



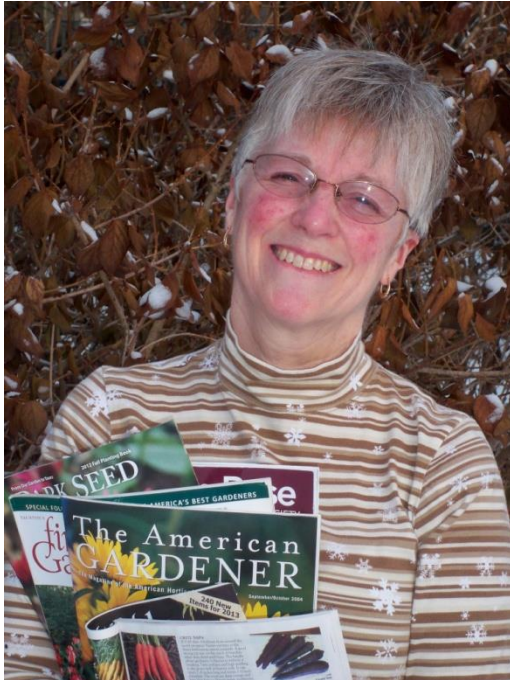
# WACONIAH

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

Vol. 40 No. 3      The Director's Theme    "Looking In and Reaching Out"

## *Director's Message*



Debbie Hinchey

2011 – 2013 Pacific Region Director

### ***2013 Convention – "Nature's Beauty & Bounty"***

The members of California Garden Clubs, Inc. are looking forward to welcoming everyone in the Pacific Region from the north, south, east and west! We are anxious to share with you "Nature's Beauty & Bounty" in Santa Rosa, California, April 22-24. We've lined up top-notch speakers, tours, and workshops. Come meet new friends and renew long-time friendships!

Horizon/Alaska Air will offer a **7% discount** for our group! The meeting name is **Pacific Region Convention**. Meeting fare code is ECMU473.

## **CALL TO CONVENTION**

**Registration / hotel deadline:  
March 29**

The year has passed very quickly and we are about a twelfth of the way through 2013 already! I hope you were able to finish your goals set for last year. I think about every day of 2012 I was volunteering for one of my gardening groups or another (and trying to do my paying job.) My resolution is to keep working on the unfinished, and a restful seat (and surely, a few weeds) in the garden will be waiting for me.

The paperwork for the NGC #25 Award of Excellence for Regions has been done. This is a competitive award given to one of the eight region Director's projects that has the most participation, an "Outstanding, Unusual, or Distinctive Project" that advances NGC's goals. I do not know if we will win the award but we sure are winners when it comes to what we were able to do as members in the Pacific Region of Garden Clubs.

The Director's Project, "Reaching Out, Let Us Count the Ways" (in case you forgot) was to compile (and send in) the number of hours, dollars, and in-kind donation values that you and your club give to your community in a year's time. Not everyone did this, or remembered to send in their totals, but the numbers are impressive all the same!

Nationally, the average value of volunteer time is \$21.79 per hour. So if you donated ten hours to a community effort (from record keeping, making Remember calls, or physically on the job) you contributed about \$218 to your community. Many of you probably easily donate ten or a hundred times that amount! (I know, I know, some of you do not want your spouse to see it in writing how

Theme: "Nurture Natives — and each other"

much you do! So sneak it off to me, I will understand about the messy house!)

So are you waiting on the edge of your seat! Okay, the total with only some of the 30,000 or so members in Pacific Region participating is \$7,404,783. Yes, that is 7.4 million dollars that we contribute annually to our communities! Put that in your horn and toot it!

We were doing this for ourselves and not to win an award - even though the \$500 that goes with the recognition would be nice. It is not too late to send me your hours, dollars, and other donation values. Having the hours listed is as important as the dollars, so please do not combine them as a total before you send them to me. Looking through your yearbook and estimating the hours if you did not keep a diary at the time, is okay. Also listing the types of projects that you worked on is very interesting. I would love to add your data to the list and count you in!

We always knew our members, clubs, and states accomplish an impressive amount of good in our communities in just a year, and we do it year after year. As far as I know, what we did and how much we contributed was not written down before. Now you have the data to use in brochures, news articles, and other forms of media to advertise your club, district, state, and region of National Garden Clubs.

Cheers, to you! Debbie

### Tally-HO – "The Tally Project"

By Gale Baullinger, Director's Project Chairman



The Tally Project is finished and it produced amazing hours and dollars from six participating states. Debbie Hinchey, our Pacific Region Director, presented the final numbers to you in her message on page 1, but from me, a huge THANK YOU for participating. Garden Clubs across the United States do a tremendous amount of community service and provide significant scholarships to many students. Unfortunately, we do not receive the recognition these efforts deserve. Perhaps the Tally Project will help us in this regard. However, each one of us can feel very good about belonging and contributing to an organization that makes significant contributions to improving our world.



The holidays are put away, garden catalogs have been gleaned and orders placed, the ground is warming, and it is time to plant seeds for the next season.

One highlight of being state president is visiting each district with other state board members. It is a delight to see and hear the enthusiasm of garden club members within the state. Their passion for their projects for civic beautification, Blue Star Memorial Markers, scholarships, other good deeds and their own gardens is awesome to behold.

We continue to provide **educational opportunities** for our members. **Flower Show School II** will be held in **April** in Tacoma, presented by Capitol District Judges Council. Details are in *The National Gardener* and at [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com).

Our delightful 66<sup>th</sup> WSFGC Holiday Show "Celebrate" (a Specialized-Advanced Standard Flower Show) was held at Holiday Inn, Everett in November. Members brought 117 horticulture specimens, 84 designs, 16 artistic crafts, 14 adult and two youth educational exhibits. Youth also had 44 horticulture and design exhibits. Our terrific teamwork was led by Co-chairmen Betty Arnold, Rhonda Permenter and Bea Randall, all from Evergreen District.

Gala XXXV will be held **March 11** at the Everett Holiday Inn. The featured designer is Julie Reed from Las Vegas ([juliereedevents.com](http://juliereedevents.com)). Chairman Joyce Komnick and her committee members provide us with a fabulous show and auction that benefits Headquarters House, also known as "The Garden House" on Beacon Hill in Seattle. View our website for photos of the house and ask for a tour when you are in the area. Contact Joyce ([nkomnick@hotmail.com](mailto:nkomnick@hotmail.com)) for tickets, each \$35.

**Remember, you are invited** to the **2013 NGC 84<sup>th</sup> Convention "RainShine"** to be held at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on **May 24-26**. Chairman Jeanette Pruin with Vice Chairmen Sally Priebe and Carolyn Erickson are busy finalizing everything. Go to the NGC website and register. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

For these events and more, check our webpage for ongoing details: [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com).

I am very proud of the **teamwork** of our members. **Together** we accomplish the goals we set. See you at the Pacific Region Convention in Santa Rosa in **April**.

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



CGCI members are looking forward to welcoming members of Pacific Region when hosting the Pacific Region Convention April 22-24, 2013 in Santa Rosa, California celebrating *Nature's Beauty & Bounty*. As the Convention committee finalized the numerous details needed for this issue, please note the pre-convention tour on Monday has changed. Alas, Richard's Grove and

Saralee's Vineyard has been sold. The good news is that the tour will now visit three premier wineries and gardens: Ferrari-Carano Vineyards & Winery, Quivera Vineyards & Winery with the last stop at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Center. The tour will include a box lunch and wine tasting at all three venues.

Tuesday's tour features a docent-led tour of Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Founded in 1987, Quarryhill has become a significant contemporary botanical garden of global significance featuring one of the largest collections of documented, wild-collected Asian plants in the world. The garden consists of 1,500 species and 25,000 plants. Every single tree, bush and flower started from a seed planted in a 4-inch pot because all the plants in the garden have been brought here as seeds gathered from annual expeditions to China.

The third tour just added on Wednesday is aboard *Rosie the Trolley* to Luther Burbank Home & Gardens where world-renowned horticulturist Luther Burbank lived and experimented with plants for most of his 50-year career. See for yourself why Luther Burbank said "I firmly believe, from what I have seen, that this is the chosen spot of all this earth as far as Nature is concerned." A group tour with docents has been arranged.

The Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel overlooks the city of Santa Rosa and offers free shuttle service from the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport (STS) to the hotel. Remember to make your shuttle arrangements at the same time you reserve your room (special Pacific Region rate is \$105). Come early, stay late. See complete details elsewhere in this issue. Deadline to register for both the convention and hotel is **March 29, 2013**. We hope to see you there!

*Theme: "Our Beloved Arizona - Conserve, Cherish and Celebrate"*



Winter is a wonderful time to be in Arizona. The birds, hawks, ducks, and our dear snowbirds have returned to our beloved state. In winter our garden club meetings resemble a family reunion. We're so glad they're back!

The weather has been mild and the petunias are blooming, lobelia is exceptional and geraniums are everywhere. Many of our desert plants have been tricked into blooming.

It has been a busy and fruitful year for Arizona. Our Judge's Council conducted Flower Show School, Courses I and II and is busy planning Flower Show School, Course III this coming March.

The Blue Star Memorial Marker projects are multiplying; two more will be dedicated this spring.

Our Central District held "A Desert Christmas Flower Show" on December 4 at the Tempe Museum. What a beautiful event for a district meeting.

Sedona is the site for Arizona's 2013 Convention. The Northern District is busy planning a soiree with workshops, great speakers and tours. They know from experience that everyone wants to go to Sedona.

The New Year brings us new opportunities; to increase membership, develop new projects and explore new possibilities.

May our Pacific Region be blessed with continued success, may our clubs prosper, our members multiply and our goals be fulfilled.

### **Going GREEN**



Here's an easy energy-saving idea: Unplug electronics chargers when they are not charging items. For instance, a mobile-phone charger plugged into an outlet still draws energy even when no phone is charging.



Pacific Region of  
National Garden Clubs  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
April 22-24, 2013



## "Celebrating Nature's Beauty & Bounty"

Hilton Sonoma Wine Country  
3555 Round Barn Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Telephone: 800-445-8667 or 707-523-7555

Each person attending the convention must fill out a separate form.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

State Garden Club \_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Region Position \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Status: \_\_\_\_\_ PR Board of Directors member \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate

Please check all that apply:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Director        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Chairman    | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Delegate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region President       | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman               | <input type="checkbox"/> First time Attendee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Pacific Region Director | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member            | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest        |

Full-time package (received by March 29) \$245.00 \_\_\_\_\_

includes: registration fee, three banquets, two lunches, and all workshops

Late full-time (received after March 29) \$270.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Part-time (per day) registration (add \$5 if received after March 29) \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse **or** one meal registration (add \$5 if received after March 29) \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Part-time registration

Monday, April 22 Banquet – Wil Gonzalez \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, April 23 Lunch \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Design Banquet – Nancy Colvin \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, April 24 Lunch \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Banquet \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop attendance:  Morning Sun Herb Farm  Jani Weaver Design  Teamworks

Optional tours

Wineries (3) and wine-tasting tasting wine? yes  no  \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Quarryhill Botanical Garden mobility issues? yes  no  \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Luther Burbank Home & Garden \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**NO REFUNDS AFTER March 29**

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Diet restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration and check made payable to "CGCI" (Note PR Convention on memo line) to:

Robin Pokorski, 512 Newton St., San Fernando, CA 91340-2421

[RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com) or 818-361-7873 (home) or 818-425-3247 (cell)

Contact: Dave West, Convention Chairman [jdavidwest@aol.com](mailto:jdavidwest@aol.com) or 707-799-0211 (cell)

**For Your Information**  
**Pacific Region 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – April 22-24, 2013**

**Hotel Reservation Deadline:    *March 29, 2013***

Hilton Sonoma Wine Country, 3555 Round Barn Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Telephone: 800-445-8667 or 707-523-7555    Mention Group Code **PRGC** to obtain the special group rate.

\$105.00 King, Queen or Double – Double occupancy (**call early for handicapped rooms**)

Check-In Time: 4:00 p.m. Check-out Time: 11:00 a.m.

Group rate will be available three days before and after the convention.

If assistance is needed, contact Convention Chairman, Dave West, 707-799-0211 or [jdavidwest@aol.com](mailto:jdavidwest@aol.com)

**Hotel Parking and Amenities**

Complimentary self-parking on-site. Free internet access in each room.

Complimentary Health Club and Business Center. Heated swimming pool and hot tub.

Complimentary shuttle service from Santa Rosa Airport. Request when reserving room.

**Travel Information**

**BY CAR:** From Hwy 101 northbound, exit Mendocino Ave., turn right at the stoplight and immediately get into left lane. Turn left at the stoplight onto Fountain Grove Parkway. Turn left at the round barn on Round Barn Blvd. Hotel is on the left. From Hwy 101 southbound exit Hopper Ave. #492 toward Mendocino Ave. Turn left onto Cleveland Ave. Take first left onto Mendocino overcrossing. Turn slight left onto Fountain Grove Parkway. Turn left onto Round Barn Blvd. Hotel is on the left.

**BY AIR:** From San Francisco or Oakland Airport, take Sonoma County Airport Express (1-800-327-2024) to Santa Rosa Airport. Visit their website [www.airportexpressinc.com](http://www.airportexpressinc.com) for schedule and fare. Arrange with hotel for their complimentary shuttle (from Santa Rosa Airport) when you make your room reservation.

Alaska Airlines (through Horizon) has direct flights into the Charles M. Schulz Santa Rosa Airport (STS) from Seattle, Portland, LAX and San Diego.

**Convention Highlights**

• **Monday, April 22, 2013**

Pre-Convention Tour (\$60) to three vineyards and wineries featuring garden tours and wine tasting with a box lunch. Ferrari-Carano's spectacular *Villa Flore* with five acres of gardens offers a self-guided garden tour. At Quivira Vineyards & Winery, you will experience their biodynamic agricultural practices with chickens, raised beds and beehives. Kendall Jackson Wine Center includes two and a half acres of fruit, vegetables and herbs used for wine pairings by their culinary team. Please note on your registration form if you plan to taste wine on this tour for an advance head count required by each winery.

Enjoy the evening FUN program by talented and entertaining **Wil Gonzalez**, AIFD extraordinaire from Ukiah, California.

• **Tuesday, April 23, 2013**

The lunch program will be presented by **Bill McNamara**, Executive Director from Quarryhill Botanical Gardens. Founded in 1987, Quarryhill is one of the pre-eminent Asian botanical gardens globally, featuring one of the largest collections of documented, wild-collected Asian plants in the world. Lunch is followed by an optional afternoon tour of Quarryhill itself (\$40), or stay at the hotel for a garden design or herb workshop.

The evening's design banquet features **Nancy Colvin**, one of the San Francisco Bay Area's premier creative floral designers. You may recognize her name since her designs have been featured the past ten years in NGC's *Vision of Beauty* calendars.

• **Wednesday, April 24, 2013**

The lunch program features **Luther Burbank Home & Gardens** with interesting history about the famous horticulturist, Luther Burbank. In the afternoon will be a fast-moving motivational and informative leadership seminar by **Becky Lunders** from TeamWorks. An optional tour (\$20) aboard Rosie the Trolley is available for a docent-led tour of Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.

The evening banquet is the installation of 2013 – 2015 Pacific Region officers with **Elaine Gunderson** from Arizona installed as Pacific Region Director.

• **Thursday, April 25, 2013**

2013-15 Organizational meeting with Pacific Region Director, Elaine Gunderson (8:30 - 9:30 a.m.).

Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs  
69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention April 22-24, 2013  
Tentative Schedule

## "Celebrating Nature's Beauty & Bounty"

### Sunday, April 21, 2013

Noon	Midnight	Floral room
4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Registration

### Monday, April 22, 2013

8:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	Pre-convention Wineries Tour
2:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Vendors / exhibits / awards set up
2:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Policy & Procedure Committee
3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Budget Committee
4:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
5:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	No-host reception
6:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Banquet – Wil Gonzales program

### Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Midnight	Midnight	Floral room
8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	Vendors / exhibits / awards
8:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Pre-Convention meeting
10:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Opening of Convention
10:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting #1
12:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Lunch - Quarryhill speaker
1:45 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Tour to Quarryhill Botanical Gardens
2:00 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	Workshop: Morning Sun Herb Farm
3:45 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Workshop: Jani Weaver Design
5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	No-host reception
6:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	Design Banquet / Nancy Colvin, Designer

### Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Midnight	Midnight	Floral room
9:00 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Business Meeting #2
12:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Lunch – Luther Burbank Home & Gardens speaker
1:45 p.m.	2:45 p.m.	Workshop: Teamworks by Becky Lunders
2:45 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	Tour to Luther Burbank Home & Gardens
4:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	Breakdown vendors / exhibits / awards
5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	No-host reception
6:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	Installation Banquet
8:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	Reception honoring 2013 – 15 Pacific Region Officers - sheet cake and punch

### Thursday, April 25, 2013

8:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	2013 – 2015 Organizational meeting
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### Parliamentary Procedure

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



Did you know? That all NGC officers, chairmen and nominating committee members residing in the Pacific Region are members of the Pacific Region Board of Directors (even if they do not hold regional offices or chairmanships)? Did you know? That each state garden club is allowed two to 12 delegates (depending on membership) at Pacific Region Conventions? Advise your state president if you are interested in serving as a delegate at our upcoming convention (which may make some of your convention expenses tax-deductible). Did you know that your Pacific Region officers and chairmen would like to see you at convention? We would! Just say, "California, here I come."

*Theme: "Water Wise – Garden Beautiful"*



The Sunset Garden Club of Henderson held a Blue Star Marker dedication at Silver Springs Park in Henderson, in October.

The weather was glorious, as was the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard. A number of veterans were in attendance; several of them spoke about their experiences. The Memorial Marker was unveiled by two veterans of World War II, and a Blue Star mother and a Gold Star mother placed a memorial wreath. The mayor of Henderson, Andy Hafen, accepted the Marker on behalf of the City. By the time *Taps* was played, there was not a dry eye in the audience.



### **Virден Condo for Rent**

*By Orvalita Hopkins, Bird Chairman*



Situated high in our palo verde tree, over-hanging a lush desert landscape, there is a wonderful neighborhood teeming with all the amenities you need to raise a family of virdens. With easy access to twigs, bugs, water, and seeds, our tree was host to a wonderful nest of virdens as it is every spring. The rather large nest

was vacated just before the summer dust storms began. It still hangs in the breeze as the winds of summer make the bows sway back and forth. These tiny birds are truly desert birds preferring the warm dry climate of the Sonoran Desert. It was interesting to watch them building their nest and feeding on bugs they find running up and down the trees. The tiny eggs hatched and the sounds of chirping filled the air, it must have been spring.

*By Debbie Skow, Youth Chairman*

Garden Clubs can help Girl Scouts earn a variety of badges. You've probably read about **NGC's Native Plants Patch**. For detailed information about this patch, please visit [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) then select "Youth" then "Scouts." Girl Scouts can earn this patch by:



**Discovering native plants.**

**Connecting with their local NGC members who will serve as the project sponsor.**

**Taking Action by accomplishing one of the following:**

- ~ Interviewing someone about native plants in their area.
- ~ Establishing a native beauty spot in a public garden, school, church, park, town or community.
- ~ Spreading the word about native plants by sharing information learned with other troops and community groups via newspaper articles, radio and TV spots, or posters, fliers, and booklets.

Patches are \$1.75 each which includes shipping and handling and may be ordered from NGC Member Services at 1-800-550-6007.

Other badges garden clubs can help Girls Scouts earn are:

**Celebrating Community** – Invite Girl Scouts to participate in Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedications.

**Bugs** – Teach Girl Scouts about insects...the good, the bad, the ugly.

**Gardener** – Teach Girl Scouts how to make floral designs and/or grow plants...great youth entries in your next flower show!

**Flowers – Naturalist** - Teach Girls Scouts about the science behind flowers.

**Trees** – Teach Girl Scouts about one of the many subjects regarding trees...fruit, forests, lumber.

**Collage Artist** – Teach Girl Scouts how to create collages...another flower show youth entry!

**Water – Naturalist** – Teach Girl Scouts about this precious resource.

To find a Girl Scout troop nearest you, please visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) then select "Find a Council." To learn about other badges garden clubs can help Girl Scouts earn, select "For Girls" then "Badges." Thank you for including youth in your garden club activities.

By Sally Thompson, Container Gardening Chairman

Container plantings can be grouped as shade loving, drought tolerant or even by colors. Many are grouped according to size of pots and plants just to hide or enhance an area. For a bit of whimsy, arrange some with a theme.

For example, if your garden club or gardening friends will be visiting soon, arrange containers with the theme of 'sweets'. Marshmallow (*Althaea officinalis*) has showy pink flowers. It has a long herbalist history in Europe and the middle East and it is easy to grow.



Plants named chocolate are numerous. For small containers there is a *Viola* named 'Velour Frosted Chocolate.' The flowers are edible, too. A calla is named 'Hot Chocolate.' It has elegant-shaped flowers with deep red and brown tints. If roses are your preference, look for 'Hot Cocoa.' It will need a larger pot as it grows to 3 or 4 feet, and it has a pleasant sweet spicy scent.



Many of these fun groupings can stay together if they have the same growing conditions for a long time period. If not, it is advisable to move them again. Also try different themes over the growing season, such as all red flowers or all Mexican seasoning plants, for example.

**Pacific Region Websites**

[www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org](http://www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)

- Washington: [WAGardenClubs.com](http://WAGardenClubs.com)
- Arizona: [AZGardenClubs.com](http://AZGardenClubs.com)
- California: [CaliforniaGardenClubs.org](http://CaliforniaGardenClubs.org)
- Oregon: [OregonGardenClubs.org](http://OregonGardenClubs.org)
- Nevada: [NevadaGardenClubs.org](http://NevadaGardenClubs.org)
- Idaho: [GCII.org](http://GCII.org)
- Alaska: [AlaskaGardenClubs.org](http://AlaskaGardenClubs.org)
- NGC: [GardenClub.org](http://GardenClub.org)

**Garnet Ascher, President**

Theme: "Just Imagine"



"Just Imagine" what can happen when community groups work together. In late 2011, the St. Helens GC was asked to create a public showpiece at the intersection of St. Helens Street and Columbia Blvd. For many years a plain drab slab of concrete was there, then an enclosed volcano was created that was harshly criticized by community members and civic leaders alike. For two years following the removal of the volcano, the walled enclosure sat vacant.

Then the garden club took on the task of developing the triangle. Member Sharon Harrison created a plan that was presented to the City of St. Helens Parks and Public Works Departments, City engineer Sue Nelson, and Councilman Doug Morton. Once the design was approved and a work plan developed, funding was procured from various entities such as PGE Employee Grants, Oregon Roadside Council, City of St. Helens and the St. Helens GC. With the help of garden club members and city workers, the wall was re-configured and stained, and wiring, drainage, and plumbing was provided by the city. The fountain was plumbed and wired, and the irrigation system installed by Matt and Sharon Harrison.

Once this initial preparation was completed, the above ground work and planting was accomplished in less than a week. Beaver Bark brought in the soil which was spread by club members and community service workers. The City then brought in and positioned the decorative boulders under the direction of Sharon Harrison. Initial plantings were also begun. By the end of the week, club members had planted over 200 perennials, succulents, grasses, annuals, and approximately 500 bulbs were planted – tulips, alliums and grape hyacinths. Plant material was purchased locally from Mean's Nursery, who also provided numerous annuals. Bulbs were provided by the garden club, but purchased from a national grower. The pump for the fountain was re-purposed from the original volcano. Over 200 man-hours of volunteer work created a project we are all proud to have in St. Helens.

This civic planting will become an ongoing project of the St. Helens GC. As needed, plants will be replaced or added.

What do you call two young married spiders?



Newly webs.



*By Elaine Gunderson, Schools Chairman*

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

March 21-23, Course III, Phoenix, AZ  
 Contact: Marcie Brooks, 623-322-2606  
[marciebrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:marciebrooks@hotmail.com)

April 2-4, Course II, Tacoma, WA  
 Contact: Judy Swortz, 253-582-0373  
[judywortz@comcast.net](mailto:judywortz@comcast.net)

May 8-10, Course IV, Grants Pass, OR  
 Contact: Suzy Twist-Powell, 541-862-7090  
[sueann@banyanfinancial.com](mailto:sueann@banyanfinancial.com)

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM**

May 5-7, South San Francisco, CA  
 Contact Information: Rob & Laura Crenshaw  
 619-435-1631 or [rock1221@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rock1221@sbcglobal.net)  
 Registrar: Shane Looper, 650-871-0172  
[slooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slooper@sbcglobal.net)

**GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS**

March 28-29, Course IV, Encino, CA  
 Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873  
[RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)

April 5-6, Course III, Eureka, CA  
 Contact: Mary Lou Goodwin 707-442-1387  
[Mgoodwin@northcoast.com](mailto:Mgoodwin@northcoast.com)

**TRI-REFRESHER**

May 24-26, 2013; NGC Convention, Seattle WA  
 Event Chairman: Mary Dahlgren, 425-747-9335  
[meldahlgren@comcast.net](mailto:meldahlgren@comcast.net)

**Digger's Back for Spring**

*By Orvalita Hopkins, Bird Chairman*



One of my favorite birds to watch during spring is a thrasher I named Digger. Many years ago Digger moved in to our desert landscape just to torment the mailman so it seems. He built a nest for his

mate high in our mesquite tree. It is fun to watch him flap his wings frantically trying to scare cats, dogs and humans alike away from his home. He flaps his wings as he dives at me, trying to scare me away from my gardening tasks. After all, it is spring time and his mate is caring for the eggs expected to hatch any time. He is with us every year taking care of his family while disrupting ours. He hunts for ants and small bugs along the sidewalks, kicking up dirt, rocks and twigs here and there. Digging in the garden leaving mysterious holes where a seed was placed for future human consumption. Not understanding how destructive he is to our perfect rock lawns and cement walkways. We, as owners, sweep the debris back in to the holes and trenches knowing all too well that Digger will be at it again first thing in the morning.

**Apr 22-24 2013 Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, California**

May 24-26 2013 NGC Convention, Seattle, Washington

July 1-3 2014 Pacific Region Convention, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**Issue Deadlines**

**May 2013 deadline 3-25-2013**

August 2013 deadline 6-25-13

November 2013 deadline 9-25-13

February 2014 deadline 12-25-13

May 2014 deadline 3-25-14

**Going GREEN 2**

*By Sandra Ford, Protecting the Aquatic Ecosystem Committee*

Did you have a live Christmas tree this year? Did it end up in the trash, placed in your backyard for the birds to use temporarily for shelter, or recycled and made into mulch?

In 1992, volunteers helped dump thousands of Christmas trees into Lake Havasu, a long lake between California and Arizona. They created 875 acres of artificial reefs. It was the largest fresh-water habitat recovery program in the nation. Scuba divers have found that fish are drawn to Christmas trees, the same way children are to Santa Claus. Now it is a popular destination for sport fishing. The fish population had almost disappeared from the lake years earlier.



As the trees decompose around structures of PVC pipes driving into the bottom of the lake, along with concrete sewer pipe and cinder blocks, it created mosses and algae for water insects which in turn feed the fish. It also provided shelter for the newly spawned fish.

This year Riverside County in California will dump two tons of trees into two other lakes because of this successful program. I knew trees cleaned our air, but now they are cleaning lakes and feeding fish, too.

**Horticulture Note**

How can you tell the difference between a **chili** bean and a **green** bean?

The **chilly** bean is wearing a jacket!





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## **Help Welcome NGC to the Pacific Region for RainShine!**

*By Jeanette Pruin, Convention Chairman*



### "RainShine"

"RainShine," the 84<sup>th</sup> NGC convention is coming to Seattle. The dates are May 24 – 26, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel. The room rate is \$149. Pacific Region's own Linda Nelson will be installed as 2013-2015 NGC President.

A Tri-Refresher has been approved and it is your opportunity to refresh in Gardening Study, Landscape Design and/or

Environmental Studies. Attending a combination of tours and seminars will give you the required seven (7) hours credit.

Let us know if you would be willing to serve as a table hostess. We will need 50– 60 people at each meal to welcome our guests to Pacific Region and Washington. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and help welcome NGC to Pacific Region.

Information and registration forms are on the NGC website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and in the winter issue of *The National Gardener*.

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