

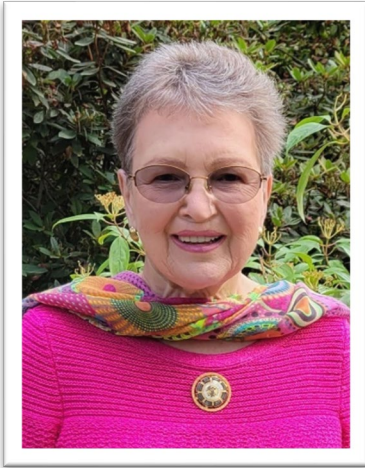
WACONIAH



Washington • Arizona • California • Oregon • Nevada • Idaho • Alaska • Hawaii

Vol. 50 No. 3

Director's Theme: *"One Green World"*



2021 – 2023

Pacific Region

Director

Lana Finegold

Director's Message

Dear PRGC member,

I can't believe it is already 2023. As I write this it is still late December 2022. So what is our Future Focus and what else do I have to say?

I am delighted that Pollen Pushers Garden Club memberships have successfully raised PRGC Scholarship funds now totaling over \$3,000. In 2022 PRGC selected and awarded three Pacific Region scholarships. And in 2022 at the PRGC Convention, we witnessed the dedication of a planted Fig Tree. That Tree is alive and well and bears a small plaque mentioning Pacific Region Garden Clubs and Nevada Garden Clubs.

I have visited several states in our region attending California Garden Clubs CGCI 2022 Convention. So nice to see their lovely flower show and meet many CGCI gardeners. I also attended the one-day Alaska

Federation Convention in June of 2022. After the convention I saw much of the area near Anchorage. Previously I had taken four cruises to Alaska since it is relatively close to Seattle Washington. And where I live in Bellevue, Seattle is almost next door.

I still serve on the state board of my own state, Washington. So I also attended the WSFGC Convention. Which was held on Zoom. Now WSFGC is venturing into live in-person meetings.

In November, Al and I flew to Arizona and stayed with friends. I was invited to do a short design program at the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs in-person Board Meeting in Phoenix. I constructed four designs for them and spoke about Pacific Region.

In January, I will attend the NGC Executive Committee meeting via Zoom. And in March, I will evaluate NGC Scholarship applicants. The process is now totally online so I hope that with a simpler process, more students will apply. Last year, 36 applicants were rewarded with scholarships of \$4,500. This year the scholarships will be \$3,800 each. And the number of scholarships awarded could be 41. Up to date report will be given at the 2023 PRGC Convention.

What we do matters. Taking advantage of how we publicize ourselves, how we treat our members and our world, matters. These two years we have focused on creating **One Green World**. I will never know how many participated or the extent of our accomplishments. But I hope that I inspired some action. That was my goal. And I hope that you planted trees that helped feed wildlife. I hope that you have made our world a little bit greener.

Thank you for the trust and support you have given to me. May we continue to grow greener and may our gardens inspire us to act and to enable One Green World.

Yours for One Green World, Lana Finegold, PRGC Director

Come to Convention and you will see, many treats for you and me,
Inspiring speakers, workshops diverse, ways to help our Universe
Tour through the tulips and you will find, colors galore to please your mind
Enter your photos, have some fun, make new friends, be sure to come.
Support our region and you will see, Going Green - Together personally.

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs

By Cheryl Drumheller, OSFGC President

Warm greetings to all of you during these cold winter months.

It's not only a new year, but it's a new chance for everyone to restart. We know that what a new year brings to us depends on what we bring to it. Let us look back at the past year with the warmest of treasured memories. And let the old year end and the new year begin with the warmest of desires and hope.

Throughout the year, I have asked garden club members to plant pollinator gardens in home and in the community. Plant flowers in their yard that provide pollen and nectar flowers which offer a variety of plants that bloom from late spring to late fall.

As garden club members, we have moved into the digital world with Zoom to attend meetings and stay connected. Through this we continue to conduct business, meet friends old and new, and grow our knowledge.

This year we have been busy encouraging and increasing membership, promoting awards, contests, and scholarships, adding Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial markers, and increasing

donations to Penny Pines and the Promise Trees Project. We continue to preserve our earth's natural resources as evidenced by our community civic beautification programs and our environment's conservation programs.

The OSFGC Mission Statement says, "The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility."
I'd like to finish this article with a statement, author unknown.

Flowers are the messengers for the most significant events of our lives. A tiny, simple rosebud in a church pulpit announces the arrival of a new life. A corsage for the special dance or anniversary conveys the feelings of fondness and love the giver holds for you. The grand display of bouquets at a wedding joins in the festive celebration of two becoming one. The plant or cut flowers sent to the hospital room implies concern as well as encouragement. The abundance of floral arrangements at a memorial service often reflects the significance of one's life and deeds. Isn't it interesting how flowers welcome our entrance into life and then accompany our departure. What would we do if there were no gardens?

Happy New Year and may you continue to be blessed through all your gardening ventures.

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Brynn Tavasci is a GEM because her talents include creative floral design, a well-developed sense of humor, leadership of Team Tavasci by heading the WSFGC Team that has planned the 2023 PRGC Convention. She also came up with the name Pollen Pushers for PRGC scholarship fund raising and designed the Pollen Pushers flyer.

- Lana Finegold

San Jose Garden Club Anniversary

By Laura Carroll, President

San Jose Garden Club (California) recently celebrated 50 years of service to the San Jose Community. Shown here, left to right, are Roseann Costabile, Santa Clara Valley District Director, and past presidents Sue Swackhamer, Natalie DiGrazia, Susan Mosher, Erna Siegel, Anita Calkins, Kathy Argabright, and current president Laura Carroll. Founded in 1972, the club exists to address local issues of food insecurity, promote the study of horticulture and landscape design, and participate in civic beautification projects. Its annual spring plant sale has become a major community event to raise funds for donation to various causes.



Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

By Anne Sullivan, WSFGC President

Washington garden club members have been doing their best to get back to normal with their club activities this fall. Their holiday endeavors of wreath making, centerpieces and other seasonal fun makes it one of the best times of the year to work together. It is always an adventure as we hunker down and anticipate our winter storms of rain, wind, snow and cold.

Several of our clubs have been preparing for and celebrating milestone club anniversaries. Some clubs have been in existence for 100 years! These clubs are doing a great job of including their towns and cities in their celebrations. My garden club has planted over six thousand daffodil bulbs around the town of Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. They have partnered with local businesses, schools, and organizations to

beautify the town. They are advertising what the Oak Harbor Garden Club has done the last 100 years with articles in the newspaper, displays at the library, talks at local organizations, participating in parades and festivals. The club membership has increased with all the activity. As WSFGC's president, I've had the honor of attending the festivities at many clubs and districts.



It is a real treat.

We are also very excited to be hosting the Pacific Region Convention April 17-20, 2023, at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood, WA. Team Tavasci is doing a fantastic job organizing everything. It is the perfect time of the year to enjoy the tulips in the Skagit Valley. Please plan on attending the Convention.

Photo: Deborah Storch

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums

By Launa Gould, Webmaster

• **Flower Show School**

Course 3 April 14-16, 2023

Course 4 September 23-25, 2023

Modesto

Contact: Judi Picinini, jpicinini@aol.com

• **Flower Show Symposium**

March 27-28, 2023

South San Francisco

Tri-Refresher

March 29, 2023

South San Francisco

Contact: Sue Bennett at Sue_C_Bennett@att.net

Launa Gould is a GEM because she fully supports PRGC by rapidly posting new materials on the PRGC website and helps me whenever I have special needs.



- Lana Finegold

Convention is Coming

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

The Call to the 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 member state garden club is entitled to two to twelve official delegates, depending on its membership numbers as stated in our standing rules. 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, recognition of accomplishments and tours. And in this installation year that will mark the beginning of the new 2023-2025 administration there will be additional meetings for the 2023-2025 Executive Committee and board of directors.

Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.

By Marci Brown, Nevada State President

We are ready to welcome another year. As we close out the year 2022 these are a few of the newsworthy happenings in Nevada.

The Las Vegas Flower Arrangers Guild celebrated their 50th year on December 8th. The club invited all the

garden clubs of Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. to enjoy a delicious luncheon. The club members provided a luncheon and a few members produced baskets which were sold at a silent auction. Christmas décor was the theme with a lovely tree, and ornaments for each member to take home. Beautiful floral pieces were on each table and awarded to members. Donations were made to several of the charities in area. Jean Paul was the Chairman. Hooray for Jean!

The Las Vegas Valley Rose Society donated \$150 to replenish rose bushes in the Garden of the Pioneer Woman located in Lorenzi Park at Las Vegas, Nevada. Special thanks to the gentlemen who purchased the 26 bushes and also to the individuals who planted them.

The Nevada Garden Clubs held a SUPER SALES BAZAAR in the Nevada Garden Center in November. An amazing assortment of new and gently used items included home accessories, jewelry, purses, vases, tools, soft goods, art work and so much more. Many items were donated by a former member who retired to Florida as well as several of the Nevada Garden Clubs. Judy Stebbins (former State President) was the Chairperson of the event. The funds will be used to help defray the expenses of future Presidents' travel to National Conventions.

Desert Gardeners is a community minded club. They tell us: We maintain the area around a water feature in a community garden in Las Vegas. We plant and weed throughout the year. We planted a small garden for a local senior at the request of her son. We used all desert drought tolerant plants. We partnered with the Bellagio Horticulture Manager and received plant donations from him to be used in our gardens.

Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden

By Ann Kronenwetter, Birds Chairman

It's enchanting watching hummingbirds - named for the humming sound of their fast-flapping wings. Hummingbirds can fly 25 to 30 miles per hour, flapping their wings an estimated 70 times per second. They can fly in every direction, even backwards (which only hummingbirds can do) and float majestically in midair.

The birds get their brilliant color from the iridescence in the arrangement of their feathers, not color pigment.

Hummingbirds have the fastest metabolism of any animal on Earth, burning 1-2 times their body weight in food daily. They draw nectar from its source into their mouths, lapping it up almost 12 times per second. Hummingbirds rely on insects, which provide essential protein, to complement nectar.

Hummingbirds use spiderwebs as construction material to hold their nests together and pluck insects caught in the webbing.

Hummingbirds adore bathing and offering a water mister gives them a fine spray that they prefer. Once wet, they are off to find a preening perch. Small, sturdy bare branches are used for resting, preening and hunting. Perches provide vantage points to see danger and launching pads to swiftly pounce on insects.

Feeders are an effective way to entice and encourage hummingbirds to your garden. There are many types of feeders available. Using the ratio of 4 parts water to one part sugar is ideal. Hummingbirds are territorial and it is best to hang multiple feeders far enough apart to attract more birds. Hang feeders in the shade to avoid fermentation of the sugar-based liquid. Check the feeders to keep the food fresh and clean them as needed.



Plant flowers that attract hummingbirds and provide rich nectar. Trumpet honeysuckle, bee balm and sage plants are just some of the plants that provide food for the birds. Hummingbirds consume 1 ½ times their body weight daily, eating every 10-15 minutes and visiting 1,000-2,000 flowers per day.

Hummingbirds have great memories and once they discover your hummingbird friendly habitat, they will come back every year if there is a reliable food source.

Penny Pines

By Claudia Hambacker, Penny Pines Chairman

We are back on track to follow our pinecone, the “mother of the seed”, through the process of becoming seedlings. I want to thank Kayla Herriman, Extractory Manager, US Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest, Bend Seed Extractory located in Bend, Oregon. She is the author of the articles that have provided the information that were used to summarize the extraction process. She also provided the wonderful photos in this article. Kayla suggested some educational opportunities for Garden Clubs. Please contact me if you are interested in knowing about these opportunities at the Region, State, District or local levels. This is requested because it would be difficult for her to answer an influx of phone calls or emails. My email is c.a.hambacker@gmail.com.

Let’s get started. As you remember, we began with the collecting of pinecones by volunteers. This is another unpaid solicitation to clubs to volunteer with their local agencies through the Forest Service, Fish and Game or whoever needs volunteers to help gather raw material, seed, pinecones, grasses etc.

Photo 1 is the room where it all happens. It is called the Extraction Room. There are conveyors, tumblers, vibrators and dewingers located here.

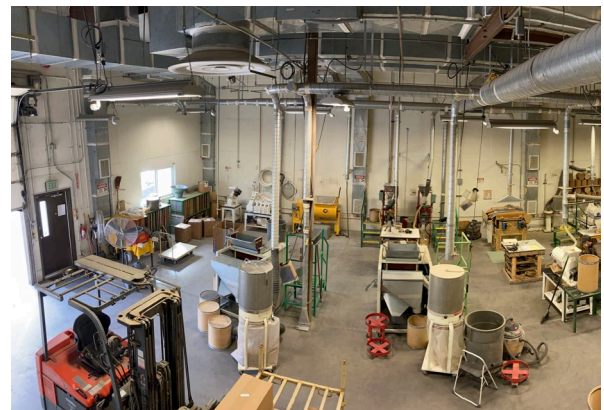


Photo 2 is the conveyor tumbling Douglas Fir pinecones after they have gone through the heat process to open them. They are brought to the conveyor where the tumbling assists in releasing the seeds. The seeds fall through the belt landing onto another belt where they then fall into a barrel located on the side.



Photo 3 is Ann, a colleague of Kayla's. She is assessing seed. She will be able to determine if the seed meets quality standards. This is important because it increases the probability of a seed becoming a seedling.

Photo 4 is Kayla working at the dewinging station where the seeds that



have been recovered now have another outer layer removed. This is called dewinging. Seeds may have multiple outer layers of coatings that must be removed in order for them to be more viable. This definition of dewinging comes directly from the internet:

"studies indicated that dewinging **facilitates seed germination and is advantageous when sowing space is limited.** Usually seed dewinging is processed manually, which is labor intensive, time consuming but critical in retaining the quality of recalcitrant seeds". Can you imagine when this had to be done by hand?

<https://www.nationalforests.org/our-forests/your-national-forests-magazine/how-the-forest-service-grows-millions-of-seedlings-each-year>

Again, thanks to Kayla Herriman for providing these wonderful photos. If you have not had the opportunity to visit an extraction facility, it is fascinating. The volume of raw product that it takes to have enough seeds to plant will surprise you.

I learned recently that there is now a National Wildlands Fire Fighters Day. On July 2, 2022 the first such day was held. There is a complete tool kit available if you want to participate or bring awareness to these heroes. For more information here is a website: <https://www.nifc.gov/nwffd>

As many of you know, the fire season has been very bad this year. As of this date, December 12, 2022 there have been a total of 61,390 incidents of fires and 7,251,835 acres burned. As of September, 2021 there were 45,510 incidents and 5,609,865 acres burned.

In our next article I will again try to calculate the number of plantations/trees planted by our region. Some clubs collect and send their donations to a variety of places: local, state, and national agencies including NGC. Presidents - if your State organization does this it will be your organization's responsibility to forward that information to me. I will continue to obtain my information from NGC. My email is c.a.hambacker@gmail.com

Bats are Mammals

By Judy Unrine, Pollinator Chairman

Yes, it's true. We are related to bats. Of interest is that our body temperature is similar to that of bats, 98.7 degrees. Another similarity is that mother bats feed their young milk, as do human mothers.

We are members of the same classification, mammal, yet bats are very different from us and not well understood. Bats live almost all their lives in total darkness; they are the only mammals that can fly; and they are blind and see the world using sound.

Reasons colony numbers are on decline are predators like fox and cats, human activity, and changing weather. On December 21, 2022, the temperature in Houston, Texas dropped from the 60's to 22 degrees

By Terry Critchlow, Alternate Region Director

overnight. The shocking headline, "Bats Fall From the Sky," reported how climate change affected the bats. The sudden falling temperature threatened the lives of bats that roost under bridges. As their body temperature dropped, they were no longer able to hold on inside the cavity of the bridges. Fortunately, Mary Warwick, the wildlife director at Houston Humane Society, who had worked with bats since 2019, rescued many by warming the bats' temperature, hydrating them, and placing them in her attic. She also reached out to Bat World Sanctuary, a nonprofit in northern Texas, and other local citizens, who helped with the rescue of the bats. Of the over 1600 bats rescued, only 115 died.

Bats can survive cold periods by hibernating. Their body temperature drops in a state called torpor that can last two or three months. Although bats mate in autumn, during this time of hibernation, female bats can keep sperm alive inside their bodies through the winter. It is not until spring, four months later, that the female fertilizes eggs and produces one pup. The female can live 30 years, so may produce 30 pups in her lifetime.

Amazing that bats are mammals, like us, yet many varieties are feared and disliked almost to extinction.

Extinction is an interesting concept, because bats are so important to man's survival. Bats are important to seed distribution; they help control insects that eat food crops of man; they are a food source for predators, like hawks; and some varieties are members of the pollinator team. Those bats leave their roost after dark to find nourishment. As bats satisfy their need for sustenance, poking their nose deep into night blooming plants, they are also picking up pollen granules and transferring them to other plants nearby. To me, there is something magical, that even after dark, when most of the animal kingdom is sleeping, bats are busily working to continue the food chain we depend on.

In our urban cities and in the countryside, bat roosts may be located in attics or located behind window shutters. When my daughter was a student in Williamsburg, Virginia, she described the exciting sight of a colony leaving its place of darkness, hidden behind the shutters of a colonial building, and swooping into the evening sky, just as the sun was setting.



There is still time to get your youth contest entries into the Pacific Region Chairmen. These hands-on creative projects allow all youth groups to learn about their environment in a fun and interesting way. These contests give youth educators, school teachers, after school programs or grandmothers a way or tool to introduce and remind our youth of the needs of mother earth.

The three Rs – Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle is now taught at a very young age. The **NGC Sculpture** contest using primarily recycled material is offered to grade 4-8. Contest requirements and the entry form are available on the NGC website. Deadline 2/1

The **NEW Pollinator Poster** contest for children grade K-6 can also be used as a teaching aid as we all strive to educate our youth on sustainable



production of our food sources. Deadline 3/1

To enter is simple; send your contest entries to your state chairman by their designated deadline. Hard copies are required. These are judged and the first place winners are sent to the region's chairman for further competition. The region's Sculpture contest winners are sent on the NGC to compete at that level.

Arbor Day Activities

By Chuck Goodwin, Arbor Day Co-Chairman

The celebration of Arbor Day has a long and rich history in the United States. 151 years ago, on April 10, 1872, journalist and newspaper editor J. Sterling Morton established Arbor Day in the state of Nebraska with hopes that it would spread across the country. This first celebration challenged the people of Nebraska to plant as many trees as they possibly could. Since the pioneers missed the trees and forests of the east, they answered his challenge by planting more than 1 million trees that very first year. Since that beginning, Morton's dream has been more than successfully accomplished as today there is an Arbor Day celebration held in each of the 50 states as well as a national Arbor Day celebration. And well over 30 countries world-wide celebrate Arbor Day.

National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday of April. This year's date is April 28, 2023. However, each state sets its own date. Here are the dates for the celebration of Arbor Day for the eight states of the Pacific Region Garden Club, Inc.:

- Washington: 4/12/23 Second Wednesday in April
- Arizona: 4/28/23 Last Friday in April
- California: 3/7 – 3/14/23 *
- Oregon: 4/2 – 4/8/23 First Full Week in April
- Nevada: 4/28/23 Last Friday in April
- Idaho: 4/28/23 Last Friday in April
- Alaska: 5/15/23 Third Monday in May
- Hawaii 11/3/23 First Friday in November

*California celebrates Arbor Day on Luther Burbank's birthday (3/7), honoring him as the father of California's agricultural industry. Its program has been expanded to the week of March 7-14 each year.

We make an immense mistake when we think of trees as solely an aesthetic member of a community. Trees cut pollution, they cool the air, they prevent erosion, they muffle sound, they produce oxygen. Then, after all that, they look good. USDA estimates that the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Finally, landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent.

Finally, NGC President Mary Warshauer is asking each one of us to report a list of trees planted during this

Club Year and send the count to: Audrey Coyle, "Each One Plant One" Chairman, aflores@stratusiq.net by May 1, to be included in the annual Plant a Tree (PAT) program.



What Is Junk?

What exactly is junk?

Junk is something you throw away three weeks before you need it.

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Many of you knew Joy Parker, or at least had purchased design structures from her. She passed away in December. She lived a long life: 11/29/42 to 12/19/22.



My Favorite Exercise

My favorite exercise is a cross between a lunge and a crunch.

It's called lunch.

Photo Phundraiser

By Tanja Swanson, Photo Contest Co-Chairman

Calling ALL Photographers! Here's your chance to show off your photography skills!

Share your most beautiful photos with the Pacific Region Members and participate in a Phundraiser for the Region at the same time.

Best of all there will be a \$25 prize for the winner in each category. \$100 for the Best in Show with \$100 to the garden club that submits the most entries and \$100 to the garden club that submits the most entries per capita. This will give the smaller clubs a chance for the \$100.

The categories are:

Landscape/Gardens

Animals

Insects/Birds

Single Bloom

Director's Choice: One Green World

Time is short! All pictures should be in color and should be submitted by email to tanjandy@gmail.com **by March 1, 2023**

A fee of \$5 for each photo or five photos for \$20.

Detailed information is in the contest rules and on the entry form (next page). I hope to see lots and lots of beautiful pictures!

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
2023 Virtual Photo Contest.



PHOTOGRAPHY RULES

Pacific Region will have a region wide Virtual Photo Fundraising contest.

The categories are as follows:

1. **Landscapes/Gardens:** Color
2. **Animals:** Color
3. **Insects & Birds:** Color
4. **Single Bloom:** Color
5. **Director's Choice - One Green World** – Color

Complete an Entry Form for each entry and mail it with the \$5 entry fee (or 5 entries for \$20), to Tanja Swanson, 227 Ewauna St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601-3131. Checks made payable to PRGC. Deadline for receipt of entry forms and digital files is **March 1, 2023**

Photos must be e-mailed as a digital file no larger than 10 megabytes. Digital photos may not have been enhanced by Photoshop or similar programs.

Photos must have been taken by a current Pacific Region Garden Clubs member in good standing.

Pacific Region will display the photos entered in each category on the Pacific Region website. **All rights to the photo entry will remain with the photographer. The entry form release will allow Pacific Region to display the photo entries as per the release.**

Questions, please contact Tanja Swanson, Photo Chairman 541-883-8119 or tanjandy@gmail.com.

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Judy Unrine is a GEM because she is doing double duty on the PRGC Board by writing articles on pollinators for two (2) PRGC publications, *WACONIAH* and the *Pollinator* which goes to those who donate to the Pollen Pushers GC which is the fundraiser for PRGC Scholarships.

Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
2023 Virtual Photo Contest Entry Form
Deadline for e-mailing digital entries: **March 1, 2023**

To enter, please complete all fields on the entry form below. Submit a separate form for each e-mailed photo file. A digital file must be e-mailed for each entry

Full Name Printed _____
(Please print your name as you wish it to appear)

Address & Zip _____

Club _____ # of members _____ District _____ State _____

SELECT CATEGORY FOR PHOTO

A separate entry form must be mailed for each photo, and each category selected.

Check the category for photo submitted.

Landscape/Gardens: Color

Animals: Color

Insects & Birds: Color

Single Bloom: Color

Director's Choice: One Green World - Color

PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

Your Contact info: Telephone _____

Email _____

Date / Location of photograph: _____

Make and model of Camera used - i.e. Nikon Coolpix 9500 _____

\$5 Fee to be mailed with each Entry Form or \$20 for five entries. Make checks payable to Pacific Region Garden Clubs or PRGC.

Signature: _____ being over 18 years of age, I hereby grant Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc., the right to use my name in conjunction with the following information: photograph, biography, city, state, country and article information without compensation, on our websites and in any publication or written material.

E-mail a digital file of your photo entry to tanjandy@gmail.com. Files can be no larger than 10 megabytes. Send entry form and \$5 fee per entry (\$20 for 5 entries) to Tanja Swanson, 227 Ewauna St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601-3131 no later than **March 1, 2023**

The Numbers Game

By Al Finegold, WACONIAH Proofer and Photographer

Have you ever wondered how many members your garden club, district, state, region, and national have? Thanks to a state-by-state Membership Report from NGC Headquarters as of Oct. 31, 2022, we have part of the answer. As you might have guessed, our Pacific Region has both the largest and the smallest state memberships -- California and Hawaii, respectively -- and a total of 22,164 paid members. Our PRGC state member totals, in numerical order, are CA (16,917), OR (2,128), WA (1,907), AZ (605), ID (279), NV (196), AK (118), and HI (14). Are there any surprises there?

Nationally, the ten highest membership states are CA (16,917), MA (10,480), FL (10,006), GA (8,695), TX, 7,764), IL (6,257), CT (6,227), NY (5,793), MI (4,680), and PA (4,591). The ten smallest membership states are UT (310), ID (279), NE (204), NV (196), KS (160), WY (129), AK and SD (118 each), ND (59), and HI (14). All other states and the DC area are in the middle, with between about 400 and 4500 members. The grand total for NGC for the 51 states and DC is 135,319 members, not including the International Affiliates members in about 600 clubs in 15 Central and South American countries.

Winter Solstice, December 21, 2022

By Lori Robinson, Environmental Climate Concerns Representative

Living in the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State, we may not have as many cold-weather-related maintenance problems as some other parts of our nation, though we still need to be prepared for Old Man Winter. We already have had snow and are expecting more this week. The high price of energy, the safety of our homes, health, and the environment in which we spend a considerable amount of time is influenced by our choices.

FIREPLACE! Do you burn wood in your fireplace? It's time for a chimney sweep. You should have your chimney inspected before each wood burning season. If you're burning gas logs this winter, make sure you have a carbon-monoxide detector or an oxygen depletion sensor near the fireplace so you can enjoy the fire safely. If you already have them, check the

batteries. While you're at it, check the batteries of all smoke detectors in your house. Make sure you have a smoke detector in every bathroom. I also have a fire extinguisher in my home.

PLUMBING! Drain hoses and put them away for the winter. Be aware that when the temperature crawls below freezing for an extended period, sub-freezing temperatures along with windy conditions for more than 6 to 8 hours can lead to trouble for exposed pipes. Wrapping the pipes with heat tape can help, as will dripping a faucet. Insulating pipes from water heaters located in garages can help conserve energy and hot water. It is also a good idea to know how to shut off water to your house in case a pipe bursts. One should leave open the doors to kitchen and bathroom cabinets where sinks are located, at night.

EXTERIOR! Weather stripping around your windows and doors (don't forget your garage door) also can help save energy and heat. Another space to consider is fold-down attic stairs.



SPACE HEATERS! Space heaters can be great when used properly, but they can be dangerous when they aren't. Space heaters should only be used to heat rooms, not to dry clothing or thaw food. Keep a 3-foot zone around your space heater free of anything flammable. Turn off space heaters when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep. Whether your space heater is gas or electric, make sure the wiring is sound and the connections are right. When buying

space heaters, look for devices with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards. Always read all the directions before using electric appliances. It can save your life.

FURNACE! Have your furnaces checked every year so that they are running efficiently. Change your filter. Airflow is the key to having your HVAC equipment running smoothly. Also change the rotation direction of your ceiling fans – it’s time to blow the warm air down. Set your thermostat for the cooler outdoor temperatures and if your thermostat isn’t automatic, switch it over from cool to heat. You may want to have your airducts cleaned professionally, especially if anyone in the house has allergies.

PEST CONTROL! Pests are now looking for warmth and water. Dry cool winters deprive them of both. Seal the openings of your house to keep them out. Expanding foam works well around plumbing openings. Weather stripping keeps warm air in and bugs out, and it’s easy and inexpensive. Insects will also hitchhike in on your firewood, so only bring in what you plan to use today. There are now ultrasonic pest repellent devices that you plug into an outlet. These can kill spiders and rodents, and will not affect your pets.

These options may or may not work for your own home environment; however, if they do apply to your conditions, they make a good checklist for the winters to come and to share with your friends and family. It is very costly to have broken pipes, non-efficient energy sources, and an unhealthy environment to live in. Practicing an evacuation plan from your living space with your children is beneficial in case there is ever an emergency. It may save lives.

Credits: West Sound Home and Garden magazine (Wet Apple Media, Inc.) WSHG.net Winter 11- March 1, 2012

Fact Of The Day: Only \$4,000 Each

In 1983, the year it first went on sale, one could purchase a mobile phone (in the US) for the mere price of \$4,000.

Vicki Yuen is a GEM because she edits *WACONIAH*, growing her skills, educating PRGC members and she co-chaired the 2022 PRGC Convention. She also keeps a watchful eye on the Fig Tree planted near the Las Vegas Clubhouse of Nevada Garden Clubs. – Lana Finegold



NGC School News

By Greg Pokorski, PRGC Educational Schools Chairman

See the Winter (January) 2023 issue of *The National Gardener* for information...

...About videos on the NGC website about each school – page 20.

...About upcoming Membership Monday (2nd Monday of each month) sessions about NGC Schools – page 25. Gardening Schools will be featured in January, before this issue of *WACONIAH* is released, but you can see it after the fact in the Video Café. Flower Show School will be featured in February, Landscape Design School in March and Environmental School in April.

This chairman is happy to answer your questions regarding NGC schools.

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A BIG thank you to Michele Noe for her service and dedication to the PRGC as its Gems Chairman! Lana, Terry & Robin

GEMs

By Terry Critchlow, Alternate Region Director

Don’t forget to recognize your outstanding garden club member/s as Gems in the next issue of *WACONIAH*. Surprise that someone by thanking them and announcing their achievements. See revised form on the web page and send to NEW Chairman: Terry Critchlow.



Pacific Region Convention

By Team Tavasci

“Going Green - Together” April 17 - 20, 2023

Please join us at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, 20610 44th Ave W., Lynnwood, Washington for the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. convention, “Going Green - Together.” Our convention team has planned many fun activities for you to enjoy with friends. Do attend for one day or all days, April 17 - 20, 2023. Following committee meetings on April 17th and banquet dinner we will enjoy a humorous collection of skits with Pacific Region members portraying unique characters in, “Fairy Tales from the Garden.” This energetic production includes costumes made from recycled materials, props made from junk, and wigs that have seen better days.



Our lunch speaker on April 18th will be James Gagliardi, Director of Bellevue Botanical Garden, a free 53-acre site visited by over 400,000 people annually. James came to the Northwest from the Smithsonian Gardens in Washington DC where he served as

a supervisory horticulturist and was responsible for the landscapes and programming at the Smithsonian Castle, Enid A. Haupt Garden, Kathrine Dulin Folger Rose Garden, Mary Livingston Ripley Garden, National Museum of Asian Art, and National Museum of African

Art. He was previously the Lead Horticulturist for the National Museum of Natural History and led the redevelopment of the Pollinator Garden and creation of the Urban Bird Habitat.

Tory Bennett’s enthusiasm for floral design is magnetic, as you will see in her design program, “Puttin’ on Another Hat,” our April 18th evening banquet entertainment. In high school, Tory received a garden club scholarship to attend college to earn her two-year horticultural degree. Tory is a Master Judge, the President of the Chinook District Designers Guild, as well as Corsage Chairman for Chinook District and Washington State. At the state level she is also the Page and Protocol Chairman. Tory will also present a corsage workshop on April 19th. Other workshops offered include “Engaging Youth” and making a “Bonded Recycled Design.” Space is limited in all workshops.



Our speaker for our April 19th lunch is Marianne Binetti a NW garden expert and the author or co-author of more than a dozen garden books. She writes a syndicated garden column that has been running for over 40 years (one of the longest running columns in the United States), appeared on HGTV, and hosted radio and various TV talk shows. She is also the host of “Container Wars,” held each spring at the NW Flower and Garden Show. She gardens on two acres near Enumclaw and leads garden and travel tours around the world with her husband Joe.

The last evening banquet festivities will include Awards, Installation and Reception for our new Pacific Region Director, Carol Norquist from Alaska. We can also thank Lana Finegold for her service as our Pacific Region Director 2021 - 2023. Results of the silent auction and the opportunity drawing will be revealed. But wait! There’s more! Please read about the post-convention tour of the Skagit Valley.

PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC. 79th Annual Convention
Embassy Suites, 20610 44th Ave W Lynnwood WA
April 17 - 20, 2023
"Going Green - Together"
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday, April 17, 2023

Breakfast complimentary with overnight, box lunch available (see registration)

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Set -up Exhibits, Opportunity Drawing, Registration, Silent Auction

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration open (closed during meals)

Box Lunch available for order, see registration form

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Finance and Budget meeting - **Baker**

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Organization Study meeting - **Baker**

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Executive Committee meeting - **Baker**

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. State Presidents meeting - **Baker**

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Banquet & Entertainment "Fairy Tales from the Garden" skit - **Rainier**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration (closed during meals)

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting - **Baker**

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Convention Opening Ceremony - **Baker**

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Convention Business Meeting #1 - **Baker**

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - "Pollinators and Wildlife from Smithsonian to Bellevue
Botanical Garden" - James Gagliardi - **Rainier**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Workshop – Engaging Youth - **Baker**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshop - Making bonded Designs using Recycled Materials - **St. H**

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Banquet and Design Program "Puttin' on Another Hat" - **Rainier**

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration (closed during meals)

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Convention Business Meeting #2 - **Baker**

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - "The Changing Garden & Gardener" - Marianne Binetti - **R**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Workshop - Making versatile corsages - **St. Helens**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Incoming Executive Committee meeting - **Baker**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshop - corsages continued - **St. Helens**

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Incoming Board of Directors meeting - **Baker**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Banquet, Awards, Installation, Reception, Opportunity Drawing
and Silent Auction Results