to all registered students and refreshers prior to the course beginning.
- Students may take more than one course in a given year.
- The Courses and NGC Certification do not confer professional status.
- Students can take the courses in any order.
- Arizona does not follow daylight savings time.

Landscape Design School
with a Southwest Focus!
Series 3 Course 4
December 4-5, 2026
9:30 AM-4:00 PM MST
Via Zoom

Sponsored by Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



OVERVIEW

Objectives of the Landscape Design Schools
- Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride, and knowledge about our private, public, and historical gardens.
- Become better informed in order to promote positive changes in our surroundings to encourage beauty, utility, convenience, sound ecological practices.
- Encourage a better understanding of the landscape Design process to promote landscapes that will sustain sound management.
- Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning.
- Develop a contingent of qualified NGC Landscape Design Consultants to serve in areas of public life, such as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards, and working to promote positive landscaping decisions.

IMPORTANT

All students must include a Form 6 with their registration. If this is your final Course to achieve consultant status, it should be signed by your state LDS Chair. All refreshers must include a Form 7 signed by their state's LDS Chair.

COURSE 3 HIGHLIGHTS
1. Contemporary Landscape Design Trends
2. Community Participation in Landscaping Projects
3. History and Development of Community Gardens
4. Suburban Design
5. Guidelines for Evaluating Landscape Designs of Residential, Public and Commercial Property
6. Evaluations of Landscape Designs, 4 hours
7. Supplemental Subject: Water Conservation

For Students: How many LDS courses have you completed prior to this Course? _____

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE

We want to encourage you to register online for this course! Go to our website at:
https://azgardenclubs.com/schools
or
direct link to online registration:
https://forms.gle/HszdTCGTLVEFbHCo7

DEADLINE for online registration, cancellations, and refunds: November 27, 2026

PAPER REGISTRATION

DEADLINE for paper registration, cancellations, and refunds: November 20, 2026
Make checks payable to AFGC, Inc.
Mail registration form and check to: Peggy Ahola
see address on the other side

PAPER REGISTRATION

Print, fill out and mail the section below

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name	
Address	
City	
State, Zip	
email	
phone	
NGC Garden Club	
NGC Region	
State where LDS records are kept	

Students, non-AFGC members	$110.00
Students, AFGC Members	$95.00
Refreshers, non-AFGC members	$105.00
Refreshers, AFGC members	$90.00
Audit only, non-AFGC members	$95.00
Audit only, AFGC members	$80.00
AMOUNT OF CHECK	

Procedures

Carol and Tanja set up this committee just prior to Carol's passing. There was interest in where to find information about chairman positions, retained documents, and the financial review process. Alexis Slafer is on the committee, and Jeanette Pruin joined to replace Carol.

Review of our current documents shows: Standing Rules, Bylaws, Awards Booklet and Convention procedures as well as the Pacific Region website and the NGC website, the majority of chairman and committee information are readily available. The Bylaws include the descriptions of the makeup of committees and duties, and the Standing Rules lists responsibilities. The finer points are filled in with the chairman's creativity and unique skillsets.

Minutes of our meetings are retained on the Pacific Region website under Forms/Docs. We currently do not retain your individual chairman reports in a purposeful way. This may change as some feel that the reports should be compiled and saved, most likely digitally.

The composition of the final convention report is described in Convention Procedures. This includes the budget, financial report, hotel information, etc. and will be kept by the Convention Coordinator for at least 5 years.

Other financial information is kept by the treasurers according to current IRS nonprofit requirements. The annual financial review may be kept for 3 years according to a former chairman.

The "Information Location" document can be found on the Pacific Region Website, pacificregiongardenclubs.com, under Forms/Docs/PR Procedure Information.

Procedures Committee

Brynn Tavasci

Alexis Slafer

Jeanette Pruin



Where to find information for your position on the Pacific Region Board of Directors

Most of the information can be found in these four documents
Awards Booklet - Bylaws – Convention Procedures – Standing Rules
They are found on the Pacific Region Website, pacificregiongardenclubs.com

Information connected to NGC can be found on the NGC website, gardenclub.org

Some information can be found in multiple places in various levels of detail. All can be helpful as well as contacting other chairmen familiar with your position.

	ET		RES			RULES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE						
DIRECTOR		X	X	X	X	X
ALTERNATE DIRECTOR		X			X	X
RECORDING SECRETARY		X	X		X	X
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY		X			X	X
TREASURER		X	X		X	X
HISTORIAN		X			X	X
PARLIAMENTARIAN		X			X	X
STATE PRESIDENTS		X		X	X	X
ADVISORY COMMITTEE		X			X	X
INTERNAL ORGANIZATION						
BOOK OF RECOGNITION		X			X	X
CHAPLAIN		X			X	X
FINANCIAL REVIEW		X			X	X
GEMS		X	X		X	X
ORGANIZATION STUDY		X	X		X	X
PROCEDURES COMMITTEE		X	X		X	X
SCHOLARSHIPS		X		X	X	X
NOMINATING COMMITTEE		X			X	X
AWARDS						
POWERPOINT/CERTIFICATES	X	X			X	X

ARBOR DAY PROGRAM	X	X		X	X	X
FLOWER SHOW AWARDS	X	X		X	X	X
GARDEN THERAPY	X	X		X	X	X
MEMBERSHIP	X	X		X	X	X
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK	X	X		X	X	X
NATIVE FLORA	X	X			X	X
NGC AWARD OF HONOR	X	X		X	X	X
PUBLICATIONS SOCIAL MEDIA	X	X		X	X	X
POSITION	Awards Booklet	Bylaws	Convention Procedures	NGC Website	PR Website	Standing Rules
WEBSITE	X	X			X	X
YEARBOOK AWARDS	X	X			X	X
YOUTH ACTIVITIES	X	X		X	X	X
AWARD LIAISON TO NGC	X	X		X	X	X
<u>EDUCATION</u>						
NGC EDUCATION SCHOOLS		X		X	X	X
NGC FS SCHOOLS		X		X	X	X
<u>GARDENING/HORTICULTURE</u>						
ARBOREAL		X			X	X
HERB/EDIBLE GARDENS		X			X	X
INDOOR/CONTAINER GARDEN		X			X	X
ORGANIC GARDENING		X			X	X
POLLINATOR GARDENS		X			X	X
THERAPY/HEALING GARDENS		X			X	X
WILDFLOWER		X			X	X
NATIVE FLORA		X			X	X
XERISCAPING		X			X	X
<u>ENVIRONMENT/ CONSERVATION</u>						
BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT		X			X	X

BIRDS		X			X	X
BUTTERFLIES		X			X	X
ENV/CLIMATE/CONSERVATION		X			X	X
INVASIVE SPECIES		X			X	X
PROJECTS						
ARBOR DAY	X	X		X	X	X
BLUE/GOLD STAR MARKERS	X	X		X	X	X
COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION	X	X		X	X	X
DIRECTORS PROJECT	X	X		X	X	X
NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK	X	X		X	X	X
NGC PRESIDENTS PROJECT		X		X	X	X
PLANT A TREE		X		X	X	X
RECYCLE/REUSE/REPURPOSE		X			X	X
OUTREACH CRAFTS		X			X	X
YOUTH						
POETRY CONTEST	X	X		X	X	X
SCULPTURE CONTEST	X	X		X	X	X
SMOKEY BEAR/WOODSY OWL	X	X		X	X	X
POSITION	Awards Booklet	Bylaws	Convention Procedures	NGC Website	PR Website	Standing Rules
COMMUNICATION						
SOCIAL/FACEBOOK/WEBSITE			X		X	X
WACONIAH		X	X		X	X
WACONIAH CIRCULATION						X
WACONIAH PROOFREADING						X

CONVENTION/PR BOARD		X			
CONVENTION HISTORY CHAIR		X	X	X	X
CONVENTION CREDENTIALS		X	X	X	X
CONVENTION PROTOCOL		X	X	X	X
RESOLUTIONS		X	X	X	X

Procedures Committee 5/2026





Highlights of the Business of the 2026 Pacific Region Convention in Thousand Oaks, California

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- Following tours on October 10 and 11, California Garden Clubs, Inc. hosted the 82nd Annual Convention at The Palm Garden Hotel from October 12 to 14. Region Director Tanja Swanson presided.
- The Finance and Organization Study Committees met prior to the Convention.
- The Executive Committee (officers and state presidents) met on October 12. The Board of Directors met on October 13. The Convention business meetings took place on October 13 and 14. A lively Roundtable Meeting was held on October 14.
- Assets of $59,191.29 were reported as of the fiscal year-end (including general checking account – $38,101.75; and scholarship account – $11,874.90), $1,241.48 was made in fundraising.
- The 2027 convention budget was adopted.
- Resignations since the 2025 convention were accepted and appointments of board members since the 2025 convention were ratified.
- Amendments to Convention Procedures were adopted by the Executive Committee. Amendments to Standing Rules were adopted by the Board of Directors. Amendments to Bylaws were adopted by the membership (the convention body). Updated documents will be posted on the website.
- The Financial Reviewers' report regarding the fiscal year ended in 2025 was presented and accepted.
- Officers, State Presidents, and Chairmen reported.
- NGC President Donna Donnelly was a guest and addressed the attendees at dinner on October 13.
- PRGC Life Members were honored and new life memberships were purchased. The 2026 Scholarship recipient Cherise Hunt was present and addressed attendees, and the 2026 awards winners were celebrated.
- Oregon Federation of State Garden Clubs, Inc. President Becky Cook extended the invitation to the 2027 Annual Convention in Portland, Oregon, April 5-8, 2027 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel.
- Total convention registration: 104. Voting strength: 43.
- Lynne Batchelor and Robin Pokorski from California were introduced as having been elected to serve as 2027-2029 Region Director and Alternate Director.



Report for the 2026 Pacific Region Convention

Carolyn Olley, Alternate Director

Tanja asked me to work on her special project: Firewise communities. In the beginning, I was unfamiliar with the Firewise concept.

My Clackamas (OR) District Director, Susan Piper, was all too familiar with it, however. She and her family lost everything in the Oakland (CA) fires in 1991. She became an advocate for people experiencing the trauma of devastating fires in their communities, and she encouraged people to do things that would help them avoid disaster or at least lessen the severity.

Sue has many contacts and was able to get some of them to give a total of five presentations from February to September of this year. Those presentations included:

Firewise Webinar #1: Firewise Landscaping
Priscilla Robinson, President,
Clackamas County (OR) Master Gardeners
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4EHI2kZUg
93 registered about 40 showed up

Firewise Webinar #2: Making Your Home Fire Resistant (Hardening Your Home)
Laura Blaul, Senior Wildfire Fellow,
Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmxPNHegVGI
42 registered about 25 showed up

Firewise Webinar #3: Insurance Matters:
Understanding & Renewing Your Insurance
Emily Rogan, United Policyholders
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THRpDJjtzHw
42 registered about 20 showed up

Firewise Webinar #4: Personal and Family
Preparedness Before a Disaster
Todd Lando, President, Fire Safe Marin and Central Marin
Battalion Chief
https://youtube.com/watch?v=krn03FQdtc8
42 people registered about 20 showed up

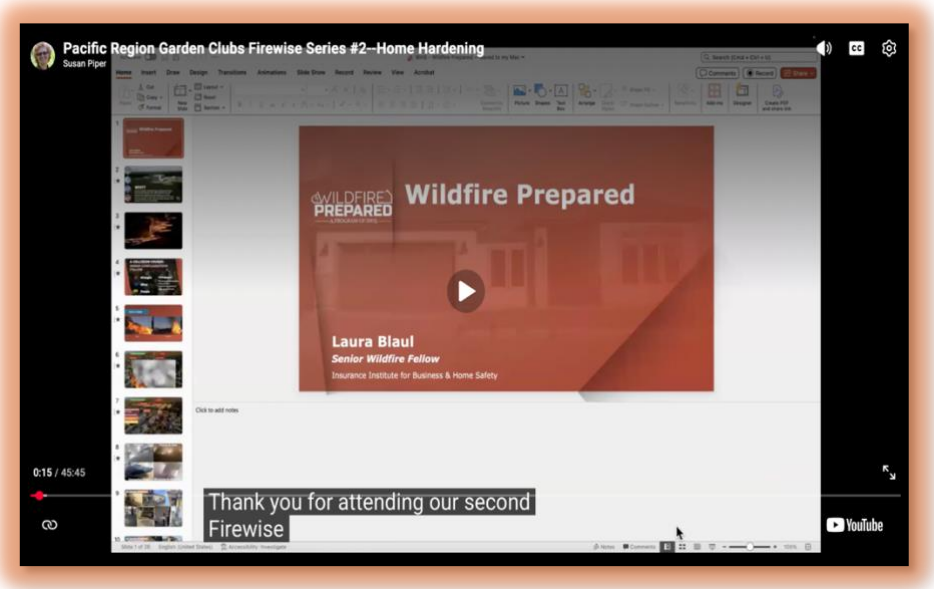
Firewise Webinar #5: Organizing Your Neighbors
(Firewise Communities)
Joele Frasier, Oakland Fire Safe Council and
Maryanne Hubbard, Oakland's CABS Firewise Neighborhood
https://youtube/watch?v=riYSDYo7r9s
53 people registered about 20 showed up

The Pacific Region has all of these information on its website:
https://pacificregiongardenclubs.com/directors-project

By attending these presentations, we hoped that our members would gain some knowledge of ways to protect themselves, their homes, and their communities. All five of the webinars are now on YouTube. I have included the YouTube information so members who were not able to participate can watch.

If you have questions, send me an email and I'll try to get answers. If you come up with other possible webinar topics that you think might pertain to fire safety or Firewise communities, let me know about those. I'll see if we can get a speaker to address those concerns.

Thank you for your time.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW PRGC LIFE MEMBERS!

(sorted by last name)

Sue Bennett, PRGC Life Membership Chair





LYNNE BATCHELOR
DREAMA BROWER
DORRIE CARR*
BECKY COOK
ROSEANN COSTABILE
DONNA DONNELLY*
ADELE KELLEY
CINDY KOVACS
MARIA KRENEK
JENNIFER MORELAND
BEVERLY NEWTON
LENDA SUNDENE
LINDA TRAVIS***

*Dorrie and NGC President received their pin and certificate at the convention; others will be mailed.
*** Her club president took it home

A total of $1,000** was made for support the PRGC Scholarship.
**(some gave more than $75 thus the number doesn't add up)

THANK YOU



Pileated Woodpecker

(Dryocopus Pileatus)



Pileated means cap. The name comes from the Latin word pileus, referring to the close-fitting felt cap worn by ancient Romans.

The Pileated Woodpecker is North America's largest woodpecker.

Description- 16-19" tall, weight 8.8- 12.3 oz., wingspan 2ft 2in -2ft 5in. Wing shape- broad and rounded. Pileated Woodpeckers have zygodactyl feet; two toes face forward and two toes facing backward. The birds use their stiff tail as a 3rd point of support to form a sturdy tripod on vertical tree trunks.

Males predominantly black with red crest and a red cheek stripe referred to as a mustache. They have bold white strips extending from their husky black beak down the length of their long necks. White face and a black eye mask. White flanks and underwing linings flash in flight. The females are similar but red less extensive on crest and absent on mustache. The Pileated Woodpeckers have specialized feathers and a third eye lid to protect their nostrils and eyes from the debris they fling as it drills into the tree. The barbed tongue is so long it wraps around the inside of its skull.

Pileated Woodpeckers mate for life. The pair stays together on their territory all year round and do not migrate. The birds maintain a large territory, often over 200 acres.

Range- Breeds in the coastal forest down to central California, the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon, rare in the rocky Mountain states but widespread in the Eastern United States. Year round resident across Canada.

Habitat- Conifer, mixed and hardwood forests. The birds favor mature deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forest. A variety of forest types, from southern swamps to old growth Douglas fir forest.

Diet- Primarily an insectivore. Carpenter ants make up 40-90% of their food source. They eat wood-boring beetle larvae, termites and other insects. The Pileated Woodpecker uses its long sticky barbed tongue to extract larvae and insects deep inside decaying wood. They will eat wild fruit and berries, nuts and high energy suet at feeders.

Nesting- The nest cavity is a 10-30 inch deep, oblong hole which takes 3-6 weeks to complete. The entrance can be pear shaped, oval or triangle shaped. The male does most of the digging with the help of the female. They excavate a fresh nesting cavity each year.

No nesting material is used other than the bed of left over wood chips. The nest cavity is 15 to 70 feet above the ground in a large dead or decaying tree.
The birds begin nesting in late March to early April. The female lays 3-5 white eggs in May. Both parents share incubation which takes about two weeks. Both parents feed the nestlings regurgitated carpenter ants and other insects. Young Pileated Woodpeckers stay in the nest 24-31 days. The family group stays together through the summer, and the adults teach the young how to forage.



While digging in trees, the Pileated Woodpecker strikes the wood at incredible speeds without suffering brain damage. Their skulls are cushioned and the brain cavities hold less fluid to prevent sloshing around during impact. The massive cavities they carve in trees serve as secondary homes for other cavity-nesting wildlife like the Wood Duck, Owls, Swifts and Bats.

Voice- The Pileated Woodpecker creates a variety of noises, some while foraging and others to attract mates and announce its territory. It has a shrill, whinnying call and a deep, loud drumming call.

Predators- Birds of prey like a Hawk and Owl can ambush a bird in mid-flight. Mammals and snakes that can climb trees and raid the nest cavities for eggs and young nestlings.

Habitat loss - The removal of large and decaying trees can affect the Pileated Woodpecker. They rely on old tall snags for nesting and roosting. The birds are vulnerable to lightning strikes.
There are over 2.6 million Pileated Woodpeckers in North America. The Pileated Woodpecker is a keystone habitat modifier as it impacts the habitat for other species and affects the natural processes within the ecosystem.

Pileated Woodpeckers are protected under the United States Migratory Bird Act.
Interesting Bird Facts:
The four biggest threats to Birds are Windows, Outdoor cats, Toxic pollution and Destruction of Habitats. These are four things that humans can control.
Interest in birding is surging among young people.
Research shows how beneficial it is for our bodies to spend time in nature.

Ann Kronenwetter, PRGC Bird Chairman



PACIFIC REGION NATIVE FLORA REPORT

October 10, 2027

Sheila Parcel, Chair
PRGC Native Flora

Native flora refers to plant species that naturally occur and have evolved in a specific region or ecosystem over thousands of years without human involvement. They have co-evolved with local wildlife, forming essential relations with their ecosystems. They often possess traits such as deep root systems, drought resistance and resilience to local pests and diseases.

The PACIFIC REGION is not one region – it is several overlapping regions with dramatically different climates, soils, and native plant communities. The PRGC is divided into three major landscape types: the Pacific Coast (Washington, Oregon, California, and southeastern Alaska), Desert (Nevada and Arizona) and Interior Alaska (which includes North Slope, Denali National Park, southcentral population center and the Aleutian Island Chain. This report is presented by the actual U.S. State.



Washington State's native flora is diverse with over 2,600 species. These plants range from alpine firs to coastal madrones, and include many ecologically important species for wildlife, pollinators and habitat. Some notable native species are Pacific madrone, Pacific rhododendron, Western red cedar, high-bush cranberry and Kinnikinnick.

Arizona's flora includes over 3,800 native species dominated by cacti, legumes, asters, grasses and agaves, with major regional variation from Sonoran Desert cacti to high-elevation pine forests in a dramatic elevation range (under 100 ft to over 12,000 ft). Dominant plants in the Sonoran Desert are Saguaro cacti and Ocotillo, Palo Verde, Mesquite, Yucca and Agave. Arizona Lupine and Desert Bells grow wild along the freeways in the spring. The Sonoran desert is the most biodiverse desert in North America. Vegetation of the desert transitions to chaparral, grasses and oak woodlands and at the higher elevations transitions to spruce-fir forests and ponderosa pine.

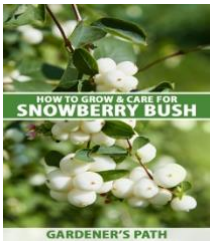




California has roughly 6,300 native species including California poppy, manzanita, California lilac, buckwheat and coast live oak, all adapted to the state's dry-summer Mediterranean climate. The state hosts one of the world's richest floras, with thousands of native species across deserts, coasts, valleys and mountains.

Oregon's landscapes – from coast to mountains to high desert – support a rich diversity of native plants. The state's flora includes over 3,600 native species, reflecting its varied ecosystems. The Coastal region features shore pine, Sitka spruce, and Salal. The forests

on the western side of the state are dominated by Douglas fir, western hemlock, and big leaf maple with understory plants sword fern, Oregon grape and trillium. The high desert in Eastern Oregon features sagebrush, rabbitbrush and bitterroot. Oregon Grape the state flower also grows there.



Nevada is the dryest U.S. state yet supports remarkable diversity of over 3,100 native species. The southern Mojave Desert features Joshua tree, creosote bush, Mohave sage and desert holly. In the Great Basin (northern & central) you will find single-leaf pinyon pine, Utah juniper and bitterbrush. The Sierra Nevada Influence (Western) features Ponderosa pine, Aspen, snowberry and Rosa woodsii. You will also find Fremont cottonwood and coyote willow along riparian areas.

Alaska's flora includes iconic species such as Sitka spruce, fireweed, Labrador tea, prickly rose, pasqueflower, chocolate lily and numerous tundra-adapted plants. Among these are mostly low-growing species adapted to permafrost and short summers such as dwarf willows, sedges and grasses, lichens and mosses. The 17,000 plus native plants span diverse biomes - from the coastal rainforest to the alpine tundra. The Aleutian Island Chain is treeless, but rich with grasses, wildflowers and shrubs.

Pacific Region Convention 2026
Marva Lee Peterschick, Herb Chairman

Dear PR Director Tanja and members:



I have been writing Herb articles for the past year and try to have some written up and ready to go ahead of time. It is such a large subject. I was hoping to meet our Pacific Region Director for 2025-2027 when I attended the WA State Federation of Garden Clubs convention in June at Leavenworth, WA, and I was not disappointed. She is a delightful lady and so easy to work for, always offering to help solve any problem. I wish I could be at the upcoming convention; it sounds so interesting and full of fun activities. I will miss seeing many dear friends, especially Robin. I look forward to working another year for Tanja and hopefully will see you in Portland next year.

Tis the Season



Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

Happy New Year



Most of all, my Best Wishes to you all.

And of course, thank you always for your contributions to each issue we put out.

For the February 2027 issue please send your articles between

January 15th, 2027, to January 31st, 2027.

(As a reminder, please, send articles in word doc form.)



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