



WACONIAH

May 2023

Newsletter Of The Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

WASHINGTON ARIZONA CALIFORNIA OREGON NEVADA IDAHO ALASKA HAWAII



How fast two years go by. It seems just like yesterday that I was in Washington State. I have been honored to represent the Pacific Region at two NGC conventions, NGC Fall Board meetings and elsewhere. Region Directors are on the scholarship committee and although it takes a fair amount of time, reading the applications of 53 applicants has been very rewarding. And the world will be a better place with these students and the varied fields they are pursuing. The region is very diverse, and I have enjoyed learning more about all the different ways our members' creativity and passions contribute to making their communities a better place to be. Garden Club goals of beauty, conservation and education along with the fellowship and friends I make along the way are why I continue to participate in garden clubs.

One chooses what and where they participate and this is what this organization work. So, continue to encourage others, invite them to your club and share what makes this group so special. Thank you for your support and let us all make our corner of the world a better place.

Arizona hosted a great, fun convention and new friends were made. Unfortunately, we learned that Idaho had voted to disband as a state organization due to lack of participation and interest by their members. We did change our bylaws to allow a club or association of clubs to be members of the region where no State organization exists. Some Idaho clubs wish to stay connected to the region.

The 2026 convention invitation was the typical Robin Pokorski production (see video on Facebook) and we are looking forward to visiting Thousand Oaks in October 12-14th. Be sure to save the dates.

*The new region Director, Tanja Swanson from Oregon, was installed. Please help her in any way you can. Her theme is **"PLANT AMERICA: Wild, Wise and Wonderful!!"** and her project is **Firewise Communities**.*



For more information on her project go to <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/directors-project>. Again, thank you for everything during the last two years and I hope to see you at the next convention.

Carol Norquist



PACIFIC REGION DIRECTOR TANJA'S SPECIAL PROJECT

FOR 2025-2027

Carolyn Olley



Today, I'm introducing you to Tanja's Special Project. As you know, every Pacific Region Director is expected to have a Special Project that relates to a concern we all have or should have.

Tanja wants us all to become familiar with **FIREWISE USA**. **FIREWISE USA** is a national program that could be the key to protecting nearby homes and businesses from the next catastrophic fire.

FIREWISE is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. Through training and local fire prevention projects, **FIREWISE** aims to encourage property owners to take proactive measures to prevent fires from destroying their homes and businesses.

Helping community members join together to be more proactive in wildfire preparation is what the **FIREWISE COMMUNITIES** program is all about. The program provides you with benefits such as learning how to prepare a "defensible space" around your home and driveway. In these defensible areas, firefighters can more safely and effectively protect your home and property from a wildfire.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES programs provide fire professionals who are there to assist residents in creating an action plan designed to help them reduce wildfire risks around their homes and neighborhoods. The program provides you with tips on the right vegetation to use, where to plant it, and how to manage all the vegetation around your home, helping you to create a more fire-safe environment.

Today, there are more than 1,300 recognized **FIREWISE COMMUNITIES** nation-wide. Learn about the simple steps to becoming a **FIREWISE COMMUNITY**, and the resources available to you to help prevent wildfire losses around your community. Neighbors working with neighbors taking ownership in reducing wildfire risks has proven to be the most effective tool in helping communities survive a wildfire.

Tanja did a small directory that includes the contacts for each State. What she wants the States to do is familiarize themselves with the **FIREWISE COMMUNITIES** in their neighborhoods and report back at Conventions and through articles in the WACONIAH about what they have learned.

Here is the list of contacts created for each Pacific Region State

Alaska

Sarah Saarloos
DNR, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: +1 907 301-0971
sarah.saarloos@alaska.gov

Arizona

Aaron Casem, Prevention & Mitigation Officer
Dept of Forestry & Fire Mgt
1110 W Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: +1 602 771-1403
acasem@dffm.az.gov

California

Visit CAL FIRE's readyforwildfire.org
for the California Firewise USA Jurisdiction
Contact Map
and specific California Criteria, including
required templates
for the wildfire risk assessment and 3-year
action plan.

Hawaii

Michael Walker, State Protection Forester
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
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Idaho

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Nevada

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Coordinator
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Oregon

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Washington

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Photo Contest Winners

Tanja Swanson

Photo Fundraiser?

Thank you to the six people twho entered the Photo Contest! I really appreciate your effort to enter your pictures. We gave you two years to enter, and we still didn't make enough money to cover the cost of the prize money...This is not a good fundraiser anymore. I do love seeing all your pictures and wish that more members would have entered. We will have to think about another fun fundraiser!

Birds/Animals: 4 entries

Insects: 6 entries

Down the Primrose Lane: no entries

Floral 19 entries

Landscapes/Gardens 8 entries

Tanja Swanson

Photo Contest chair.

Birds and animals

1st Pl: Karen Bowen - Burrowing Owls

2nd Pl: Sheila MCCleary - Squirrel

3rd Pl: Trish Schooly - Hummingbirds in nest



Landscapes / Gardens

1st Pl: Trish Schooley = Japanese Garden Reflection

2nd Pl: Sheila McCleary = Birch trees

3rd Pl: Barbara Hildebrandt = Leaf droplet

*The numbers on all these pictures are the entry numbers, not the winning numbers!!



Insects

1st Pl and Best of Show: Trish Schooley - Bees on Cosmos

2nd place: Karen Bowen - Bee on yellow flower

3rd place: Karen Bowen - Tarantula wasp



Florals

1st place: Janet Schneider = Convention trio (three orange roses)

2nd place: Janet schneider = Mother's Love (one pink rose)

3rd place: Karen Bowen = Trichocereus (yellow flower)



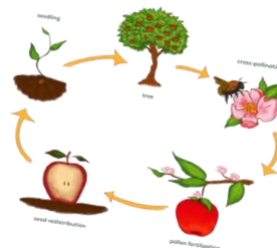
Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden Using Native Plants

Many of us enjoy beautiful flowers in our gardens. Growing native plants adds beauty and needed habitats for pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, beetles, flies and wasps. Native plants also adapt to the growing season and climate.

The pollination process starts with the pollinator moving pollen from one flower to another, which produces fertile seeds. Plants can also be pollinated by wind, water or self-pollination. However, most flowering plants depend on pollination from bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Most pollinators feed on specific plant species, hummingbirds sip nectar from long, tubular flowers, while bees prefer open-faced flowers. The bumblebee and other pollinators are called keystone species because they have a disproportionately large impact on their ecosystem relative to their abundance. The bumblebee feeds on the nectar and pollen of huckleberry flowers, pollinates the flower, which in turn, will be eaten by birds, animals and humans. Pollinators are essential to maintain healthy ecosystems, plant reproduction, and genetic diversity.

It has been noted by biologists that butterfly and bumblebee species have decreased. This is partly due to habitat loss, diseases, pollution and pesticide poisoning. To support pollinators, we can do our part by creating pollinator-friendly gardens and protecting wildlife habitats.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Drumheller



What's its Name?

Karen Bowen
Pacific Region Butterfly Chairman

Have you ever taken a photo of a beautiful butterfly or moth and wondered what its name was? To identify it, you can use Google or look through an insect identification book, but an easier way might be to use the BAMONA website:
butterfliesandmoths.org

Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) is a site that identifies and catalogs butterflies and moths found in Canada, United States, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and the Bahamas. That's a lot of locations!

Presently, over 7,000 species are listed in their database. Citizen photographers add to the database weekly by submitting their personal photos. If you enjoy photographing insects, this is a site where you can share your photographs.

BAMONA is user-friendly. To identify your unknown moth or butterfly, go to their website, butterfliesandmoths.org. Click on "Regions" in the top menu. "Regions" lists countries that are in the database. Click on "United States" and click on your state. You will see photographs of your state's twenty most common butterflies and moths and their common and scientific names. With any luck, your unknown insect is one of the twenty listed, and now you know its name. You can do the same search to identify a caterpillar, although this database is much smaller.

If you click on the photograph of your insect in the database, you are directed to a page that provides information describing the insect's physical identification (color, markings, size), life history, caterpillar's host plants, adult's food, habitat, range, and whether it is endangered.

If you don't see your insect in the top twenty insects, there's still hope. Click on "All Photographs Submitted in (state's name)". This page shows photographs of other butterflies and moths and their names that were submitted by photographers in your state.

If you know an insect's name and want information about it, or a photograph, you can also use BAMONA. Type the insect's name in the Search bar and you will be directed to photographs of the insect.

To help increase their database, BAMONA encourages the public to submit their own close-up photographs of any butterfly, moth, caterpillar, egg or pupa, along with other information the site requests on their submission form. BAMONA is free to the public and depends upon donations to help fund its website. Garden club members

who want to create a presentation about butterflies and moths will find this site helpful.

Photo 1 BAMONA

This Cecropia Moth, *Hyalophora cecropia*, was photographed in Indiana.



Photo 2 BAMONA

This Red Admiral butterfly, *Vanessa Atalanta*, was photographed in South Carolina.



Photo 3 BAMONA

This Western Swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio rutulus*, was photographed in California.



OREGON IS ON THE MOVE

Spring has finally come! Plants are growing and blooming (or getting ready to bloom), critters are active, and so are the bugs. People are wanting to get outside and dig in the dirt. Some of those people want to join a garden club to learn more about plants and our environment. The Oregon clubs are ready for new members! We are doing well. People want to join us. We continue to work on identified challenges and we are doing that as a crew. Members have their own special interests and are working together to achieve the common goal of recruiting new members and keeping the ones we have.

Our clubs have contributed to the President's Project (raising money to purchase a beach-accessible wheelchair), and raised enough for TWO chairs that will be presented to the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District at our State Convention in June. I am so proud of our members. They embraced a project that was very different from recent presidents' projects and ran with it. The chairs they purchased will allow people with mobility issues to access the beach in Seaside, Oregon. Their Parks and Recreation Center checks the chairs out for free in blocks of four hours. If you visit Seaside, and someone in your party needs some assistance, give them a call to reserve a beach-accessible wheelchair.

Here in Oregon, plant sales are very popular and many of our clubs use them to raise funds to support their many activities. Some of that money was donated to scholarships. Oregon clubs and our state organization, gave out over \$40,000 to various scholarships in 2024, and they plan to do the same in 2025.



Reflecting as my term as the Oregon State President comes to a close, I want to encourage our members to consider volunteering to be an officer, whether it be in your club, at the district level, or at the State level. My President's Theme was LEARN, SHARE, GROW. I certainly did LEARN something new, SHARE(D) my unique knowledge, and GREW as a person (and grew some new plants).

From the Oregon Crew, best wishes to all of you in the Pacific Region.

Carolyn Olley, President OSFGC 2023-2025



Alaska Garden Clubs

Sharron Carlson, President



Winter this year has been very unusual with little snowfall and warmer temperatures. Nothing compared to last year's, with record snowfall and very cold temperatures as well as a late Spring. This year Spring is definitely in the air early; however, we are still experiencing cold days and snow. The trees are starting to bud, even though the snow has not completely vanished and the cooler temperatures have them confused. The tulips and daffodils are trying to make their appearances; we hope the warmer weather will help them to show up and stay.

Here in Alaska many garden members have greenhouses to start their seeds inside, waiting for the longer and warmer days so they can plant their seedlings outside. Currently our daylight is up to 14 hours. In a few months there will be 20 hours of daylight and lots of time to be in our gardens.

The three Garden Clubs of Alaska: Anchorage, Fairbanks and Eagle River, are busy preparing for their activities for the coming year. Their monthly activities are planned for the year, and the members are eager to start playing in the soil. Anchorage Garden Club (AGC) started 2025 with a presentation about succulents. April the presentation was about organic fertilizers and how to make your own. On April 19th ACG had their annual Midtown Garden Day. This event is great for AGC to share knowledge about gardening and how AGC is very involved in the community. There is always an activity at the Garden Day for the younger children to experience playing in the dirt. June 7th is the AGC annual plant sale which is always a highlight for the community.

Fairbanks Garden Club has begun their yearly projects of maintaining flower beds and boxes throughout the community. Their club also maintains a club bed at Georgeson Botanical Garden. Fairbanks Garden Club has a Community Planting and also provides donations to the local Food Bank. The local community appreciates Fairbanks Garden Club involvement because the club provides education as well as fun activities for the children.

Greater Eagle River Garden Club (GERGC)'s first meeting for 2025 was in March. The members did flower arranging with the local florist, it was a great time. The mushroom presentation was interesting and educational. I must say it was food for thought, no pun intended. GERGC's annual plant sale is June 7th. Last year the sale was a great event for the community despite the chilly wet weather. GERGC is starting to plan maintenance for the forgotten gardens and Eagle River Welcome Sign through the summer.

The United States Armed Services is an important part of all three communities. It is the Clubs' honor to maintain the Blue Star Memorial Markers, throughout our communities, to show the support and appreciation for the men and women who have served and are serving.

This year Greater Eagle River Garden Club is hosting the 66th Annual State Convention. The theme is “Where the Mountains and Rivers Meet.” The convention is Thursday, June 19th. The Location is Joy Lutheran Church, Eagle River. Come join us!!



Awards and more Awards

Pacific Region Awards are chosen from 1st Place Awards submitted from each state. Thank you to our hard-working Awards Chairs from each state (WA: Terry Critchlow, AZ: Lucy Samuels, CA: Pat Clayes, OR: Sharon Wilson, NV: Judy Stebbins, ID: Pat Baker, and AK: Carol Norquist). A special thank you to our members in charge of special award categories (Smokey Bear Woodsy Owl - Charlotte Tucker, Poetry - Shirley Schmidt, Youth Recycled Sculpture and Pollinator Posters -Terry Critchlow). I am indebted to my Pacific Region award judges (Robin Pokorski and Gail Vanderhorst) for their insights. I appreciate the efforts of all our club award chairs and members who make it possible for us to have a positive influence in our communities.

I am pleased to announce that this year we had entries from all but one of our states. We awarded 117 well deserved certificates including 92 - 1st Place Certificates, 17 - 2nd Place Certificates and 8 - 3rd Place Certificates. Congratulations! Thank you for sharing your outstanding activities; it is a privilege to recognize the accomplishments of our Pacific Region clubs.

Next year Pacific Region would love to recognize even more clubs and individuals! Alas this year we had no entries for Award #13 Membership Campaign, Award #21 National Garden Week or Award #22 Arbor Day Program. I'm sure our clubs put effort into those awards, so begin planning now to submit your entries for next year.

Happy Summer, Lynne Batchelor, PR Awards Chair

Salt

“Salt is a mineral made up of sodium chloride (NaCl).” The mineral form is halite or rock salt. It is colorless or white when pure. It is a food preservative, flavor enhancer, binder, and stabilizer. The preservative properties of salt make it a metaphor for permanence and conviction.

Salt has been an important part of human history for 5000 years. Salt became the most important object of trade and the economic foundation of several empires. In ancient times Roman soldiers were paid in salt. Salary, or “sal”, means salt. Salt was used as currency until the 20th century. It can cost anywhere from a couple dollars for Morton Iodide Salt to \$73 for Classic / Fine Ground Celtic Sea Salt.

Salt is important to the health of humans and animals. We can’t survive without it. The human body requires sodium to conduct nerve impulses, move muscles, and maintain correct levels of water in the body. There are risks in having too much or not having enough. The hormone aldosterone controls the balance of sodium and water in the body. A lack of sodium in hot temperatures can cause dehydration. An excess of sodium in the body can cause edema or swelling. Small amounts of potassium iodide have been added to table salt when iodine is lacking in the diet.

When used in food, especially in granulated form, it is more formally called table salt.

Herbed Salts

Fusing salt with herbs yields rich flavor. It will enhance any recipe. Pick your favorite herbs. The process is this simple:

- Wash and dry your herb. Strip the leaves from the stems.
- Pour half cup of coarse salt or kosher salt on to cutting board.
- The ratio should be 2 parts herbs to 1 part salt.
- Spread the mixture on a sheet pan. Allow to dry overnight.
- Keep in lidded jar.
- Store in a cool dry cupboard. Herbed salt will keep many months.

Possible combinations are rose petals and Himalayan salt; rosemary and thyme in gray salt; lavender and rosemary with kosher salts; and parsley and Malden salt.

Judy Unrine, Herbs Chairman



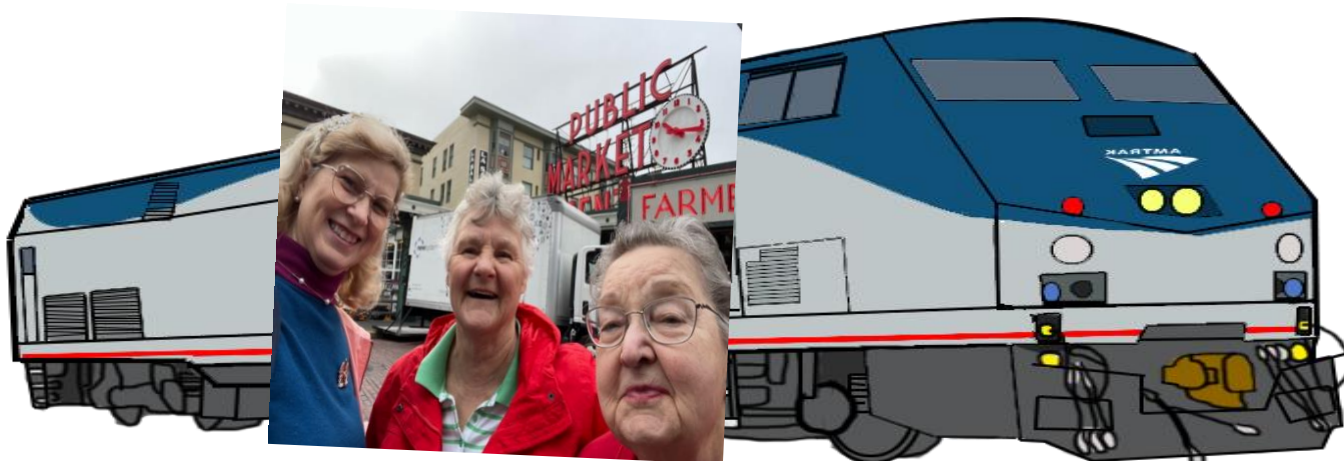
Flower & Garden Show

Three members of the Beaverton Garden Club boarded an Amtrak train on Wednesday, February 19th to travel to Seattle and attend the Northwest Flower & Garden Show at the Seattle Convention Center. All three floors of the Convention Center were full of vendors, lectures, displays and classes, with endless sights to see and ideas for the home garden and landscape.

The three went to an English High Tea on Wednesday to hear the adventures of an American gardener who toured 12 different, amazing English gardens. The food was delightful, and the photos of the gardens were gorgeous!

Thursday started out chilly, but interesting. After a small adventure (ask about the Police car!), they took the monorail to the Convention Center, where they attended talks on native plants, soil conservation, climate changes in the garden, and a container battle between two teams of nursery owners. After a dinner of delicious local seafood, they made their way back to their hotel in preparation for the trip home.

Friday was cloudy but not too chilly, so a trip to Pike Place Market was planned. There was no fish-throwing, but there were lots to see, including a mini bookstore



and a quick lunch overlooking the water. From there, they made their way to King St. Station to board Amtrak for the comfortable ride home. It was a wonderful trip, and one highly recommended for anyone who likes to see new trends or find new sources for plants.

Beaverton Garden Club News

With Spring rapidly unfolding, things are kicking into high gear for the Beaverton Garden Club. Digs are underway to get plants potted and recovered from their transplant shock so they will be gorgeous for our 17th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10th. Cedar Mill Garden Club will be partnering, and we love having them with us! There will be close to 2,000 plants, shrubs, vegetable starts, native plants, indoor

plants, container gardens, and beautiful pre-arranged Mother's Day bouquets. Fingers crossed for good weather!

The Veterans Memorial Garden is getting some tender yet determined attention, as is the Elsie Stuhr Center remembrance garden. Our membership is growing, too! Partnering with the Beaverton Chamber of Commerce has done a great job of getting us public exposure, and our amazing speakers have been a wonderful draw for new people to come and check us out.

One event we are doing with a Chamber partner is "Plants & Pints" on May 17th. We will bring plants that didn't sell at our Plant Sale to Central Station Taps in Beaverton and use the outside tables and extended sidewalk to entice passersby to purchase something for their gardens. We also receive \$1 from every pint sold during our time there, generously donated by the pub owner. We also got 2 members from this event! Just one idea on how to get involved with local businesses and get more people thinking about being in a Garden Club.

Bernadette Sterry
President
Beaverton Garden Club
beavertongardenclub.org
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