



# WACONIAH

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

Vol. 43 No. 3 Director's Theme: "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"



Pacific Region Director Krisitie Livreri & Cub Scout Troop

**CALL TO CONVENTION-see pages 8 to 14**

## Director's Message

Happy New Year!!! When I was a child 2016 was incomprehensible. It would have been a Sci-Fi movie. Now it's here. As I look over the last 50 years, I marvel at the things that have been accomplished. Technology alone has allowed us to communicate around the world in seconds. I remember specifically the day that Las Vegas announced, "We are on the Web." I didn't even know there was such a thing as a web.

With our theme being "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child," I wonder what a child sees. I asked my grandsons what they see when they look at the world around them, specifically gardens. Of course they see bugs, chipmunks, birds, and flowers. They are fortunate that their parents have taught them about gardening, and take them camping and nature hiking. But what of those who are not so fortunate. What have we done to improve their vision into the garden? As garden club members, we have a responsibility to make the future a better place. We can do that through education of our youth. We can seek opportunities to teach and motivate them to strive to make this world a better place. Who knows what the future holds, but if

our children are the ones to lead us, they need to be prepared and we can help in that process. Recently while planting bulbs with a Cub Scout Troop, we found them eager to learn, asking questions and enjoying the crisp fall air. I asked them to find three creatures as we were planting the bulbs and they found them: a worm, a lady bug and, of course, bees. This led to an educational opportunity regarding each of those creatures. They wanted to hear more and to do more. We must ask ourselves, "What have we done to make this world a better place for children?"

Come to the Pacific Region Convention "Beyond the Neon" in Henderson, Nevada. We are so excited to welcome all of you. We can share ideas about how to make the world a better place. We are planning some tours that will enlighten all of us. Our workshops and programs will be educational and productive. And we will be entertained. We look forward to hearing the chairmen report about what each of the states have been doing and of course the state presidents will have time to boast about the things they are doing in their state to promote the National Garden Clubs and Pacific Region objectives. We learn from each other. We get motivated by one another. We rekindle friendships and make new friends. That's what a convention is all about. Please come and share.

In the meantime, please know that we thank you every day and want to wish you the very best new year. We pray for your good health and for good gardening experiences. And we will see you in April beyond the neon.



*Krisitie*

**Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Vicki Yuen, President**

Theme: "Growing in Nevada"



In keeping with our Pacific Region Director Kristie's theme, several Rose Garden Club members (including Kristie herself) met with a Boy Scout troop in the park next to our Garden Club building – the Garden of the Pioneer Women. Together we planted daffodil bulbs in the Touch and Smell Garden which the Rose Garden Club had started

many years ago. That garden has recently gotten overrun by chocolate flower and several others, but with the Scouts' help we tidied it up and are looking forward to a flower-ful Spring.

I have also been tending the roses nearby, spreading coffee grounds (donated by Starbucks) around each of the many bushes. I do get questions and looks from people passing through the garden, and I try to also spread the word that our desert soil needs an addition of organic matter to help our plants thrive. The bushes will also be pruned in the next month or so, for enhanced blooms in the spring.

We are planning for the Garden to look lovely when you all come visit us in April, for the Region Convention!

**Alaska Garden Clubs**  
**Martie Black, President**

Theme: "Share and Grow Your Knowledge"



Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketichikan and North Pole Garden Clubs ended 2015 with Christmas parties, officer installations and Happy New Year greetings to all.

2015 was a busy year for all the clubs. Everyone carried out their usual programs and implemented some new ones, such as the "Bee a Wildlife

Hero" program.

Our state president, Martie Black, took part in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge and raised \$700. There was a large hole cut in the 12" thick ice of Goose Lake in Anchorage for the plunge. Yes! It was cold and fun.

2016 will see everyone going about their garden club duties with big smiles. Looking through the kaleidoscope of possibilities and sharing their knowledge.

**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Judy Tolbert, President**

Theme: "People, Plants and Projects"



I have come to believe that people who are passionate about something have a more peaceful and prosperous life. The joy of doing what we love is peaceful in itself though prosperity comes in many different forms. Having spent much of the fall and holiday

season visiting garden clubs throughout my state, I have seen that passion first hand. We are so fortunate to have hundreds of remarkable people in Arizona who are members of our garden clubs, helping, teaching, creating and sharing friendship and love freely every day. Many are active in other organizations, either as gardeners or as volunteers for charitable, religious or civic organizations. And many had remarkable lives before they became involved in Garden Clubs. I recently read a news article featuring a member of a garden club in the Tucson area, and I was amazed what this quiet lady had accomplished in her life. But how would we know that and how many others in our organization had remarkable lives before we met them? We know what they accomplish today and know that they will do even more in the future, but most of the time we have no idea of the amazing lives they may have had before we met them.



There is at least one very special member that we do know well. Sharron Luoma is a charter member of the Scottsdale Garden Club, past President of AFGC, and an award winning floral designer and NGC Master Judge. Sharron has not only accomplished these things for our organization, but

through it all she and her husband, Fred, have owned and operated Cactus Flowers with stores throughout the area. The Luomas have received many awards over the years, and the Arizona State Florist Association recently established a full AZMF scholarship in Sharron's name. We are very proud that Sharron is a member of AFGC. See you all in April!

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Sue Bennett, President**

Theme: "Growing Minds, Planting Seeds"



Happy New Year!

California is in our fifth year of an historic drought, the consequences are devastating as communities thirst for drinking water, farmlands lay uncultivated and business models are drastically changed. Even if El Niño delivers the rain we need this winter, this is a one-year solution that we cannot count on in the future.

Here are a few tips for water conservation in the yard and garden...

Did you know that there are 90,921.8 drops of water in 1 gallon? The average person consumes 58 gallons of water each year.

- 1) Don't discard established landscape plants...they use very little water.
- 2) Use less nitrogen fertilizer which stimulates growth and the need for more water.
- 3) Cut fertilizer amounts by half from the product label.
- 4) Use organic fertilizer and worm castings.
- 5) Prune lightly or not at all when temperatures are high.
- 6) Prune perennials by 1/3 in May or after bloom cycle to reduce summer water needs.
- 7) Plant in ground, not in containers as they require more water.
- 8) Add a fresh layer of compost before fall and spring planting.
- 9) Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants
- 10) MULCH, MULCH, MULCH...to cool soil and reduce evaporation.

Redwoods: From our friends at the Sempervirens Fund Redwoods. The more we learn about them, the more extraordinary they prove to be. We've known for a long time that California's coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are the world's tallest trees and among the longest-living. Scientists are now confirming that redwoods play an important role in the local water cycle and in achieving a healthy, stable climate.

Redwoods also play a critical role in local watersheds, both in terms of water quality and water supply. We've known for a long time that the vast root systems of redwoods carpeting our local watersheds help prevent erosion and that their deep loamy soils act as natural water filtration and storage systems. Forest soils act like

giant sponges, soaking up rainwater as it falls, and slowly releasing it throughout the dry season. In addition, redwoods that grow along streams provide shade, keeping the water cool for native fish. What's really extraordinary about redwoods is that they've evolved to use fog as their primary water source during times of year when rain is most scarce in northern California.

Roses & Drought: From Tom Carruth, Huntington Botanical Gardens Rose Garden Curator, "Roses are tough...we don't have to pamper them." Water: Twice a week, 15 minutes each, with water-efficient methods like in-line irrigation, captured rainwater or recycled water. Mulch: Spread 4 inches deep using larger pieces of hardwood (less likely to blow away.) Leaf Drop: Plants may drop some/ many leaves...it's their way of coping with heat by going into a type of dormancy. Fertilizer: Feed according to package directions. Consider organics as they feed the soil and plants absorb the nutrients as needed. Properly fed and watered rose bushes develop deep roots and can better withstand drought than younger plants. Replanting: If you need to replace roses, select at least a 5 gallon size or larger because their root system is better developed. Overall: Adjust your gardening goals and accept that hot weather and drought will affect roses. Once the weather cools, they will bounce back.

**Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Shirley Schmidt, President**

Theme: "Nurture Nature -- Nurture Friendships"



Oregon's members are catching the challenge to "Share the Bounty – Tip the Scale." At our Fall Board Meeting those members brought a collection of several hundred pounds of produce that we donated to a local food pantry at the conclusion of our meeting. It was a well-received blessing!

Thanks to both our NGC President and Pacific Region Director's emphasis on children, our members have approved a World Gardening project to gather our coins and dollars to participate in providing food for children in a school in Africa. Our goal is \$.25 meals for a classroom of 20 students for two years to equal \$1800. This President thinks that this is a very worthy and attainable undertaking.

Our first Board Meeting found us enjoying the beautiful surroundings and lodging at the Gardens of Enchantment in Portland where many of our members provide the care and nurturing. Bob and Evelyn Mell have donated countless hours for many years and were

presented with a President's Citation (pictured below). This Garden was created for those who are blind and addresses the senses, with a portion adapted for each of them. We have donated funds to this Garden for many years, and most of our members had never visited there before. So this made an exceptional setting for our meeting. We also planted a Dawn Redwood tree to memorialize the event.



The Oregon Garden is the setting for our next Board Meeting on March 14. Ya'll come!!!

### ***Greg's New Year's Wish***

*By: Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator*



Following joyful noise last year that some Pacific Region states are considering conducting NGC schools for the first time, these schools have

not come to fruition. It's a new year – will this year bring new schools to the region?

Contact NGC and Pacific Region Schools Chairmen and state schools chairmen in our Pacific Region states for more info about NGC schools. These schools provide the infrastructure to help carry out the educational mission of NGC and of your state garden clubs. Schools are an opportunity to promote your clubs, attract new members and perhaps raise some funds for your organization. General information, curricula and forms are posted on the NGC website under Schools.



Garden Clubs of Idaho wishes you a happy 2016. A glorious winter of white perception has come to our state. It has been many years since the majority of our state has been covered with snow. We are looking forward to much more in the next few months. We know when spring arrives the beautiful snow will fill our rivers and streams so we may watch the water fulfill our hopes of spring, summer and fall gardening.

Garden Clubs of Idaho's clubs are planning our special projects so we can fulfill our part of President Sandy's special project "Service in Action." It is so exciting to see what our clubs come up with. Everyone is so talented and creative. GCII is in the process of revising our bylaws. It is a major commitment for our Bylaws Committee. We are learning so much in the process.

GCII's Judges Council is putting on a Judges Symposium May 19-20 2016. It will be held at the Boise Airport Best Western. Claudia Bates from Florida will teach the Design Allied topic "Contrived or Fantasy Form" (which will be hands on) and Multi-Rhythmic and Abstract Creative for the Design topics. Billie Fitch from Washington will teach the Horticulture Allied Topic "Fairy Gardens" and Horticulture "Spring Flowers." Please contact Sandy Ford at [sandraford@cablone.net](mailto:sandraford@cablone.net) for information. It will be a wonderful Symposium and we hope to see you all there.

### ***Valentine's Day Fun Fact***



Based on retail statistics, about 3 per cent of pet owners will give **Valentine's Day** gifts to their pets.

Theme: "Back to the Future – One Leap at a Time"



We celebrated the beginning of winter with a large Holiday Flower Show held in Olympia, our state capital. This annual event brings together exhibitors in horticulture, design, and artistic crafts from around the state. In addition to youth and educational exhibits a large section of photographs were included for competition. Titled *Starry Starry Night*, the show room glittered in silvers and blues with planetary class titles inciting the imagination. The hotel guests were greeted with invitational designs at every turn.

Washington members are busy planning for the upcoming year with programs and activities. We have three schools continuing this spring with a fourth, Environmental Studies, beginning next fall. They say 'knowledge is power,' if so we Washingtonians are gearing up for another year of showing and sharing our talents and environmental alternatives. WSFGC is represented at the NW Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. This is the biggest show of its kind in our state. It is an opportunity for us to show the general public the many activities garden club members enjoy, our schools, community involvement and service as well as sponsored youth programs. We look to spark an interest or awareness in our objectives and possibly even gain new members to join in fun.

*Experience the Unexpected* is the theme of our annual spring Gala; a luncheon and design presentation. This year our guest designer, Shane Looper is coming from the great state of California in our Pacific Region. Those of us who have had the opportunity to see her design presentations in the past always experience the unexpected. A talented and entertaining designer, Shane will surely excite the new designers in our group as well as give the more experienced new ideas. In addition, Shane is giving a leaf manipulation workshop which is sure to produce laughs and giggles as we attempt to turn Mother Nature's grand leaf designs into something else.

### Nevada Fun Fact



Bugsy Siegel named his Las Vegas casino "The Flamingo" for the long legs of his showgirl sweetheart, Virginia Hill.



**YOUTH:** California Garden Clubs, Inc. has 45 Youth Clubs plus 44 Youth Projects. They will be ratifying four brand new youth groups at their annual meeting. CGCI's President's Project is an inspiring active plan to supply children with gardening kits.

"The goal is to have the family work together. If an adult helps the child and reads about CGCI they become aware of CGCI and the joys and wonder that gardening and garden clubs can bring into their lives. The Resolution passed by the CGCI Board of Directors focused on helping children learn the art of growing plants while being eco-friendly. We have been able to test our program and make revisions to help us reach the highest number of children and attain the highest level of success."



A wonderful variety of kits are offered including an Herb Kit, Green Machine Kit, Watch-Us-Grow Kit, Plant a Rainbow Kit, and a Pollinator Paradise Kit. Each kit contains everything needed to educate the child, and their participating family members about gardening in an active and entertaining way.

CGCI President, Sue Bennet has a winning theme, "Encouraging Future Gardeners."

This effective and thorough project supports Kristie Livreri's PR Project, "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child. A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities," as well as Sandra H. Robinson's NGC Project, "Service in Action." Congratulations to CGCI for a thoughtful project with clear benefits to young and old.

Donation and Order forms are on the CGCI website. *Kids Growing Strong* donated seeds and information material, and *Geopot* provided helpful price breaks.  
*Brynn Tavasci, Youth Chairman*

**TREES:** California designated two species: Sequoia, (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), and the Redwood, (*Sequoia sempervirens*), as its state tree. The Senate Bill 112, adopted in 1937, did not name a particular species but simply referred to the native redwood. In 1951 California's Attorney General ruled that both species qualified as the official state tree. In an effort to clarify the law, the California Legislature amended it in 1953. After approval of California Senate Bill No. 1014, the amended law recognized both the species as the official state tree. Both species are evergreen, conical, and single-trunked trees. Both have red-brown deeply fissured bark.



The Giant Sequoias, (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) are found native in the Sierra Nevada of California. The famous giant sequoia, the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park, is 272 feet high and more than 36 feet in diameter and is considered to be the world's largest tree over all. This evergreen conifer does not grow as tall as the Redwood, but is more heavily built and contains the largest timber volume of any tree. This species ranks among the world's oldest trees. Felled trees show annual rings dating trees to be 3,200 years old. These trees are protected in Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia national parks. Giant Sequoias are found growing in zones 7-10.

The Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is native to the west coast from northern California to southern Oregon. These trees thrive in heavy winter rain and summer fog. These redwoods are taller than the Statue of Liberty and can live to be 2,000 years old and grow to over 375 feet. The age at maturity is 400-500 years old. Maximum age counted from annual rings is 2,200 years old. This is one of the few conifers that can sprout from a cut stump. The tall redwoods grow in zones 8-10.

Redwood is a prized building material due to its insect, rot, and warping resistance. These redwood forests are the habitats for the endangered marbled murrelet and the northern spotted owl. Management for the survival of both of these birds has caused great turmoil in the logging industry resulting in a dilemma of jobs versus birds.



It has been necessary to provide statutory protection for most groves in national parks and elsewhere to save these remarkable trees from exploitation.  
*Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman*

**BEES:** California is home to more than 1600 species of undomesticated bees, most of them natives.

Honey bees, however, are not natives. European colonists brought them to what is now the United States in 1622 when they arrived in the Jamestown colony.

It took 231 years for the honey bees to arrive in California. They were not introduced here until 1853. A sign right by the international terminal at the San Jose airport documents their arrival. Per the signage: Mr. Christopher Shelton purchased 12 beehives from a New Yorker and transported them by rail, pack mule, and steamship to San Francisco. Only enough bees survived to fill one hive, but these quickly propagated, laying the foundation for the California beekeeping industry. This shows what one person can do to change the future!

So, don't let anyone tell you that what each of us do as gardeners doesn't make a difference!



Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman

**HABITAT:** Californians ~ You have so many wonderful resources for Habitat Gardening! Visit the California Native Plant Society website: [cnps.org/cnps/grownative/habitat/](http://cnps.org/cnps/grownative/habitat/).

"Many gardeners are interested in attracting birds, butterflies, and other forms of life to their garden. Native plants provide unmatched habitat value because native flora and fauna have coevolved for thousands of years.

'Habitat Gardening,' also known as 'Backyard Restoration,' refers to the process of converting traditional landscape plans in privately owned yards or public spaces to those that attract and support native birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Habitat gardening greatly benefits wildlife by providing food, shelter, water and nesting places and is typically characterized by a more natural, less formal feel, with more variety in plant choices and naturalistic placement and pruning of plants."

There is so much we have to learn! And, you are so fortunate to have such informative resources.

Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

**BIRDS:** The California quail, also known as the Valley Quail, became the California state bird in 1931.

Its hardiness and adaptability made it a prized game bird. You need a license to kill this delicious bird that is about the size of a small baked chicken.

Living in the underbrush of the desert foothills of this beautiful state offers a wonderful place to raise their young. They pair up during the breeding season, making nests by scratching hollows in the soft dirt of the underbrush in the low hills and deserts of California.

They live in coveys of 6 to 30, eating seeds and grasses, they take care of each other, sounding the alarm and flying short distances to fool their predators or even faking a broken wing to get you away from their nest.

The fox and coyotes sneak around, nose to the ground while the hawks and eagles fly up in the sky looking for a meal. But the Valley Quail is fast on its feet, dashing and crouching under the brush making it harder to see them. This is a handsome bird and worth keeping an eye out for.

Orvalita Hopkins, Bird Chairman

### ***Life Membership: Can I Buy it For Myself?***

Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman



"Imitation is the highest form of flattery." Let's let our newest Pacific Region Life Member Bette Tang's heart swell with pride as we imitate her efforts.

Perhaps in response to the November 2015 Life Membership article in *WACONIAH*, Bette purchased Pacific Region and NGC Life Memberships as gifts to herself. Purchasing your own Life Membership would be a great way to follow in her footsteps, but here is how she went above and beyond:

Bette wrote an article for her Southern California Garden Club's newsletter, *The Green Thumb*, explaining Life Memberships -- at every level. Isn't this a great way to inform our members about these opportunities to honor a member (or yourself) while supporting the Pacific Region scholarship program? At just \$40 it's a bargain!

Our "run for the roses" has slowed to what might be called a trot. This term's contest has seen the number of Life Memberships increase, and there is still time to join the race to receive the \$180 donation, given to a special project of the winning state's choice. Just make sure that your state has the largest percentage (per capita) increase of Pacific Region Life Members...so, look around your own club, district and state for those who have gone that extra mile. States currently in the running are:

- o California with 6 life members
- o Nevada, Oregon, & Washington with 3 life members, each



Please be sure to follow any special life membership purchase procedures in your state. The application forms are available from this Life Membership Chairman or they can be found on the Pacific Region website: [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms). Let's get those applications in and watch our scholarship program grow while honoring our deserving members!

2016 NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. PACIFIC REGION

73rd Annual Convention – April 5-7, 2016

“Beyond The Neon”

Green Valley Ranch Resort, 2300 Paseo Verde Parkway, Henderson, NV 89052

Telephone: 702-617-7777

Reservations: 1-866-782-9487

(Mention group code GCIPRGC – National Garden Clubs, Inc. Pacific Region to obtain the special group rate)

(The cut-off date for hotel reservations is March 12, 2016) Each attendee must fill out a separate form.

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

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

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

BADGE INFORMATION – Please check all that apply:

- \_\_\_ NGC President \_\_\_ Pacific Region State President \_\_\_ NGC Life Member \_\_\_ Landscape Design Consultant
\_\_\_ Pacific Region Director \_\_\_ Pacific Region Chairman \_\_\_ Pacific Region Life Member \_\_\_ Spouse or Guest
\_\_\_ Former Pac. Region Director \_\_\_ NGC Chairman \_\_\_ Environmental Consultant \_\_\_ First Time Attendee
\_\_\_ Pacific Region Officer \_\_\_ Alternate Delegate \_\_\_ Flower Show Judge \_\_\_ Garden Club Member
\_\_\_ Gardening Consultant

PACKAGE PLAN REGISTRATION: (Please mark meal selections under part-time registration below)

Plan includes: Registration (\$45 - \$25 for Nevada members), 3 Banquets and 2 Lunches.

- Full-time Package – postmarked by March 10 \$386 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Full-time Package, Nevada Members – postmarked by March 10 \$366 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Full-time Package - postmarked after March 10 \$411 \$\_\_\_\_\_

- REGISTRATION ONLY: \$ 45 \$\_\_\_\_\_
(Nevada Members) \$ 25 \$\_\_\_\_\_

PART-TIME REGISTRATION:

Part-time (per day) Registration Fee (meals not included; add below if meal desired)

- # of days \_\_\_ \$ 20 ea. \$\_\_\_\_\_
Spouse/Guest Per-Meal Registration Fee (add cost of meal below) # of meals \_\_\_ \$ 5 ea. \$\_\_\_\_\_
Tuesday, April 5 Life Member Banquet/Youth Vocal Group \$ 79 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Herb Marinated Chicken Striped Bass Vegetarian
Wednesday, April 6 Luncheon/President, Red Rock Audubon Society \$ 49 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Tomato & Basil Bisque and Ahi Tuna Salad \$\_\_\_\_\_
Wednesday, April 6 Design Banquet/Floral Designer Helga Sallmon \$ 85 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Roasted Chicken Atlantic Grilled Salmon Vegetarian
Thursday, April 7 Luncheon – Vicki Yuen, speaker \$ 49 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Deli Buffet
Thursday, April 7 Awards Banquet/Variety Show \$ 79 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Bone in Beef Short Rib Apricot Glazed Pork Chop Vegetarian
(All meals are open to all members, spouses and guests)

OPTIONAL TOURS:

- Hoover Dam Lake Mead Tour \$ 95 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Monday April 4 All day bus tour to Hoover Dam and Lake Mead including a 90-minute boat cruise on Lake Mead. A box lunch will be included with the tour.
Springs Preserve Tour Guided Garden Tour, Blue Star Marker rededication \$ 10 \$\_\_\_\_\_
Thursday April 7 and visit to Nevada Garden Club Center.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION: “Who Will Teach Them If You Don’t” Registration includes large Tote Bag of materials to get you started. \$ 5 \$\_\_\_\_\_

2016 PACIFIC REGION CONVENTION TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Diet Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

No Refunds after March 22, 2016

Make check payable to “National Garden Clubs, Inc.” (Please note “PR 2016 Convention” on memo line).

Mail registration and check to: Victoria Yuen, 2312 Rancho Bel Air Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89107-2362 (Phone: 702-259-9888)

CONTACT: Nancy Lee Loesch, Convention Chairman neelo@embargmail.com or 702-407-7128

**2016 NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. PACIFIC REGION**

**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention – April 5-7, 2016**

*“Beyond The Neon”*

*Convention Tentative Schedule*

Monday, April 4, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Tour - Lake Mead and Hoover Dam  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Breakfast and lunch on your own  
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration and Credentials  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Design Preparations  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Vendors, Exhibits, Awards, Silent Auction (Attendees Set up)  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Finance & Budget Committee (Kristie's Suite)  
2:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Vendors, Exhibits, Awards, Silent Auction (Open)  
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Policy & Procedure Committee (Kristie's Suite)  
3:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Executive Committee (Kristie's Suite)  
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Reception / No Host Bar  
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Life Membership Banquet

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Breakfast on your own  
8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration and Credentials  
8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Vendors, Exhibits, Awards, Silent Auction  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Design Preparation  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting  
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies - Director, Invocation, G.S. Flag Presentation, State welcome, City welcome, 2016 convention response (Nevada)  
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Convention Business Meeting  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshops, Lectures  
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Reception / No Host Bar  
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Design Banquet

Thursday, April 7, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Vendors, Exhibits, Awards, Silent Auction  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Design Preparation  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Convention Business Meeting  
12:00 p.m. End Fundraising Opportunities  
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon - Announce winners for Baskets and Silent Auction items  
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tour Bus - Springs Preserve and NGCI Garden Center  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshops, Lectures  
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Vendors, Exhibits, Awards, Silent Auction - Clear Exhibit Room  
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Reception / No Host Bar  
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Awards Banquet and Entertainment



Hoover Dam, the largest single public works project in the history of the United States, contains 3.25 million cubic yards of concrete, which is enough to pave a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York. The dam face was used in an amazing stunt for Roland Emerich's "Universal Soldier" and has been seen in such films as "Viva Las Vegas" and "Fools Rush In." Construction worker hard-hats were first invented specifically for workers on the Hoover Dam in 1933.

2016 NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. PACIFIC REGION

73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention – April 5-7, 2016

*“Beyond The Neon”*

*Convention Luncheons and Dinner Banquets*

**Tuesday Evening Life Member Banquet** - *Susan Owens' Vocal Students*

Susan Jennings Owens is a Native Nevadan. She makes her home in Centennial Hills in Las Vegas. She is married to Jimmy Owens a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer and together they have raised five beautiful daughters and now have grandchildren. Susan has a beautiful voice and has performed for audiences locally. For over thirty years she has devoted her time to giving vocal lessons. The students range in age from small children to adults.



**Wednesday Luncheon** - *Douglas T. Chang, President, Red Rock Audubon Society*

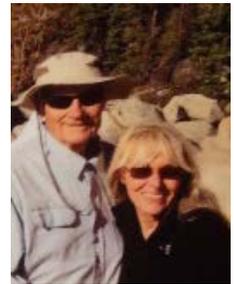
**“Attracting Birds to Our Habitats”**



Doug retired from the Procter and Gamble Co. after 31 years in management. While living in Cincinnati Ohio, the Chang family were active members of the Cincinnati Nature Center. Doug and Nancy moved to Las Vegas three years ago and joined Red Rock Audubon Society (a southern Nevada chapter of National Audubon Society). Doug started serving as President of Red Rock Audubon Society in May of 2014. Doug and Nancy have birded extensively in the United States. They spent three weeks on a birding trip to Columbia South America in early 2015. They recently returned from a month-long birding trip to Madagascar.

**Wednesday Evening Design Banquet** – *Helga Sallmon, NGC Master Flower Show Judge*

After immigrating to this country and having just bought their first home that had a garden with many challenges, a neighbor invited Helga to a garden club meeting. Following a job transfer to Las Vegas, Helga joined the Rose Garden Club in Las Vegas. At present, she divides time between her home in Northern Nevada and her home in Northern Idaho. Her journey in floral art has been varied and inspiration comes mostly from observations from viewing our earth from higher altitudes, flying being her passion for many years.

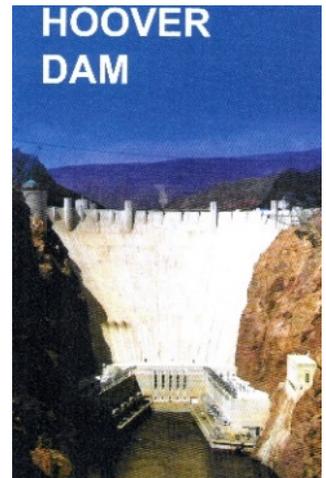


**Thursday Luncheon** – Victoria Yuen, Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. President will present a brief introduction to Springs Preserve, its objectives and a summary of the afternoon tour.

**Thursday Evening Awards Banquet** – Attend this final convention event to see how each state scored in the Awards Competition. Entertainment will follow the short awards presentation (*This is Las Vegas*).

**Hoover Dam/Lake Mead Tour**      **Monday April 4, 2016**

A don't miss tour on Monday April 4. We will start out with a 30 minute bus drive through the desert to Hoover dam. The morning will be spent touring the lower dam and the new visitor center and museum. Before leaving the dam visitor center a box lunch will be served. After lunch we will visit the Mike O'Callaghan – Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge which is 886 feet above the Colorado River downstream of Hoover Dam. Our next stop will be Las Vegas boat Harbor in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. There we will board the Lake Mead Princess for a 90 minute tour on Lake Mead to the waters on the back side of Hoover Dam. Then on our return trip to the Green Valley Resort we will stop at Hemenway Park where we can see Big Horn Sheep graze.



**2016 NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. PACIFIC REGION**

**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention – April 5-7, 2016**

*“Beyond The Neon”*

*Convention - For Your Information*

**Hotel Reservation Deadline: March 12, 2016**

**Green Valley Ranch Resort**

2300 Paseo Verde Parkway, Henderson, NV 89052

Reservations 866-782-9487 (866-STAYGVR) Group Code: GCIPRGC – Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Standard King: Single and Double Rate \$150.00

Double Bedded Queen: Double Rate \$150.00 Triple Rate \$175.00 Quad Rate \$200.00

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

**Hotel Parking and Amenities:**

There is no charge for self-parking or valet parking (a gratuity is appreciated by parking attendants)

Complimentary Shuttle to and from McCarran International Airport.

Shuttle departs Green Valley Ranch Resort every 2 hours from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Shuttle departs McCarran Airport, at ground level, every 2 hours from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Complimentary Shuttle to and from Mandalay Bay Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip.

Shuttle departs Green Valley Ranch Resort every 2 hours from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Shuttle departs Mandalay Bay Hotel every 2 hours from 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Airport Shuttle on Call:**

Shuttle service from and to McCarran International Airport. \$12 per person each way.

Super Shuttle: 702-920-3186 or 800-258-3826

**Travel Information:**

From I-15 South: Travel north on I-15 to Saint Rose Parkway (Nevada 146) and exit to the East. Turn right on Paseo Verde Parkway (If you reach the I-215 you have gone too far). Turn left on Carnegie Street. Turn right at Serene Avenue (the second right going down Carnegie) into the Green Valley Resort Hotel entrance.

From I-15 North: Travel south on I-15 to I-215 East. Exit I-215 to Green Valley Parkway South. Turn right on Green Valley Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Verde Parkway (third stop light from the I-215). Turn left on Carnegie Street. Turn right at Serene Avenue (the second right going down Carnegie) into the Green Valley Resort Hotel entrance.

From 93/95 North: Travel north past the merger of Routes 93 and 95 to I-215. Take I-215 west and Exit I-215 to Green Valley Parkway South. Turn right on Green Valley Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Verde Parkway (third stop light from the I-215). Turn left on Carnegie Street. Turn right at Serene Avenue (the second right going down Carnegie) into the Green Valley Resort Hotel entrance.

From McCarran International Airport: Exit the airport on Paradise Road South to I-215 East. Exit I-215 to Green Valley Parkway South. Turn right on Green Valley Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Verde Parkway (third stop light from the I-215). Turn left on Carnegie Street. Turn right at Serene Avenue (the second right going down Carnegie) into the Green Valley Resort Hotel entrance.

**Springs Preserve Tour Thursday April 7, 2016**

The Springs Preserve Tour will include a guided tour of the gardens by Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. President and Master Gardener Victoria Yuen. The tour will be followed by the rededication of a Blue Star Memorial relocated to Springs Preserve. The return trip to Green Valley Resort will include a stop at the Nevada Garden Club Center in Lorenzie Park where you will be able to take a self-guided tour of the Garden of the Pioneer Woman. Light refreshments will be served by Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.



## *Places to see in Las Vegas*

### **The Fountains at the Bellagio**



Steve Wynn said that he planned to build a hotel with a water feature and built a water feature with a hotel.

### **Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area**



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is located 34 miles from the Green Valley Resort and is less than a 45 minute drive. A 13-mile scenic loop drive allows visitors to view millions of years of geological history including 3,000-foot-high red rock formations. The canyon also contains 10,000 years of human history.

### **The Las Vegas Strip**



The Las Vegas Strip is 4.2 miles of Las Vegas Boulevard. The Strip is known for its concentration of hotels and casinos. 15 of the world's largest 25 hotels by room count are located on the Las Vegas Strip.

### **The High Roller**



Shining bright on the Las Vegas Strip, the 550-foot-tall High Roller is a true standout at The LINQ's outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment promenade. Measuring 520 feet in diameter, the High Roller eclipses both the London Eye and Singapore Flyer. Facing north and south (parallel to Las Vegas Boulevard), the wheel takes 30 minutes to complete one full revolution and features 28 glass-enclosed cabins with broad views of the famed resort city. Each spherical cabin can hold up to 40 people. There are benches on either side of the cabin, with plenty of floor space in between. But we imagine you'll want to stand against the window and admire the view.

### **The Mob Museum**



This \$42 million museum teaches visitors about the most notorious gangsters in Las Vegas, the history of the mafia and how organized crime impacted the rest

of the United States and the world through interactive exhibits and artifacts. The 41,000 square foot museum is located in the restored federal courthouse where the hearings of the 1950-51 Kefauver Committee to Investigate Crime took place.

### Wayne Newton's Casa de Shenandoah



A new attraction now open to the public is the ranch of Mr. Las Vegas, Wayne Newton.

Casa de Shenandoah is 52 lush acres of landscaping, natural artesian ponds and waterfalls where peacocks, swans, geese and a variety of exotic birds freely roam. Visitors see the Museum containing Wayne Newton's extensive car collection, his private jet and his vast memorabilia collection including gifts from close friends Frank Sinatra, Jack Benny, Nat King Cole, and Elvis Presley. The tour also includes the Arabian horse equine area, Exotic Animal Exhibit and Wayne Newton's Mansion built in 1976.

### The Botanical Gardens at the Bellagio



### Other Attractions to Experience

The Titanic Artifact Exhibition at the Luxor  
 The Stratosphere Tower  
 Fremont Street Experience  
 The Neon Museum  
 The Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian  
 Mount Charleston

### Must See Shows:

<u>Show</u>	<u>Hotel</u>
ShowStoppers	Wynn
Donny and Marie	Flamingo
"O" by Cirque du Soleil	Bellagio
Jersey Boys	Paris
La Reve – The Dream	Wynn

### Convention Workshops

Wednesday April 6, 2016

2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

*"Who Will Teach Them If You Don't"* – Two 45-minute session workshops will be presented by "Kids Growing Strong" founder and former California Garden Clubs, Inc. President Maryanne Lucas.

4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

*"Smokey Bear / Woodsy Owl Poster Contest"* – Robin Pokorski, National Garden Clubs (NGC) Corresponding Secretary and former California Garden Clubs, Inc. President, will explain this NGC-supported contest and how to get your club participating.

Thursday April 7, 2016

2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

*"Parliamentary Procedures for Garden Club Meetings"* – Greg Pokorski, Pacific Region Parliamentarian, will present this Workshop and answer questions.

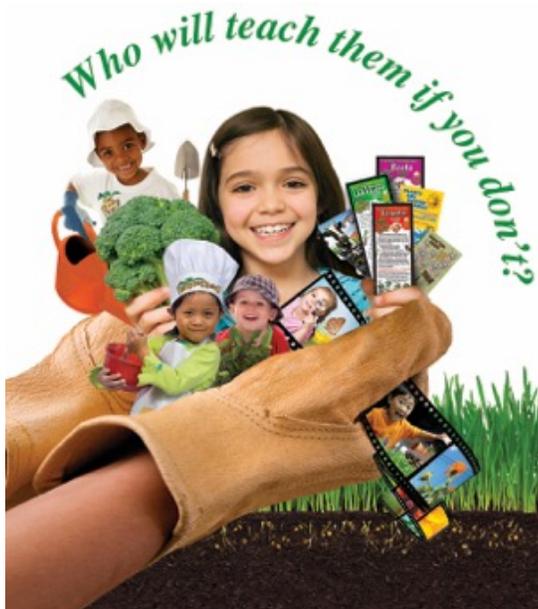
3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

*Cactus and Succulent Society of Southern Nevada – Society Members*

Informal round table presentation with attendee participation. Learn about plant material, growing techniques, irrigation etc. from local experts. Cactus and succulents can fit in with many other plant materials, are low maintenance and have a beauty all their own.

### Nevada Fun Fact

Las Vegas has more hotel rooms than any other place on earth.



***It's All About Teaching Kids to Learn and Have Fun in the Garden***

Children learn best when they are actively involved in imaginative and colorful hands-on learning experiences with family and friends. Since EVERYTHING happens in a garden, a garden is the very best place to "Do-It-Together" and inspire kids to learn and have fun.

These two 45-minute sessions workshop is designed to help parents, grandparents, teachers, volunteers and anyone interested in gardening with children to explore new and exciting ways to learn about growing healthy food while sharing the joy and wonders that can be found in a garden.



Each participant gets to take home an insulated tote chock full of

- ideas for "hands-on" garden activities
- a binder full of gardening resources
- a variety of vegetable seeds
- colorful garden activity cards
- several garden kits
- and a whole lot more....

You will get lots of information and be inspired to help kids of all ages to grow healthy & strong!

**ABOUT KIDS GROWING STRONG.**

Established in 2001 with initial funding from an NGC PETALS grant from Shell Oil Company as an educational enrichment program, Kids Growing Strong has grown into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that today reaches more than a quarter of a million children and their families each year. The mission of Kids Growing Strong is to empower families and caregivers to inspire children to adopt healthy lifestyles through proper nutrition and exercise while motivating children to actively learn about themselves and the environment through science-based, hands-on garden activities.



***NGC Conservation Pledge***

*Adopted May 19, 1994*



I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife.

## If You Plant It, They Will Come

By Julie A. West, Butterfly Chairman

Hot off the press from NGC is a new educational booklet, *Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden*. This publication updates and replaces the 1986 NGC publication, *Butterfly Gardening* with an emphasis on monarch butterflies whose populations have plummeted 90% in the last two decades. Topics include:

- Butterfly Conservation
- Plants and Practices to Attract Butterflies
- Creating Your Own Butterfly Habitat Garden
- Container Gardening for Butterflies
- Five steps for a Certified Monarch Waystation
- Butterfly Anatomy
- Seed and Plant Sources
- Propagating Milkweed from Seed
- Regional Butterflies of NGC
- Official State Butterflies
- Butterfly Gardens, Houses or Vivariums to Visit
- References, Resources and Websites

The booklet is designed so you may electronically download to print only the pages you are interested in or the entire booklet. *Inviting Butterflies into Your Garden* is a product of NGC President's Special Projects 2015-2017 - Monarch Watch Committee and is FREE from NGC's website: <http://gardenclub.org/resources/projects/ngc-inviting-butterflies-into-your-garden.pdf>. Take advantage of this FREE educational publication and all butterflies including the struggling monarch butterfly will appreciate your endeavors to help them complete their life cycle in your garden! If you plant it, they will come...



## NGC President's Project Awards

By Becky Hassebroek, Special Projects Committee

### "Service in Action" Award Deadline is Approaching!

Great Monetary Awards as Well as Special Recognition are Available for Your Club!

And You Know That You Can't Win Unless You Apply!

The deadline for your award applications for the 2015-2017 NGC President's Special Projects is **March 15, 2016**. Most of your projects will qualify for the awards that are available. All of the information is available on our website [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org). Don't miss out! It's easy to apply!



## Arizona's Tree

By Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman

There are two species of Palo Verde trees native to Arizona. The Blue Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*) has blue-green branches and leaves. The Foothill Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*) has yellow-green branches and leaves. The legislature did not distinguish between the two species of this tree that are native to the State when declaring it the state tree on April 9, 1954. Palo Verde is Spanish for 'green stick'.



Both the Blue and the Foothill Palo Verde have similarities. These trees use the chlorophyll in their bark to photosynthesize. In general, three quarters of their food is metabolized through the bark, whereas only a quarter is produced by the leaves. Both trees start with short crooked trunks or thin multi-trunks. In spring both types of Palo Verde add vibrant color to the desert with their blooms of golden yellow cup-shaped flowers. The flowers attract pollinators such as bees, beetles, and flies. Seed pods follow the flowers which are a food source for small rodents and birds.

There are some differences between the Foothill and the Blue. The Foothill prefers rocky slopes and gravelly flats. It grows more slowly but can live up to 200 years or more. The tree may be leafless much of the time unless it is supplied with deep subsoil moisture. Its



By Mary-Jo Noth, Natural Disasters Chairman

deep root system allows it to tap into ground water and survive periods of extended drought and flash floods which often occur in the desert. The Foothill's seeds do not require scarification. The seed pods contain beans which are very sweet and can be blanched and eaten raw.

The Blue Palo Verde has a later blooming time, is taller and faster growing, and requires more water. It can mature to 40 feet in height and with a 30 to 50 year life span it is more suited as a landscape tree. The seeds require scarification and the beans have a slightly bitter taste.

Palo Verde seeds were a food source for the Hohokam, Pima, Mojave, Quechan, and Tohono O'odham Indians of Arizona. Dried seeds were ground in mortars to make flour used for mush and cakes. The wood was carved into ladles.

Palo Verdes serve as nurse plants for the saguaro. Their shade gives protection to seedlings. Plant diversity encourages a variety of animals attracted for food, and shelter. These trees can be found growing in zones 8 – 11.

### million pollinator garden challenge

By Becky Hassebroek, MPGC Liaison



**"A Million Pollinator Gardens will be a million beacons of hope for the future." – Bruce Rodan**

• **Plan** now to include nectar and host plants for our pollinators in your Spring gardens.

- Download our new **Pollinator Power** educational publication from [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org).
- **Register** your gardens at [millionpollinatorgardens.org](http://millionpollinatorgardens.org).
- And **SHARE** what you're doing with the rest of us! We want you to be recognized!

We have a tight two-way tie for Pacific Region states that have notified us that they have registered gardens:

California – 1 – Robin/Greg Pokorski

Alaska – 1 – Becky/Marv Hassebroek

***Aren't there more out there?"***

### Nevada Fun Fact

Nevada is the only state with an entire museum devoted to the life and time of entertainer Liberace.

Are you aware that National Garden Clubs, Inc. has grant funds available for restoration projects under the Natural Disasters USA program? Members of an individual garden club, group of neighboring clubs, or a State garden club may now request up to \$5000 to support their restoration project for a public garden damaged by a natural disaster such as a flood, ice storm, wildfire, tornado, or hurricane. NGC will grant up to \$5000 per applicant per disaster within the same fiscal year.

Funds will be awarded based on several factors:

- Nature and severity of the disaster
- Location of area to be restored
- Proposed restoration plan by garden club/s
  - Emphasis on live plant material
  - Scope of project
  - Scope in relation to number of club members
  - Networking with other groups to complete project
- Estimated (itemized) costs of project
- Other funds received toward restoration project.

Further information and the application may be found on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org/projects/outreach-projects/disaster-relief.aspx](http://www.gardenclub.org/projects/outreach-projects/disaster-relief.aspx)

The application should be completed and returned to the Natural Disasters USA Chairman: Adrienne Langan by e-mail: [LanganA@aol.com](mailto:LanganA@aol.com).

A Book of Evidence is not needed, just the required information.

All applications will be reviewed by the NGC Natural Disasters USA chairman and committee.

The Natural Disasters USA grants are supported by the generous donations of members of National Garden Clubs Inc. You may make a donation to the Fund by sending a check payable to National Garden Clubs Inc. [specify Natural Disasters USA on the memo line] to NGC headquarters at National Garden Clubs Inc., 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis MO 63110-3492. *Thank you!*



By Becky Hassebroek, NGC BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO! Chairman



My sister-in-law, June Ann, has been in garden club most of her life. I knew that she was heavily involved in design – she had a title of

Master Judge, which impressed me, and she was always winning awards! I loved the outdoors, and I was learning to love to garden – but I was absolutely sure that I would never be interested in any kind of floral design – **NEVER – NOT ME!**

But, wait! June Ann could go out into her garden, at all times of the year, gather whatever was available, and make the most stunning designs of all sizes to adorn her home and to share with her friends. She had acquired the knowledge that enabled her to bring her garden inside for our enjoyment from garden club, and I was mesmerized!

Never? Well, I DID want to learn to present my garden in such a manner! Eventually, I joined a garden club and now I not only look forward to entering our shows every year, but I co-chair a show, as well. I still only use the flowers and other plant material from my own garden and try to inspire others to do the same – it's my way of sharing what I love and what I learned from my friend and mentor.

You know that I love critters of all kinds – and I practice sustainable gardening – I don't use any pesticides or herbicides. I greatly enjoy being surrounded by the insects as well as my flowers. I plant so that I have enough for the wildlife as well as my designs ~ and if some form of wildlife happens to get to my prized specimen just before a show – **OH WELL!** I know what could have been, and I am glad to share with them, as well!

My garden pleases me! It's a place I enjoy spending my time. The Wildlife around me pleases me greatly! It is such a joy to share my world! And, when I can share it with others through my designs, what can be better?



**NEVER!?** I was so sure! Garden Club changes our lives – aren't we lucky to be who we are?!



In 1899 Charles Fey invented a slot machine named the Liberty Bell. The device became

the model for all slots to follow. There were 16,067 slots in Nevada in 1960. In 1999 Nevada had 205,726 slot machines, one for every 10 residents.

**The Buzz: Zombie Flies Killing Bees**

By Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman



It sounds bizarre but Zombie bees are real and a serious threat to the already threatened honeybee populations. Researchers have theorized that the die-off of bees worldwide since 2006 is not due to any one single factor but a combination of viruses, fungi, mites, as well as stress, pesticides and a decrease in the diversity of pollen laden flowers. Now we have a new villain on the scene!

Honeybees, as well as bumblebees and paper wasps, in California and other states have been seen acting zombie-like, flying at night, attracted to light like a moth, and crawling around blindly as if dazed. It has been determined that they have been infected with eggs of a parasitic fly. The fly lays up to 13 eggs in a bee's abdomen and, as the larvae grow, they feed off of the body of their host. After a few days the bee stumbles out of its hive and flies off, often at night. In a couple of weeks, the fly larvae break out of the dead bee's body as a pupa to finish their development into an adult. Gross!

The attack of the zombie flies is spreading. Honeybees were first found to be targets in California in 2008 and in New England in 2014. Just this past September, there was a report of parasitized bees in upper New York State so they are now on both the east and west coast. **Researchers have recently found evidence of the fly affecting 77% of the hives in the San Francisco Bay area!**

No one has seen the flies hanging around bee hives so it is thought that the fly is attacking while the bees are out foraging. This would allow the fly to land on a bee undetected by its hive mates. Bees in a hive clean each

other so the fly would be destroyed if it were attached to a bee arriving at its hive.

To learn more about bees, researchers have begun placing tiny radio tags on foraging bees. This is done by gluing the tag on the back of the bee between the wings. By using video monitoring they hope to find out more about threats to bees, including the parasitic flies.

With CCD, hives full of healthy honey bees suddenly empty out. Inside the hives, they find abandoned young and a queen but no dead worker bees. It has been thought that these bees were stressed out by pesticides, pests and poor food quality but that would not explain how the colony collapses so quickly.



A research team has discovered how multiple stressors can quickly lead to a total breakdown of a bee hive. The colony goes from having lots of bees to no foraging bees in just a few weeks and there's no corpses left in the hive. Researchers are now working to determine what impact chronic stress is having on entire bee communities rather than focusing on individual bees.

We know that honey bees delay leaving their hive to forage until later in adulthood as foraging for nectar and pollen is hard work and bees often die from exhaustion or get lost. If stressors, such as pests or pesticides, kill too many forager bees, it triggers the next bee generation to mature more quickly and they leave the nest before they are ready.

Bees who start to forage when they've been adults for less than two weeks cannot do a good job. They take longer to forage and they make fewer trips each day. When teams place tiny radio trackers on young forager bees, it was found that they also die earlier. It was determined that these premature deaths triggered a vicious cycle, where each new generation of bees was forced to forage before they were mature enough to be efficient at it. The young foragers cannot return enough resources to keep the colony going so the colony collapses.

So, we are one step closer to solving the Colony Collapse Disorder puzzle. Hopefully researchers will identify all of the challenges facing today's bees and determine what additional things we, as gardeners, can do to help protect our pollinators!

Thank you for doing your part in providing a safe, pesticide-free place for our little friends! We as gardeners do make a difference!

The *Handbook for Flower Shows* revised in 2007 contains many updates since 2007 and a new *handbook* is scheduled for 2017. All judges must keep their *handbook* up-to-date. In 2009 judges were asked to make an update to their *Handbooks* on page 119. J. TRAINED Plants. Renumber #3 to #4 and add:

**3. Bonsai. Although a horticultural accomplishment, authentic bonsai is never judged in NGC Standard Flower Shows as NGC Accredited Judges are not trained in this area. It may, however, be included in an Educational exhibit in the Special Exhibits Division where it is judged as part of a whole rather than solely on its own merits.**

Check your *handbooks* and make sure this is included on page 119. If you are judging a Standard Flower Show, and come across a bonsai in the container plants, make sure it is not judged. The Classification Committee should have marked it "For Display only." Bonsai is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into aesthetically appealing shapes according to prescribed techniques of growing, pruning and training.

On page 178 in the *Handbook*, it states authentic Oriental designs are not judged. NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges are not trained to judge these designs. The same holds true for bonsai.



**Gardening Tip**

Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.



By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman



**What is a convention?** It is an assembly of delegates who sit in a single deliberative body acting in the name of the entire group – in other words, the required

people come together to conduct the business of the organization. The Pacific Region of NGC formally comes together just once each year. Various committees, the board of directors and the membership (as represented by delegates from state garden clubs) meet to review the year's accomplishments, take action needed to run the organization, plan for the year ahead and learn from speakers, workshops and each other.

**Who attends convention?** The required voting membership consists of members of the Board of Directors and delegates (or their alternates) from each of the eight member states. The Board of Directors includes the Executive Committee, former region directors, all region chairmen and NGC officers, chairmen and nominating committee members who reside in the region. The Executive Committee is composed of the Region Director, Alternate Director, Presidents of the region's state garden clubs, appointed officers, Advisor, *WACONIAH* Editor and Website Chairman. The number of delegates each state garden club is entitled to is based on its membership in NGC as of June 1 of the previous year. See NGC bylaws and/or page 9 of the region's Policy & Procedure. **Each state garden club should be electing its delegates at state meetings prior to the upcoming region convention.** Others are welcome to attend convention (without vote) for the social and educational experiences.

Make the most of your board or delegate position by your active involvement in convention. We can all be part of parliamentary procedure in action.

We should all be in Henderson, Nevada April 5-7!

### **Calendar of Events**

Mar 7 California Arbor Day  
Apr 3 – 9 Oregon Arbor Week  
**Apr 4 Pre-Convention Tour**  
**Apr 5-7 73<sup>rd</sup> PR Convention, Henderson, NV**  
Apr 13 Washington Arbor Day  
Apr 29 National Arbor Day  
Apr 29 Arizona Arbor Day; Idaho Arbor Day;  
Nevada Arbor Day;  
May 2-3 NGC Tri-Refresher, tours  
May 4-7 NGC Convention, Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

March 21-23, 2016, Course II, Encinitas, CA  
Chairman: Emily Troxell, ETroxell@mail.sdsu.edu

March 29-31, 2016, Course IV, Portland, OR  
Chairman: Garnett Ascher, 503-686-5334,  
[garasch@msn.com](mailto:garasch@msn.com)

Registrar: Phyllis Olson, 541-467-2601,  
[llbloomsgreens@gmail.com](mailto:llbloomsgreens@gmail.com)

April 12-14, Course I, Kent WA  
Registrar: Betty Burkhart, 253-852-2935,  
[paul-burkhart@msn.com](mailto:paul-burkhart@msn.com)

### **FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIA**

April 8-10, Holiday Inn, Auburn, CA  
Chairman: Lili Aram-Bost, 916-632-0220,  
[LilyPeaceful@yahoo.com](mailto:LilyPeaceful@yahoo.com)

### **GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL**

March 5-6, Course II, Colfax, CA  
Chairman: Myrtle Findley, 530-346-2450,  
[MBFRWF@AOL.COM](mailto:MBFRWF@AOL.COM)

May 14-15, Course III, Colfax, CA  
Chairman: Myrtle Findley, 530-346-2450,  
[MBFRWF@AOL.COM](mailto:MBFRWF@AOL.COM)

### **LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL**

April 28-29, Course IV, Santa Rosa, CA  
Chair: Mary Ann Swanson, 707-762-3118,  
[emswanson@comcast.net](mailto:emswanson@comcast.net)  
Registrar: Cindy Moore, 707-836-4059,  
[CindyRachelleMoore@comcast.net](mailto:CindyRachelleMoore@comcast.net)

### **Director's Travel Schedule**

Jan 31-Feb 3 California Garden Clubs Winter Board Meeting, San Pedro, California  
Apr 4-7 PR Convention, Henderson, Nevada

### **Pacific Region States' Websites**

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



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NGC Award-Winning  
 Newsletter



# Did you share your WACONIAH with someone in your club and district?

## Pacific Region Project

By Sandra Ford, Pacific Region Project Chairman

The **Pacific Region Project** for the 2015-2017 administration is **"Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child."** It is all about getting more involved in gardening with children. Many of our clubs already have programs set up involving children, but more are needed. They are our future garden club members! Now is the time to start counting the number of children you help. It's the number that counts. How many members are in your junior garden clubs? How many entries of Smoky Bear/Woodsy Owl posters have you received? How many new Junior Garden Clubs were started? What about poetry or essays? How many students support a school garden, community garden, and/or church garden if your club is involved in any way? The list is endless.

Send these figures to your Youth Chairman, your state's Region Project Chairman, or your state president. The contest ends November 1, 2016. There is plenty of time to get involved in some way.

**Every Child Counts!**



## WACONIAH Staff

Editor	Robin Pokorski	<a href="mailto:RobinP@juno.com">RobinP@juno.com</a>	818-361-7873 512 Newton St, San Fernando CA 91340-2421
Ass't Editor	Greg Pokorski	<a href="mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net">GregPokorski@earthlink.net</a>	
Circulation	Terry Critchlow	<a href="mailto:tcritchlow@aol.com">tcritchlow@aol.com</a>	509-945-5465 PO Box 1046, Naches, WA 98937-1046