

WACONIAH

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

Vol. 45 No. 3 Director's Theme: "Spreading your Butterfly Wings to Fly; Sharing your Knowledge of Gardening"



**2017 – 2019 Pacific Region
Director Peggy Olin**

Director's Message

*Another fresh new year is here...
 Another year to live!
 To banish worry doubt and fear.
 To love and laugh and give!*

*This bright new year is given me
 To live each day with zest...
 To daily grow and try to be
 My highest and my best!*

*I have the opportunity
 Once more to right some wrongs.
 To pray for peace to plant a tree,
 And sing more joyful songs!*

--Author unknown

FROGS are awesome: is what the members of Multnomah Garden Club are telling the 25 kindergarten children, as we read the NGC "The Frightened Frog" book and help make their frogs out of painted rocks, wiggly eyes and legs.

We all enjoy working with children teaching them about gardening, the environment, birds, bees and butterflies.

So far I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs State Convention and Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. State Convention in June 2017 as well as Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Blue Star Marker Dedication in October 2017.

I have been invited to attend the conventions of Alaska Garden Clubs in April 2018 and The Oregon State Federation of Gardens Clubs, Inc. in June 2018.

California, Nevada and Hawaii, Hope to see you soon!

CALL TO CONVENTION

Pacific Region Convention – you don't want to miss a trip to the Chena Hot Springs Resort, Fairbanks, Alaska. Everyone is WELCOME to attend the convention. In addition there will be opportunities to visit the Ice Museum and go dog sledding and enjoy the Sunset Snow Couch Tour, seeing old friends and making new ones, wonderful food and lots more!
Convention registration and information was published in the November issue of WACONIAH.

Take care, Peggy

Pacific Region States' Websites

- Washington: WAGardenClubs.com
- Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com
- California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.com
- Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org
- Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org
- Idaho: GCII.org
- Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org
- Hawaii: [None](http://PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)
PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

State Presidents' Reports

This term, the state presidents are writing their reports based on a common assignment. This issue's theme was how their state uses social media.

Theme: "Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Moths and Bats; Create a Living Habitat for Them"

One thing I have found interesting is that many garden club members say they do not know how to work the computer, download documents, send out a mass email, upload a picture into a file or a letter, and that the provider in their area is not reliable and so on. But get on to the subject of social media, specifically Facebook, and almost everybody is on one source or another and knows exactly how it works. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Flickr, G+, Pinterest, LinkedIn and there are probably a lot more out there that are unknown but used in the "secret world" of communication but certainly not by gardeners!

GCII's choice for social media is Facebook. Juergen Schratzenholzer is our Facebook Administrator and his email is juergenruebezahl@gmail.com. Juergen has an international background and has viewed gardens all over the world. He posts absolutely beautiful pictures. There is little text but he does a great job finding scenery far and wide. One thing we would like to do this year is to make our GCII Facebook site more accessible to our member garden clubs by providing links to their sites. This would help to announce member club events more widely, especially plant sales. I believe the hurdle here is "sharing." Opening lines of communications between member club administrators and linking with the State Facebook site needs to be an objective for one of our GCII's goals this year, Communication. A principle of management learned a long time ago was to give as much information away as you can because the amount that will come back to you is probably going to be 10 fold. However, to some, garnering information and access is still a source of "control" and "power." We need to work more on sharing.

Within our GCII website we are trying to find a calendar that can be used by all devices and all operating systems. Our webmaster is conscious of this and has been researching to find a good fit. Should anyone out there know of a calendar please let our webmaster Allen Deitz know. His email address is allen_deitz@hotmail.com.

Here is a list of GCII member clubs' Facebook sites:

SW District

Chinden Gardeners; Golden Garden Club; By Trowel and Error; Nampa Garden Club; Owyhee Garden Club

Clearwater District

Hill and Valley Garden Club; Nezperce Garden Club Garden Club for All Seasons; Valley Garden Club

Southeast District

Idaho Falls Garden Club; Roberts Town & Country Garden Club

Theme: "Garden Therapy: Calming the Inner Storms"

Social Media has a potential to make a huge difference in our organizations. Through social media, leadership can provide the information needed to benefit members by providing resources to branch out further than their immediate surroundings. Interacting with others allows and encourages opportunities to make good choices by using integrated diversity of ideas to collectively create decisions, and sharing knowledge of current, accurate, and educational benefits.

What is Social Media? It is an attitude of evolving culture. It consists of a set of digital tools used to provide networks such as a Blog (recorded journal); Website (interaction); Forms (ask questions and receive answers); Podcasts (audio sessions that can be heard on line or shared participation); Web conferencing (People in remote areas to meet on line, interact and collaborate). Through Social Media leaders are learning more about opportunities that are valuable to their clubs and districts.

To obtain factual data, I requested WSFGC District Directors to fill in a questionnaire providing information stating what their clubs and district are doing regarding social media. A general consensus shows that the majority of District Directors use websites and email to communicate with members. Some districts utilize Facebook for casual communication such as gardening articles. District Directors most often email their newsletter to club members. Club Presidents are expected to print and distribute information to their members who do not use social media. (Primarily elderly members require this method of communication.) Statistically, the majority of respondents stated utilization of social media within their clubs and district range from 90-98%. One district stated approximately 65% of their members use social media.

Social media most used are email, Facebook, and website. Links within the website offer communication and educational information from WSFGC, Pacific Region, and NGC. One district communicates by social media to put their event information in a local newspaper. This provides community and members knowledge of the events and has opened doors to new members joining their club.

The questionnaire I used to obtain this data follows.. In addition to the information I have presented, the answers given are a valuable tool to share knowledge of social media utilization to our leadership teams.

Do you Know?

... Based on retail statistics, what percentage of pet owners will give gifts to their pets on **Valentine's Day**? (Answer on page 11.)

SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY

- What type of social media do your clubs and district use?
- What % of your members use social media of any type?
- How often is it used?
- What is done to provide information for those members who do not have computers?
- How do, or would, you prepare your members to become involved in social media for WSFGC, NGC, and Pacific Region information?
- Do you have plans to increase social media utilization within your clubs and district? If so, how will you do this?
- If you currently use social media, do you share a link with other clubs and WSFGC website?
- Any interesting social media helpful stories to share to help others, who are just beginning to use social media, would be helpful.

**Alaska Garden Clubs
Chris Wood, President**

Theme: "Growing Alaska's Love of Gardening through Education and Friendship"



Wreath and centerpiece making at P&M Gardens was a fun Christmas time activity in December for the Greater Eagle River Garden Club!

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Krystal Migliore, President**

Theme: "Plant America – California Style"

While learning something new is a personal goal and keeping reasonably current with computer usage and technology is a priority, this president must admit there was a personal line drawn in the sand some time ago when it came to social media. This has never been done before, nor since, but between being a business consultant and garden club responsibilities it seemed like there was no time available. Splitting focus yet again was determined to be more detrimental than beneficial.

This is mentioned to serve as a reminder that we personally do not need to know everything nor do everything as long as we find someone qualified to fill the position. It doesn't matter if one uses social media as long as the organization does. Social media is important to all generations and absolutely essential to some generations. To ignore social media would be detrimental to CGCI and our approximate 325 garden clubs/APS and over 20,000 members.

California Garden Clubs, Inc. is fortunate to have a Communications Director as a member of our Executive Committee. We are even more fortunate that Jane McKee was elected to this volunteer position when it was added for the 2013/2015 term and she continues to serve in this position for the 2017/2019 term. Since our Communications Director is familiar with social media and is also the website chairman, it makes sense that currently Jane is the chairman for both.

At this time, our social media is limited to Facebook. Jane visits the NGC website and/or Facebook at least once per week. Additionally, posts with pictures are added to our Facebook page as activities/events occur. This president can provide assistance by submitting photos and information in a timely manner for posting. Our organizations are encouraged to "like" CGCI, PR and NGC as well as other CGCI member organizations.

CGCI conducts workshops for members and administrators that are available to clubs/districts for local presentations.

If your organization isn't lucky enough to have someone within your organization to serve as your social media chairman, consider looking to the younger generation. There are many high school and college students looking for volunteer community service projects. To ensure continuity, provide an assistant who is a member of your organization to become familiar with social media, how it works and to create a procedure manual if one does not already exist.



All Pacific Region State Presidents:

are **GEMS!** Thanks so much for all your time and effort!

Hmmm...with the beginning of a new year, NOW is the perfect time to talk about other social media sites that can be added to help increase our social media presence and fulfill our needs. Oh, Jane....

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Gaye Stewart, President

Theme: "Plant a Seed – Reap a Harvest"

Communication is a building block for any business, organization or person wishing to share and promote their products or service. Advances in communication technology make it easier to share needed information in a timely manner. Having said that, I must confess the wheels of change move slowly. Currently, Oregon has enlisted Karen Varty to serve as the editor of the state website. This is a new position recently filled in August. The editor works closely with our webmaster to review and revise the website to:

- 1) Develop the site to be more user-friendly;
- 2) Ensure accuracy of information;
- 3) Keep information current, including all forms needed for club and individual use;
- 4) Showcase special events, projects and public information, such as flower shows or training opportunities;
- 5) Highlight benefits of belonging to a garden club and how to connect with one in their area; and
- 6) Make the website visually appealing.

Most of our clubs and districts have created websites.

Facebook is used by many of our members to communicate events or share photos of events. Our state organization and a growing number of our clubs are utilizing a Facebook presence.

Emailing is a greatly-used system for communication as it can be received on cell phones, iPads and computers wherever we are located. Oregon recently voted to move from a printed and mailed copy of *The Mahonia*, our award-winning quarterly newsletter, to an emailed version. Tanja Swanson, our editor, prepares two versions – one in color and filled with photos of club, district and state happenings, and a shorter version in black and white. Readers may choose to read on the screen or print the copy of their choice. This system has been so well-received, Tanja has added additional, shorter versions between the regular quarterly issues.

To build understanding of the potential for enhancing our visibility through use of social media, an introductory presentation is being planned for our June 2018 Convention to be held in Lebanon, Oregon. We all are looking forward to building our skillset in the effective use of social media, but what I'm really thinking is that we just need more of our grandkids to join this great organization as they could quickly teach

us everything we need to know about communicating in today's technological world.

What's a snowman's favorite breakfast cereal?

Frosted Flakes

Pacific Region Director's Project

By Diane Franchini, PR Director's Project Chairman

For her project, Pacific Region Director Peggy Olin has asked our members to "Keep it Simple" and "Plant America with native and pollinator plants that grow in your own region." The project itself is fairly easy; you need only report **WHO** planted the plants (State, District, Garden Club, Youth Group), **WHAT** was planted (flowers, shrubs, trees) and **WHERE** they were planted (parks, church, Blue Star Marker). The deadline is March 1, 2019 and your information is to be sent to Diane Franchini, 153 Greenvale Drive, Ellensburg, WA 98926-9618 or emailed to Diane at franchinisd@gmail.com.

Winter is setting in throughout the Pacific Region but that doesn't mean that everyone is wrapped up in heavy quilts in front of a fire. In this issue we are looking at two of our states that are literally polar opposites, which means that they will not be approaching Peggy's project in the same way. You'll see what pollinator plants thrive and might be planted in Hawaii and Alaska.

Christmas Day in Hawaii found residents and visitors enjoying a sunny, balmy 78 degrees. The Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated group of islands on the planet and the only state with a tropical rainforest. Hawaii is the home to many native plants which are not found anywhere else. In fact, Hawaii has an unusually high proportion (89%) of endemic native plant species – plants that are native to only one place in the world. In Hawaii gardeners may be looking at plants that are also good for attracting butterflies to their gardens since there are only 16 different butterfly species found here.

According to my research, here is a list of native plants for Hawaii that also attract butterflies:

- *Asystasia gangetica ssp. micrantha* – Small Chinese Violet
- *Cestrum nocturnum* – Night-blooming Jasmine
- *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* – Chinese Hibiscus
- *Lantana camara* – Lantana
- *Odontonema cuspidatum* – Mottled Toothedthread
- *Paederia foetida* – Stinkvine
- *Passiflora edulis f. flavicarpa* – Liliko'i
- *Passiflora vitifolia* – Perfumed Passionflower
- *Stachytarpheta* spp. – Porterweed

At the opposite end of the spectrum, residents in Fairbanks, Alaska (think PR convention in April 2018)

faced a blustery 7 degrees on Christmas day and most likely enjoyed the comfort of a warm fire. Planting season won't happen here for several months. Alaska is our largest, most sparsely populated state, marked by diverse terrain, extreme temperature variations, as well as variations in amount of daylight, rainfall, and snow pack.

Even though much of Alaska is covered in a deep mantle of snow much of the year, the state does begin to thaw in May and the native wildflowers put on a beautiful and colorful display. By July even the tundra near the most northern part of the state is covered with hardy groundcover plants.

Here are some native and pollinator plants that can be found in Alaska:

- *Epilobium angustifolium* – Fireweed
- *Myosotis alpestris* – Alpine Forget-me-Not
- *Papaver alaskanum* and *Papaver lapponicum* – Alaska Poppy – Zone 1
- *Androsace chamaejasme* – Arctic Rock Jasmine
- *Vaccinium alaskensis* Howell – Alaska Blueberry
- *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* – Alaska Cedar

Pacific Region Scholarship

By Kristie Livreri, Scholarship Chairman



We are so excited that due to the generosity of many, the Pacific Region will award a \$1000 scholarship to a qualified student who is studying at a college or university anywhere in the United States. In the past this scholarship has been awarded to outstanding men and women committed to making this world a better place.

It is now so easy to apply. All of the qualifications are posted on the Pacific Region website. Your Pacific Region Scholarship Chairman needs to receive the application by March 1, 2018. A committee will review the applications and make a decision. The winner will be announced at the Pacific Region Convention in Alaska. Please review the qualifications carefully and, should you have any questions, please contact me at Kristabelle7@aol.com.

We look forward to this process. It gives one hope for the future. It has been such a pleasure to meet many of these winners in the past and hear of their accomplishments and plans for the future. It is an indication that Mother Earth is in good hands.

Issue Deadlines and Issue Focus

Here are the newsletter issues and their deadlines and the focus for the next two issues:

May 2018 deadline 3-25-18

Community Projects in your state

August 2018 deadline 6-25-18

The number of board meetings your state holds each year and the general schedule for those meetings

[How does an Eskimo stick his house together?](#)

With Igloo!

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus*

By Georgia Zahar, Endangered Species Chairman



The California condor is a huge bird with a small range and is one of the most endangered birds in the United States.

It is the largest bird in North America. It weighs over 18 pounds and has a wingspan of more than nine feet. They are scavengers that feed on large mammal carcasses. They once flourished in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and California.

The condor became extinct in 1987 when the last six wild birds known were captured and placed in a capture-breeding program.

Now the condor exists only where it has been introduced – in open rangelands, coniferous forests, oak savannas, rocky open country, and scrubland areas of southern Utah, northern Baja California, California and Arizona.

About 125 birds have been reintroduced into the wild and the population has slowly risen. In 2005, it is estimated that the population reached about 270, including 145 in captivity.

The condor has very few natural predators. It is threatened solely by human activity, including shooting, collisions w/power lines and incidental poisoning from coyote control programs. Curious by nature, condors have been seen tearing apart discarded auto batteries in dumps, which exposes them to lead and other toxic material. The condors' lack of fear around humans may put them at additional risk.

Pacific Region Upcoming Arbor Days

Arizona – Last Friday in April

California – March 7-14

Idaho – Last Friday in April

Nevada – Last Friday in April

Oregon – First full week in April

Washington – Second Wednesday in April

Pacific Region's Life Membership Bouquet

By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman

In this issue of WACONIAH, our *Life Membership Bouquet* grows with two new blooms. We welcome and congratulate our newest Life Members of Pacific Region:

- ☞ **Joi Chase** of California
- ☞ **JoAnn Pullen** of Oregon

This issue sees two more states represented by their state flower -- continuing in WACONIAH order -- Nevada: *Sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata)* and Idaho: *Lewis's Mock-orange (Philadelphus lewisii)*. ...As we begin this new year of 2018, let's help our bouquet fill-out, with each new life member.



Is there a better way to celebrate your members' support, guidance and commitment to strengthening



your club, state organization, and/or region? This is the perfect time to purchase a Pacific Region Life Membership -- because there is a recommendation for a price increase that will be presented at the 2018 Convention in Alaska. So, be sure to honor and recognize these special people with a Pacific Region Garden Clubs Life Membership before that price increase takes effect.

Individuals, organizations or districts may purchase a Life Membership **or** individuals may purchase their own. These donations support the Region's scholarship program and are fully tax deductible. The application forms can be found on the region website:

www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms

Print a copy of the application form to mail with your check. Send completed applications and checks to: Pacific Region Garden Clubs Life Membership Chairman Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630. Or, even better, just follow your state's application process and requirements.

The current Life Membership donation is \$40...but there might be an increase after the 2018 Convention. New Life Members will receive a Life Membership pin and certificate, along with a welcome letter. Please make your check payable to: **Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Remember: "***Plant a Seed of Friendship; Reap a Bouquet of Happiness***"...Let's plant more seeds of friendship as we gather our blooms for this Pacific Region Life Membership Bouquet.

Parliamentary Tidbits

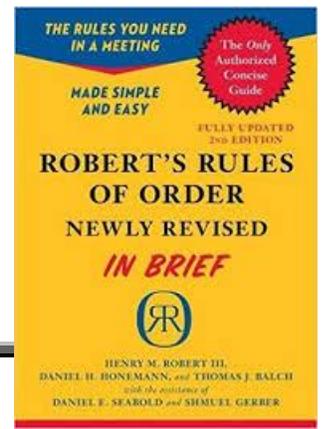
By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



Do you want to make life – and meetings – simpler? Do you know about *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief*?

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) is long (716 pages), is not considered light reading, and addresses many issues which may never or seldom arise. *In Brief* states that the average person does not need to know all of *Robert's* to be able to function effectively in most meetings, or even to chair one. "At least 80% of the content of RONR will be needed less than 20% of the time."

On the other hand, *In Brief* is short (197 pages) and readable. It is a step-by-step guide to the rules for meetings and contains chapters that clearly explain



the duties of officers, board members, committee members and convention delegates. Tables at the back of the book even tell you what to say and do!

In Brief may be all you need for many meeting situations. But it is not "the rule book," so it may not be adopted or referenced as your parliamentary authority. It is an introduction and a guide to RONR, but it alone may get you through many meetings.

Gardening Tip

By Robin Pokorski, Contributor



Place a cutting in water in a large Styrofoam cup. After white roots (water roots) have formed, begin adding 1 tablespoon of potting soil or mix each day. Keep water level up until the cup is over half filled with soil. Then transplant outside or to your pot. Transplant shock is greatly reduced with this method.



Mills, Mills & Anderson is a **GEM** in the Pacific Region for their generous gift of representation as our Resident Agent for our corporation!

~ Kristie Livreri

Plant Natives and Register

Becky Hassebroek, MPGC Chairman



Remember to plant native plants. They are four times more attractive to pollinators than non-natives.



Provide pollen and nectar sources from early spring to late fall.



Choose a variety of colors.



Plant in groups.



Avoid modern hybrids.

Register



your gardens at millionpollinatorgardens.org.

Tell them you're from NGC!



Thelma Henson served as a **GEM** in the Pacific Region and Nevada Garden Clubs. She will truly be missed.

~ Nevada Rose Garden Club

New Handbook – It's Official!

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

It is now official from January 1, 2018. This revision of the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows - 2017* now supersedes all past NGC handbooks. It is a chart for the entire flower show program. It is meant to open wider channels of learning, stimulate imagination and, yes, create change and opportunities.

Changes take the effort of study to understand and many refuse to make that effort not realizing it is just such change that adds vitality and zest to life.

Years ago the pace of change was slow and orderly but, with the advent of communications media which spans the world in a second, the pace of change has stepped up to breakneck speed. What is new today may be old tomorrow. Art forms that must be grasped and used today are released tomorrow to make way for the new that are even more expressive.

The program of Flower Show Schools was established in the early 1930's. Nine NGC handbooks have set guides for the past and future. The immediate past *Handbook for Flower Shows*, revised 2007, emphasizes Growing and Designing, Staging and Exhibiting, plus Judging. Keep it on your bookshelf and reference it often, then check the newly revised 2017 *Handbook for Flower Shows*. Education is the main purpose of all NGC projects, and the 2017 edition of the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows* provides this mission by making available the tools necessary to successfully plan, execute, and judge a flower show in 2018 and the future.

Leadership: Seeds for the Future

By Robin Pokorski, NGC Leadership Training Resources



I'm bringin' the Leadership Workshop show to Washington State. A club and a district are sharing the expenses of bringing the Show to their areas. If your club or district is interested in hosting a seminar but feels it might be too expensive, consider holding it this spring when I'm already in the area. Contact me with your questions! – it's an investment in your group's future!

Calendar of Events

Apr 6-9, 2018 Pacific Region Convention, Chena Hot Springs, Alaska

NGC Schools

By Greg Pokorski, NGC LD Schools Chairman, GS Advisor

Kudos to Arizona and Washington who are conducting NGC (ES, GS, LDS) Schools, but what is happening (or not happening) in the rest of our region? We've had little activity in recent years. Look at the schools pages of the NGC website and see that these schools are continually being conducted all over the U.S. Some states (e.g. Florida) are continually running all schools, sometimes more than one series of each at the same time. NGC schools can be a key component of carrying out our organizations' educational missions and can have many benefits. This can be a great team project which provides valuable education and information to your members and can be a great way to reach out to the public, publicize the existence and value of your club, district or state organization and be a means of obtaining new members. Conducting a school can be a source of revenue and can also be a great social opportunity to get to know your members better. For years, members, especially club, district and state leaders, viewed completing these schools as acquiring garden club "merit badges." Does that no longer call to any of our members? Contact Region and NGC Schools Chairmen for more information.

The Buzz: The Poop on Bee Poop

By Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman



While presenting my bee program in Laguna Beach this fall, I was asked about bee poop and bees being attracted to saltwater swimming pools. It seems that some bees are making quite a mess on people's walks, walls, laundry, and cars as well as keeping swimmers out of their saltwater swimming pools!

I must admit that I've never been asked about these two subjects in the past, so I did some research on both and found more than I was expecting!

First of all, we all know that honeybees are very tidy. The worker bees do not poop inside their home. The queen, larvae, and drones have their feces cleaned up by the workers and the result is an amazingly clean area, especially when we consider how many individuals live in such a small and confined space.

When bees first leave their nest in the morning to forage, they poop, and after they are through collecting pollen and nectar, they poop on their way back to the hive. Good for bee housekeeping! Unfortunately, if there are many bees in the area, this housekeeping practice may cause a problem for some human folks living in urban areas.

There are 40,000+ bees in a typical bee hive and this much poop can create a huge mess on fences, walls, boats and cars. Since the pooping occurs in the same place day after day, slanted markings appear as the bees fly in the same direction as they are defecating. All of the marks are slanted in the direction in which the insects are flying. So, to keep their homes clean, bees are making a mess elsewhere and, in built up areas, this may well be on someone's home or vehicle!

This is typically more of a problem in the spring and early summer when there is the greatest number of individuals in the hive and they are actively foraging not only to build up their winter reserves but also to feed the developing brood.

Many people think that chilly temperatures of winter kill bees. It's not the temperatures, it's constipation! Inside the hive it's nice and toasty due to thousands of bodies moving about so, if a hive is healthy and full of bees, the chances of freezing to death are very slim.

The problem caused by cold weather is that, to generate heat during times of low temperatures, bees need to eat more. The more you eat, the more you poop, or the more you need to poop. If you're a bee trapped in your hive because it's too cold or too wet out to fly, well, let's just say that it's not a good thing. Bees that have to hold too much poop for too long basically run the risk of poisoning themselves with their own waste.

Winter worker bees will hold their droppings for many weeks during cold weather. They wait until the air is warm enough for a short *cleansing* flight and you don't want to be under them while they are performing this duty. Note that these droppings are good fertilizer for your plants so they aren't all bad, they're just messy!

So, if you have a backyard hive, or your neighbors do, you may want to observe the bee's flight patterns before you put out a clothesline or your yard furniture. Bee poop tends to stain terribly. The droppings, sometimes called frass, are incredibly sticky and even car washes leave them perfectly intact! If you are

experiencing this problem on your laundry, try soaking the items in a degreaser prior to washing.

I've read that baby wipes are good for removing frass from your car, and it is much easier to keep your car clean if you wax it regularly. The wax keeps the poop off of the paint, too. I'd also recommend keeping your vehicles in the garage, if possible, at least during the spring and summer months! If you do not have a garage, purchase a fabric car cover.

Now on to the saltwater swimming pool issue. The first-ever investigation of the honeybee's ability to taste with their front feet may explain why bees are attracted to saltwater pools. Scientists have discovered that bees have taste receptors on their feet that are more sensitive to salt than to sweets!

Saltwater swimming pools do not require chlorine or other chemicals and apparently attract honeybees en masse. The bees need salt for their own metabolic processes and to carry back to their hives to help larvae develop. Thus, homeowners' saltwater pools attract bees like flies to honey. It's the salt and minerals they want. Bees also use salt to cure their honey.

If you have this problem, try placing salt licks out or a bird bath with salty water and totally cover the pool to make it inaccessible and force them to go to the alternative source.

Another suggestion is to provide bees their own little pool. Fill a shallow container with tiny stones and keep it filled with saltwater. The shallow water may attract the bees to the water to drink from instead of your pool. Another suggestion is to put out a salt block near the alternative water source a fair distance from your pool. Honeybees are known to like mineral salt blocks that many of us buy for our horses. Once you get the bees moved away from your pool, they will continue to fly to their preferred water source for years.

Of course, this doesn't explain why the Laguna Beach bees don't use the ocean water instead of the swimming pools. Perhaps bees don't like the wave movement or maybe the swimming pools are just much closer to their hives than the ocean? (This will require more research in the future.)

Gardeners with saltwater pools should also think about the plants they grow around their pool area and the bloom time. Try to grow flowering plants that bloom when you are not using your pool as you don't want to attract the bees to your pool area when you want to swim! I've read that there are two particular plants that bees naturally avoid; lemongrass and mint.

These plants are attractive and easy to grow. Lemongrass and mint are both pleasant-smelling and well suited to growth in most pool areas. Growing a good amount of both plants will go a long way towards sending a "bees not welcome" scent signal to the

neighborhood. Just plant mint in pots unless you want it to take over your yard!

It's amazing what you learn as a chairman in garden club. **I highly recommend volunteering to be chairman of an area that you are interested in!**

Youth Sculpture Contest – What's YOUR Idea?

By Diane Franchini, Youth Sculpture Contest Chairman

A used plastic container – rubber bands – broken pen parts – paper clips – a variety of metal and plastic items found in an ordinary junk drawer. What would you do with these items? Leave them in the junk drawer? Open the garbage lid and toss them in? Or hand them to a child and watch the imagination flow and the creativity kick in?



What we see as junk ready to be discarded, a child may see as a bug or a vehicle, or a ninja, or a piece of artwork. It's not too late to invite a child to build a sculpture out of discarded items (recyclable, reused, and reduced materials).

NGC has put together a contest for children 4th through 8th grade. These children might belong to a youth garden club, but that's not necessary; they may also be your own children, grandchildren, next door neighbor's children, or a child you know from church.

The rules are simple:

- The sculpture is limited to a size that would fit on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper (shown in the picture) and constructed using recyclable, reused, and reduced material.
- Entries are to include as many photographs as can be printed on the back of the entry form; two 4" x 6" photographs are recommended.
- Send completed entries to the correct chairman before the deadline.

Deadlines:

- State -- (determined by each state)
- Pacific Region – February 1 – winners of state entries are sent to Diane Franchini, 153 Greenvale Drive, Ellensburg, WA 98926

- NGC – March 1 – Diane Franchini will send the Pacific Region winners on to the NGC Chairman (Terry Critchlow).

Resources are available online from NGC.

For Contest Rules
<http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-reference-youth-sculpture-contest-rules-2017.pdf>

For Youth Sculpture Contest Entry Form
<http://gardenclub.org/resources/ngc-youth-sculpture-contest-entry-form-2017.pdf>

Who knows? That little nudge you give your grandchild or the child next door just might be an opening for a future engineer or inventor or scientist, or artist. And that child has just learned a little lesson about reusing or recycling items that could end up in our landfills. You can open that door.

Making a Difference with Our Youth

By Aleta McFarland, Nevada Garden Clubs Youth Chairman

Thank you everyone who reached into your wallets, closets and garages to make our youth projects available to neighborhood kids, schools, domestic violence shelters and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Rose GC led the SAVERS fundrive and turned in almost 1300 pounds of good quality soft goods. They raised \$319 to fund their projects. They provided after school healthy snacks and clever craft projects out of pocket.

Las Vegas Iris Society has a wonderful member, **Dorlene Waite**, who once a month takes other garden club members to Bunkerville to teach 26 kids how to raise iris. As she drives us in her van she gives us a history lesson. These trips are such fun – working with the kids and enjoying lunch at Los Lupes before riding 80 miles home. This club also donated \$185 to the teens at a shelter for Christmas.

Bob from Cactus GC has come to our projects and baked cookies. **Nancy B.** from Sunset GC donated "The Frightened Frog" books to our elementary schools. Special thanks to **Judy Stebbins** who made a place for Youth Poetry at the Fall Flower Show. We had 26 entries. **Boulder City GC** had youth in a parade and the picture was in the *WACONIAH*. **Jackie** and **Carol** from Desert Gardeners are always bringing me something. **Linnea Domz, 104 years old**, has been very supportive and has many craft gifts from the children.

Please don't be upset if your name isn't mentioned. So many of you are always there to encourage me and help in different ways.

Please look up "Green Our Planet" and look at the mission statement, then click on school gardens. We have the fifth largest school district in the country and are **#1** in school garden classrooms. They make it

easy for a club to come volunteer one time for a few hours. Think about 150 schools locally with onsite gardening and garden clubs. Let's make our clubs a place to welcome them. They are our sustainability.



Aleta McFarland is a **GEM** for her commitment to youth in the State of Nevada. She makes Nevada proud!

~ Kristie Livreri



Where does a polar bear keep his money?

In a snowbank!

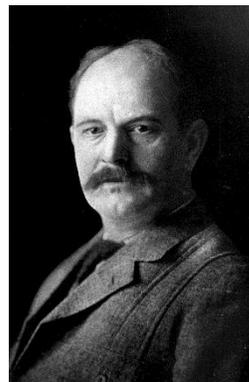
Celebrating 100 Years!

By Ann Kronenwetter, Bird Chairman

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 is a United States Federal Law to implement the convention of the protection of migratory birds between the United States and Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada).

The statute makes it unlawful without a waiver to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or sell birds listed therein as migratory birds. The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs and nests. Over 800 species are on the list.

Exceptions to the act (the eagle feather law) recognizes American Indian tribes that may apply for an eagle permit to use in bona fide tribal religious ceremonies.



The Act was enacted in an era when many bird species were threatened by the commercial trade in birds and bird feathers.

In 1886, ornithologist Frank Chapman (pictured) stalked the streets of Manhattan, New York counting the number of ladies' huge hats adorned with feathers and other bird parts. Plumage was the rage among fashionistas of the day and wild birds of the Americas were paying the price. His survey counted 542 hats adorned with 174 whole birds or their disembodied parts. Mr. Chapman counted 40 different bird species that made the ultimate sacrifice for fashion.

Since 1918, similar conventions of the Act have included the nations of Mexico, Japan and Russia. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 has proven to be a lifesaver for more than a thousand species of native birds. Some of the conventions stipulate protections not only for birds, but habitats and environs necessary for the birds' survival.

Snowy egrets made a remarkable comeback once the feather trade came to a halt. The Trumpeter Swans, which dwindled to a population of 70 birds, have recovered and been taken off the endangered list.



Migratory birds face many natural challenges as they make their remarkable spring and fall journeys. It is up to all of us to guard the birds and the laws that protect them. We can provide habitat for our migratory birds and provide rest stops for them with food, water and shelter.

Penny Pines on Mount Charleston

By Nancy Lee Loesch, Nevada Garden Clubs President

When USDA Forest Service Botanist Jennifer Brickey at the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest invited Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. to be part of a two-day volunteer tree planting in the Mount Charleston National Recreation Area, my husband Art and I jumped at the opportunity. The planting was scheduled for mid-October. The area was burned in the Carpenter 1 Fire of July 2013 and is at an elevation of 7,600 feet. The seedlings to be planted were Rocky Mountain Maple, a short shrub-like tree that had been grown out at the Regional Forest Service Nursery near Boise, Idaho. The forest service selected Rocky Mountain Maple for this area for several reasons. Rocky Mountain Maple will quickly establish roots on the steep slope to help hold soil in place. The USDA Forest Service has found that seedlings grown from local seed stock will have a better survival rate than those from other areas. The Rocky Mountain Maple seed used for the seedlings was collected from a nearby location on Mount Charleston.



In addition, the local Mount Charleston crop of pine cones has been very small for several years and would not produce sufficient seedlings.

It was interesting working in an area of burnt forest located on steep terrain. Before starting to work all volunteers were required to attend a safety meeting and wear hard hats. Each day over 20 volunteers assembled at a mountain picnic area to pick up seedlings and follow Botanist Jennifer Brickey into the forest. Upon reaching the burn area they spread out at the bottom of a slope and began working their way up the slope planting a seedling about every 20 feet.

Seedlings were packed in large boxes of approximately 50 seedlings per box. The seedlings were 18" long with 6" of roots and soil and a 12" stem. The root system was wrapped carefully in a plastic bag.

The USDA Forest service had originally planned to plant the seedlings in the spring of 2017, but the soil monitors in the area detected that the spring snow melt was too early and soil conditions were too dry for the seedlings to have a good survival rate. The Forest Service actually has soil monitors in the forest that report back to their regional office in Las Vegas via the internet. It is hoped that the winter rains and snowfall



will provide the seedlings planted this fall with sufficient moisture to provide a good survival rate.

On the first day of the planting

Jennifer Brickey announced to the group that the seedlings that were to be planted had been grown with funds provided by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Penny Pines Reforestation Program and contributed by Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. We appreciated this opportunity to see and learn how the Forest Service uses Penny Pines funds to benefit our National Forests.

The volunteers were from the Mount Charleston and Las Vegas Areas and included several children from 10 to 14 years of age. It was a thrill to see parents teaching our youth the importance of maintaining our National Forests.

School Days

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

April 17-18, Course III, Normandy Park, WA
 Contact: Chris Calderon, (206) 242-1955
Christine.calderon@gmail.com

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

Apr 12-14, Course I, Boise, ID
Contact: Pat Baker, (208) 870-1299

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Mar 3-4, Course IV, Phoenix, AZ
Contact: Judy Tolbert, (602) 421-5290

Mar 26-27, Course II, Oak Harbor, WA
Contact: Anne Sullivan, (314) 776-7574
absullivan@comcast.net



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Answer to Do You Know:

About 3 percent! Here Kitty, Kitty....Come, Fido!

What do you give a tarantula?

Did you share your
WACONIAH with someone
in your club and district?
There may be a poop quiz (see pg 8) at any time!

Pacific Region Convention – Fairbanks, Alaska



***Our 75th Annual Convention is happening at
CHENA HOT SPRINGS RESORT
Fairbanks, Alaska - April 6 – 9***

Our members are always ready to try something new –
How about riding on a **dog sled** behind Alaskan sled dogs?

What about viewing the **Northern Lights**?

Make that a little better, and view the Northern Lights from a **hot springs pool**?

How about drinking appletinis out of **glasses made of ice**?

And, you can make that better, too, by being in an ice museum where **EVERYTHING is made of ice!**

There will be many more firsts for you if you come visit Fairbanks April 6 – 9 for our convention! You'll fly into Fairbanks where you'll be transported 60 miles northeast to the end of the road at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Yes, there will be snow on the ground and it will be freezing at night. But, the days should be gorgeous with beautiful blue skies. Even though it's getting close to the end of the season for viewing Northern Lights, you'll still have a chance – we've put in our order for you! **Register soon – no refunds after March 1.**

Come and See Us! Your Alaskan Friends Can't Wait to Show You Part of the Alaska We Love!

The registration form and additional information is available at pacificregiongardenclubs.org.

Call Becky at (907) 456-3066 or beckyhase@aol.com with any questions.

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Save the Earth... it's the only planet with chocolate!!!!