



WACONIAH

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Newsletter of the Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 40 No. 1 The Director's Theme "Looking In and Reaching Out"



Debbie Hinchey
2011 – 2013 Pacific Region Director

Director's Message

This spring I traveled to meet the fine members in the Arizona, Nevada, and Washington conventions. Just like the members in Oregon and Idaho that I met last year, everyone is making a difference for the betterment of all.

Besides trying to figure out what my Director's Project is all about, the next topic I am asked to speak on is why we want to be part of National Garden Clubs (NGC).

Besides being part of the great undertakings the other NGC clubs have accomplished (through association or with direct contributions) there is the network of experience and an infrastructure in place to facilitate future projects you may have.

By looking back at just the last five years we can see what this NGC can accomplish by all of us working together. The NGC Natural Disasters (Committee) "Green the Gulf" raised about \$64,000 to help NGC clubs purchase plant materials to replant public areas destroyed by hurricanes. The NGC World Gardening committee had an established program in Haiti to provide filter systems for clean drinking water and earthquake relief donations were funneled there to expand the program. The construction of the healing gardens around the Center for the Fallen at Dover Air Force Base by a garden club that decided a garden was sorely needed and somehow they would do it. We are also doing good deeds in many ways and this strengthens the whole group in the eyes of the public for our local projects.

It is also easy to see why it is beneficial to belong to NGC if you are only looking at the financial reasons. Except for our big sister California, if your state wins one of the 35 NGC scholarships (for \$3,500 each) for one of your students, the payback is much more than you paid in dues (but you do need to send in an scholarship application!)

Then there are some NGC Awards that give out cash prizes! If you only went after those awards you could possibly make back your dues value. California has so many clubs doing so many great projects and in a size category that the rest of us cannot come close to, maybe they can win back their dues amount, too? Remember, you need to enter to win. (The NGC website has been updated and seems easier to navigate. Check it out.)

I hope to see you soon in Anchorage at the 2012 Pacific Region Convention.

Debbie

Theme: "Alaskans Giving... Caring"



Greetings to you all from your northernmost state! Our members are busy doing what Alaskan gardeners do in the summer – reaping the benefits of our gardens, pulling weeds, enjoying the great outdoors, pulling weeds, garden tours, pulling weeds, taking care of our community gardens, and

working hard on preparations to make the Pacific Region Convention the best it can be! Did I say pulling weeds? We can literally stand outside and watch those darned things grow. THEY also love our 24 hours of sunlight! And, they're the sneakiest weeds in the entire Northern Hemisphere – I'm just sure of it!

We can't plant our gardens until close to the end of May, but here we are five weeks later harvesting our **broccoli**, eating **radish** sandwiches, adding **zucchini** and **squash** to our salads, and seeing the tassles appear on our **corn**. Yes, corn! We're not supposed to be able to grow it here, but that just challenges Alaskan gardeners! We don't accept defeat easily. I know one of our gardeners who read somewhere that corn likes 80+ degree soil in order to grow properly, so he buried heat mats about a foot deep under his corn plants. The soil temperature reads a constant 85 degrees – above zero! We'll have to report back in the next issue on the results of that experiment!

To sum up our summer so far – we've had record-setting heat and hail storms, but our plants still manage to grow and flower beautifully in spite of that. Flower show judges HAVE to understand those holes in the leaves! The thunderstorms have caused some of our woods to burn, but that makes for gorgeous colors in the sky. Our State Bird, the Mosquito, is on its second hatch, and those little things are merciless – but they provide lots of nourishment for our swallows to feed their babies. The swallows migrate in here close to the end of May and their babies already have flight feathers and are getting ready to leave their nests.

Every Alaskan you meet is in a great mood, is extremely busy, and is having a wonderful time! We hope you are having the same sort of summer where you are! **We look forward to welcoming you to our Great State for the Pacific Region Convention July 26 through 28! See you then!**

Yes, Pacific Region, the Mililani Garden Club is alive and thriving on Oahu. I had noted, recently, in the WACONIAH, that we are the only club not heard from for the publication and that the editors would like to hear from us. I am responding to that plea.

I believe that we are the only federated club that is active in Hawaii. The Club has expanded and shrunk alternately over the years, but has managed to stay afloat, thanks to the determination and dedication of a handful of members and former officers. We seem to be in the expansion state right now. We had twenty-five members attending our May meeting and potluck luncheon, at which we successfully elected new officers! Our club adapts the programs to our unique sub-tropical environment: for instance, we are not able to plant daffodils, but we do have beautiful yellow hibiscus – our State Flower.

We are situated in the central part of Oahu, about thirty miles north of Honolulu on a central plain between two mountain ranges – the Koolau and the Waianae Ranges. This past year, the club went on excursions, saw video presentations, had a Christmas Craft workshop, a neighborhood garden tour and two potluck luncheon meetings. The year before we won first place awards from the Federation for our Mililani Public Library Project that restored and planted a native plant garden in the atrium of the building. We have seen and identified one **Blue Star** Memorial near us, located outside of the main gate to Wheeler Air Force Base. We hear that there may be another one somewhere on the island, but we have not found it yet.

I will sum up with a poem I wrote for the club, that could apply to anywhere on the planet – not just Hawaii.

HAWAII IS A GARDEN

Hawaii is a garden
Made for you and me
From ocean tides and molten rock
For all the World to see.

Hawaii is a garden
That only God could make;
A precious gift of nature
Whose care it is for us to take.

Hawaii is a garden!
Let us make it our vocation
To nurture, love and bless her
With our careful, wise attention.

*By Kathleen Muirhead
Mililani Garden Club
President, 2009-2011*

Theme: "Nurture Natives — and each other"



Along with board members and state presidents, I attended the 83rd **NGC Convention** in Buffalo NY. One highlight was the tour to Niagara Falls (U.S. side) and a boat ride in the "Lady of the Mist." The power of the falls is impressive! It was interesting to network and hear what folks in

other states are doing. I am so impressed.

WSFGC "Wild Thing" Convention 79 held June 5-8 in Mount Vernon WA hosted 138 enthusiastic garden clubbers from around the state. We had fun with our tours, workshops, and design and awards evenings. Pacific Region Convention was held July 26-28 in Anchorage, AK. My husband and I went early to enjoy friends and the lovely state.

We continue to provide **educational opportunities** for our members. **Gardening Study School I** was held May 17-18 in Pasco, presented by **Blue Mountain District**. **Flower Show School I** will be October 2-4 in Tacoma, presented by Capitol District Judges Council. **Landscape Design Study IV** will be Oct. 10-12, in Edgewood Garden, presented by Chinook District. Check our webpage for ongoing details: wagardenclubs.com (NOT .org).

Our members spent the summer preparing yearbooks and activities for the 2012-2013 year. Many are actively involved in **county fairs** around the state. Washington State garden club members donated about \$50,000 in **scholarships** to students around the state. One of our students, studying at Huxley College of the Environment in Bellingham, Washington, was awarded an **NGC \$3,500 scholarship**.

You are invited to the **2013 NGC 84th Convention "RainShine"** to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on May 24-26. Chairman Jeanette Pruin with Vice-Chairmen Carolyn Erickson and Sally Priebe are busy leading all the committee chairmen in preparations for this fabulous convention. Districts are making the centerpieces.

I am very proud of the **teamwork** of our members. **Together** we accomplish the goals we set.

Nurture Natives — and each other!

Theme: "Conservation Gardening Creativity Inspiration
Explore the Possibilities..."



California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) was honored to have NGC President, Shirley Nicolai as CGCI's special guest at the 81st Annual Convention held June 4-7, 2012 in Sacramento, CA. It was a shorter format with a busy agenda where the following was accomplished:

- Proposed bylaws amendments adding a Communications Director to the Executive Committee as well as *Golden Gardens* going electronic were approved, both to be effective July 1, 2013.
- Establishing a legacy society was adopted to provide for CGCI's future through estate planning.
- May 11-18, 2013 was ratified to join this president and fellow CGCI members, family and friends on a fundraising cruise from Los Angeles to Vancouver, B.C. with ports of call in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Astoria, Seattle and Victoria. Mid-ship balcony cabins are \$1,325 per person (+ taxes/fees) including a \$50 donation to CGCI on the Sapphire Princess. Full details are available on CGCI's website.
- A permanent mailing address was approved for CGCI - P.O. Box 75, Graton, CA 95444-0075.
- A new long-term state project was adopted in partnership with Anza Borrego Foundation to raise \$15,000 to restore the irrigation system and plants in the three-acre desert garden surrounding the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center. Desert visitors for years will enjoy everyone's contributions! The new project was seeded with \$1,000 from CGCI's Honor Book Fund. CGCI historically supported Anza-Borrego Desert State Park between 1969 and 2006 for 37 years.
- CGCI's eNewsletter has been re-named *Golden Gardens eNews* beginning with the June 2012 issue to start the transition from the printed magazine to electronic format.

In addition, the President's Project has raised over \$10,700 to provide permanent educational signage at Sonoma State University's Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden. The first goal of \$7,500 was reached and the Riparian Sign is in the process of being designed. Funds are now being collected for

the second sign for the Fresh Water Marsh/Wetlands plant community.

Project Mission **Blue** raised \$6,915 in the first year of the five-year state project to propagate and diversify lupine for the federally endangered mission blue butterfly. CGCI's Project Mission **Blue** is a collaborative effort between the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the National Park Service (NPS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS granted permission to initiate the project at two prime locations in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Wolfback Ridge in the Marin Headlands and Milagra Ridge in Pacifica - both ideal sites because of the availability of long-term butterfly and lupine monitoring data. Seeds were collected by high school youth from the Park Stewardship's summer youth programs and college-age volunteers. The seeds were brought to two native plant nurseries in the Park and both nurseries engaged volunteers ranging from college to high school age to run the nurseries. Educational opportunities included a special planting day for families at Milagra Ridge and college-age volunteers were recruited to plant at Wolfback Ridge. Monitoring protocol has been developed to track the success or failure of each lupine planting.

It is amazing what we can accomplish when working together pursuing the objectives of CGCI, Pacific Region and NGC!

Hydrangea Pictures Needed on Flickr

By Robin Pokorski, NGC Flickr Chair, NGC President's Project



Can you grow hydrangea? Take a picture of your hydrangea and send it to me to post on the NGC Flickr site! The hydrangea is our NGC President's

favorite flower. Let's celebrate how our Pacific Region states grow the hydrangea!

Send pictures to Robin Pokorski at RobinP@juno.com. Then visit the site (Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs) and find ideas for your club.

Sad News



Dotty Hurd, passed away on July 11, 2012. Dotty served as Idaho state president from 2007-09 and as **Pacific Region Alternate Director from 2009-2011**. Cards may be

sent to her husband Elmer at 3660 Stone Creek Way, Boise, ID 83703-4745. Donations may be made to the Idaho Botanical Garden.

Dotty will be missed but never forgotten!



I am excited to announce three new Washington **Blue Star Memorial markers** have recently been ordered through NGC and Sewah Studios. Once the markers are received, dedication plans will be finalized at the following locations:

1. **Chinook District** and **Greater Seattle District** dedication planned at VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, Seattle VA Hospital. This will be our state's first indoor marker for a large marker...no garden to be installed or maintained.
2. **Auburn Garden Club** dedication planned at Veterans Park, Auburn, Washington.
3. **Marine Hills Garden Club** dedication planned at Celebration Park, Federal Way, Washington.

Many hours of planning continue to go into these markers! If you have never attended a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** dedication, you will be impressed by the dedication and participation of members of our clubs and districts, as well as by our servicemen/women who participate in the ceremonies.

NGC Chairmen have been very helpful and a joy to work with on our Washington orders. Some small clubs which would like to dedicate a marker or refurbish an existing one, but cannot afford the cost, should contact their veteran's organizations, i.e. American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc. They appreciate our markers and usually are glad to help. Be sure to invite them to take part in your dedication ceremony. It is also nice to invite local high school students to help; they will never forget it.

Congratulations to all members of these clubs and districts. WSFGC will then have 45 **Blue Star Memorial Markers!**

Theme: "Just Imagine"



Oregon just concluded its 85th Annual Garden Club Convention in Wilsonville, Oregon. The Theme was "Oregon My Oregon" with a Petite-Standard Flower Show, Photography Contest with 62 final entries with a great one-hour photography workshop given by Shutterbug Photo Shops, and Linda Nelson provided us with

up-to-date information on Leadership. There was enough time left over for all that wished to dash to surrounding nurseries.

Our special guest for two days was our National President, Shirley Nicolai. She gave us information on national projects and encouraged us to apply for awards.

We honored our living past presidents before the Life Banquet; we enjoyed wonderful music written and played on banjos and guitars featuring "Oregon My Oregon"; and an Ohara Ikebana Design Program given by Phyllis Danielson of Washington State. Ruby Warren, Judy Harpel and Garnet Ascher also participated. We made new friendships and had a most enjoyable time despite lower attendance.

Oregon had over 200 Youth Posters in the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest this year; a NGC Award on our Handbook Directory; and \$3,500 NGC Scholarship to winner Cheyenne Ward who will be attending Eastern Oregon College in LaGrande, Oregon.

Issue Deadlines

November 2012 deadline 9-25-2012
February 2013 deadline 12-25-2012
May 2013 deadline 3-25-2013

Calendar of Events

July 26-28 68th Pacific Region Convention, Anchorage, Alaska
July 29 Anchorage GC, Annual City Garden Tour
Aug 1 Deadline to submit *Vision of Beauty* entries
Aug 4-5 Anchorage GC, Flower Show
Apr 21-24 Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, California
2013

By Gale Baullinger, Director's Project Chairman



We are entering the downhill side of the curve for the submission of our twelve months of recording hours and dollars. Don't forget, the twelve months can be any twelve month period and if you have only nine months, estimate your time for the balance. Regardless of the time submitted, it will be less than the actual time that we as garden club volunteers actually work for the good of our communities.

However, for the dollar number, the treasurers of each club, district and state should have good hard numbers for the monies given for scholarships, community beautification, habitat for humanity, etc. And again, this number should reflect twelve months of giving.

Now, as to the tabulation. Please submit your hours to your club presidents, who should send them on to the district director who, in turn, should send the data on to the state president. The state president will then submit a total of hours and dollars for the state to me as the Tally Chairman. All data must be received by me 11/01/2012.

As Debbie Hinchey said at our Washington State Convention, not only will these numbers assist us in receiving grant monies but should make each and every one of us proud of our contribution to the betterment of our world and the heritage that we leave for future generations.

Location, Location, Location

By Sally Thompson, Container Gardening Chairman

The following are suggested locations to plant garden containers and apply for NGC President's Project Award before April 1, 2013. Plan now and plant this fall. Take pictures before, during and after completion. Enter and win!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Animal Shelters | Fire Stations |
| Blue Star Markers | Historical buildings |
| Chambers of Commerce | Hospitals |
| Churches | Libraries |
| City Halls | Pocket Parks |
| Community Colleges | Police Stations |
| Crisis Shelters | Post Offices |
| Cultural Centers | Schools |
| Day Care Centers | Senior Centers |
| Entries to cities, county lines | Subdivision Entries |

By Shane Looper, Committee Member representing the Pacific Region

Calendar Deadline: August 1, 2012

- Did you know that in the 2013 NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar there are 20 designs from the Pacific Region?
- Did you know that the Pacific Region sent in over 100 pictures for consideration?
- Can Pacific Region make this year a record year in submissions to the NGC *Vision of Beauty Calendar* for 2014?
- Need help or ideas on your photo submission? All types of designs are requested: Traditional, Contemporary, New Trends, and those appropriate for seasons of the year and holidays.
- Requirements are located in the back of the 2013 NGC Vision of Beauty Calendar and **entries must be in the mail by AUGUST 1, 2012.**

If you need help with your entry or an entry form, please contact: slooper@sbcglobal.net or call Shane Looper 650-871-0172.

Attention: State Scholarship Chairmen

By Kristie Livreri, Scholarship Chairman

It is not too early to start getting the word out about the Pacific Region Scholarship. One thousand dollars (\$1000) is just waiting to be given to the school where the scholarship winner will be attending in the fall of 2013. The rules are on the website and easy to access. Deadline for applicants will be January 31, 2013. I must have received the applications by that deadline in order for the applicant to qualify.

A good way to get the word out is to send the information to the counselors' offices of universities and colleges in your area. Send it to the rural newspapers in your state. That's how Nevada snagged a winner. Lindsey Rose Gilbertson read about the scholarship in her local newspaper in Elko, Nevada. She won the Pacific Region scholarship three times and an NGC scholarship three times.

The rules and deadlines are different for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. scholarship applicants, but they can easily be accessed on the NGC website. All applications to NGC must be done on-line.

Last year, we received only three applications. I know there are students out there that can use the money. So let's get the word and do our part to help them.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me, (702) 274-8084 or Kristabelle7@aol.com. If I don't know the answer to your question, I will find someone who does.

By Elaine Gunderson, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

August 20-22, Course I, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Contact: Martha Hunt, 323-856-8617
floramelrose@gmail.com

September 11-13, Course III, Happy Valley, OR
Contact: Sandra Rassi, 503-658-7505
hatl8e@aol.com

September 25-27, Course IV, Moscow, ID
Contact: Edith Cole, 509-843-1010
edithcole@wildblue.net

October 2-4, Course I, Tacoma, WA
Contact: Mary Lou Waitz, 360-928-3728
Marylou94@hotmail.com

October 30-November 1, Course II, Valley Garden Center, Phoenix, AZ
Contact: Marcie Brooks, 623-322-2606
MarcieBrooks@hotmail.com

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL

August 30-31, Course II, Encino, CA
Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873
RobinP@juno.com

October 12-13, Course I, Eureka, CA
Contact: Mary Lou Goodwin 707-442-1387
MGoodwin@northcoast.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

October 10-12, Course IV, Normandy Park, WA
Contact: Sue Williams 206-988-5158
SuenDave_163@comcast.net

2012 Scholarship Winner

By Kristie Livreri, Scholarship Chairman

It is with great pleasure that we announce the Pacific Region Scholarship Winner for 2012 as **Miss Christina M. Leid** from the state of Idaho. Miss Leid is an outstanding student at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho where she is enrolled presently as a junior in the College of Natural Resources with a major in Forest Resources and a minor in Soil Science. Her goal is to work with Hydrologists to further improve and maintain watershed systems.



A VERY Short History of Gardening

By Sally Thompson, Container Gardening Chairman

Forest Gardening, is/was a plant-based "food production system;" it is the oldest form of gardening. Forest gardens began in prehistoric times along jungle covered river banks of the monsoon regions. In the very slow process of families improving their living areas, useful trees and vines were identified, protected, improved and then undesirable growths were eliminated. Eventually, the best of the selected species were made into the family garden.

When civilizations evolved from tribes, wealthy individuals began to create gardens for purely aesthetic purposes. Egyptian tomb paintings provide us a glimpse of some of the earliest evidence of ornamental gardening and landscape design; they show us lotus ponds surrounded by symmetrical rows of acacias and palms. Other illustrations display ornamental gardens used for shade. An interesting fact about Ancient Egyptian gardens is that they associated trees and gardens with gods; they believed that their gods were pleased by gardens.

The Assyrians were known for their beautiful gardens. Some of these gardens were used for hunting game and others as gardens of leisure. When the Assyrian Empire fell, Babylon developed as an empire with its "Hanging Gardens."

Statues and sculptures made up a large portion of the ancient Roman gardens. Their gardens were laid out with hedges and vines and contained a wide variety of flowers, including acanthus, cornflowers and crocus, cyclamen, hyacinth, iris and ivy, lavender, lilies, myrtle, narcissus, poppy, rosemary and violets.

During the Middle Ages, there existed a definite decline in gardening. Gardens existed only for the purpose of growing medicinal herbs and for decorating church altars.

Islamic gardens were modeled after Persian gardens. Their gardens were usually enclosed by walls and divided in four by water courses. Commonly, the center of the garden would have had a pool or pavilion. Specific to the Islamic gardens were the mosaics and glazed tiles used to decorate the fountains and found within these gardens.

Rich Europeans during the late 13th Century began to grow gardens for leisure, medicinal herbs and for vegetables. They surrounded the gardens by walls to protect them from animals and also to provide for a sense of seclusion.

During the next two centuries, Europeans started planting lawns and raising flowerbeds and trellises of roses. Fruit trees were common in these gardens. At the same time, the gardens in the monasteries were a place to grow flowers and medicinal herbs but they

were also a space where the monks could enjoy nature and relax.

The gardens in the 16th and 17th Century were symmetric. They were proportioned and balanced with a classical look. Most of these gardens were built around a central point and they were divided into different parts by hedges. Common gardens had flowerbeds laid out into squares and were separated by gravel paths.



Above: 1607; A gardener at work

The 18th Century upper class enjoyed gardening. Their gardens were laid out more naturally (i.e., without any walls). These gardens usually contained shrubberies, grottoes, pavilions, bridges and fake structures such as mock temples.

By the next century, gardens became available to the middle class (about time!!). Also, in 1804 the "Horticultural Society" was formed. Gardens of the 19th Century contained plants such as the monkey puzzle or Chile pine. This is also the time when the so called "gardenesque" style of gardens evolved. These gardens displayed a wide variety of flowers in a rather small space. Rock gardens also increased in popularity in the 19th Century.

Gardens in the Renaissance were adorned with sculptures, topiary and fountains which often contained water jokes. In the 17th Century, knot gardens became popular along with the hedge mazes. By this time, Europeans started planting new flowers such as tulips, marigolds and sunflowers.

Going GREEN



Use matches instead of lighters - Lighters are usually considered disposable so they will most likely end up in landfills. You can use the cardboard matches which are much more eco-friendly because they are made of recycled material.



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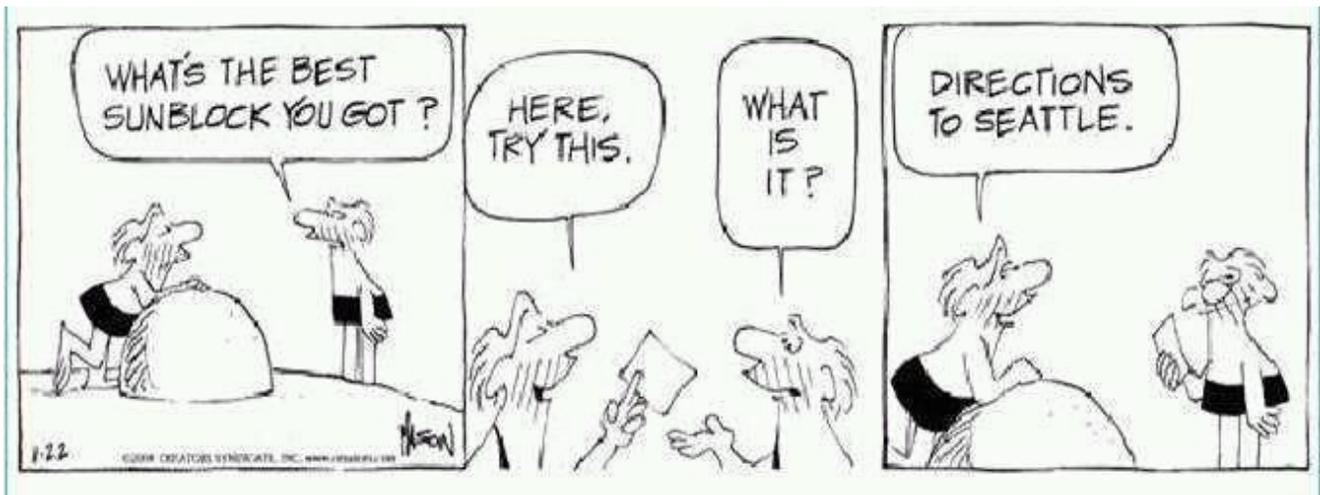
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**NGC Award
 Winning Newsletter**



*You are special! Thank you for taking **WACONIAH** by email!*

Let's Go to Seattle for RainShine!



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