

WACONIAH

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

Vol. 48 No. 3 Director's Theme: **"Reconnect to YOUR Pacific Region"**



**2019 – 2021
Pacific Region
Director
Robin Pokorski**

Director's Message

I am happy to visit any club, district, or state Zoom meeting to which I am invited and available.

I remain cautiously optimistic that our 2021 Pacific Region Convention will be held at The Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon in August. We will know in time for the May issue of *WACONIAH*. Keep your fingers crossed that this can happen so that we may be together to celebrate this garden club term and your accomplishments and to **welcome Lana Finegold** from Washington as our next Director.

The Coloring Contest seems to be a hit with many of you. Entries are coming in every day.

The Lil' Moose Garden Club is gaining momentum quickly rocketing to 65 members – thus enabling Pacific Region to offer additional/more lucrative scholarships. We thank you for your support and, if you haven't joined, now's the time!

Installation Ideas 2020, and **Membership Matters!**; the Youth Contest entries booklet, **Hope for the Future; Live, Laugh, Garden in the Pacific Region**, an inspiration book; and **What's Cookin' in the Pacific Region** are **all still available** from me but supplies are dwindling!
Robin



Lois Brayton is a **GEM** – for agreeing to a handle a spur-of-the-moment project – **THANK YOU!!!**

~ Robin Pokorski

You Don't Want to Moose Out!

By Martha Smyser, Scholarships Co-Chairman

The first issue of *The Moose Monitor*, the official publication of the **Lil' Moose Garden Club**, has been sent. This is where you'll get all the latest news about this club's namesake, the magnificent moose and our Pacific Region scholarships.

The Lil' Moose Garden Club is open to ANYONE, whether you live in the Pacific Region or not. All of the membership fees go to the Pacific Region Scholarship Fund. This newly established club is proving to be so popular that we are likely to be able to award more than one scholarship this year.

A membership form is attached to this newsletter. There are several levels of support starting with **Chocolate Moose** up to **Moosificent**. In addition to *The Moose Monitor* you will receive a handsome membership certificate (suitable for framing!) and our thanks for supporting a great cause.

Lil' Moose GC is the only garden club where all dues and donations go solely and completely to the Pacific Region Scholarship Fund!

Workshop Wednesdays

By Alexis Slafer, Corresponding Secretary

Workshop Wednesdays is a series of free educational entertainment sessions (via Zoom) open to everyone as a benefit of membership in the Pacific Region. The sessions are broken into two parts: first is a noted expert headliner covering some aspect of horticulture or floral design followed by a short Hot Shot topic relating to club administration.

Workshop Wednesdays are held every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. PST and last 40-45 minutes. The schedule of topics and presenters is on our website. Everyone is invited – your club, your district, your friends, your family. Join us by emailing Robin Pokorski (PRGCDirector@gmail.com) to receive the link. See you next Wednesday.



Carol Vallens is a **GEM** because she has so faithfully supported our Workshop Wednesdays and helped make them a grand success!

~ Robin Pokorski

Blue Stars are Shining in the Pacific Region...

By Diane Franchini, Director's Special Project Chairman

How many times can one person say.... "What a year this has been?" And yet we continue to say it. I am amazed at the resilience of garden club members in the midst of a pandemic. While my records of what's being planned, provided, and completed keeps changing, with lots of "Dedication postponed" notes, there are still bright shiny moments, when in spite of everything going on dedications are being done.

My record keeping efforts have become a bit sketchy so I'm not sure if I have a record of all of the achievements or postponements, but here's what I think is true. To date I have 78 projects on my list for the Pacific Region. Thirty-seven of those projects are for restoration of a marker, and all of those have been put on hold. However, we had seven dedications held in 2019 and another seven dedications held in 2020, with November 11, 2020 really shining. Robin was invited to attend a number of dedications on Veterans Day 2020 in California, Oregon, and Washington, but because of Covid restrictions she chose to stay closer to home and attended a dedication at Rancho Murieta (Sacramento River Valley District, River Valley Garden Club).

One of the November 11 dedications took place in my District in the state of Washington. Terry Critchlow was the chairman for a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** that was installed in the Tahoma National Cemetery in Yakima, Washington. Central District has six very small clubs, and in less than a year we were able to gather funding, order and receive the Marker, and have a very successful dedication. After a week of freezing temperatures, the day dawned sunny and warm (in comparison). With the annual Veterans Day parade being canceled, word spread fast that we were having this special dedication and over 150 people attended, with many veterans being honored.



Diane Franchini, Central District Director, in front of the **Blue Star Memorial Marker** at Tahoma Memorial Cemetery, Yakima, WA, Nov. 11, 2020. Wreath made by Queens of Spades members.



Robin Pokorski & Judy Stebbins, NV President, pictured at a Gold Star Memorial Marker dedication in Nevada.



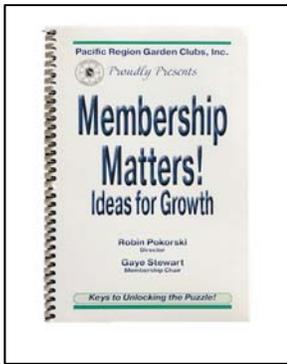
The future of **Blue Star Markers** in the **Pacific Region** looks promising.

We look forward to many dedications during the spring and summer of 2021 as Robin's term comes to a close. There's still time for clubs or districts to do a **Blue Star Memorial** project. Notify Diane Franchini at franchinisd@gmail.com with information. Need financial help with your project? There's still project grant money available. Check the PR Website for grant information.



Membership Matters... Have You Heard?

By Gaye Stewart, Membership Chairman



The hot-off-the-presses, *Membership Matters! Ideas for Growth* is now available and is filled with contributions from the Pacific Region states. Many pieces of the membership-building puzzle exist within the 110 pages of this book, containing numerous proven-successful tips for inviting, welcoming, involving and securing new members. There

is even a How-to Chapter on "Planting a New Club" with step-by-step instructions.

To secure your copy:

- This book is available on the Region website and is free to use on-line or to download and place in a small notebook, or you can
- Order a colorful, professionally-printed and spiral bound copy for \$10, plus a \$5 mailing fee if that service is needed, by completing this order form and enclosing your check made payable to the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs (OSFGC).

However you access this important information is up to you, but please don't delay. Our initial printing is limited, but more importantly if "Membership Matters" to you, the sooner we begin to implement some important changes in our behavior, the sooner we will witness the desired results. Remember the old adage: "Plant first and then harvest."

Membership Matters Book Order

Send to: Gaye Stewart
761 SE Lynchet Lane, Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503.510.4370
Email: RosesRemembered@aol.com

Total # copies _____ @ \$10 ea = \$ _____

Shipping @ \$5 ea = \$ _____ or

Will pick up the book(s) from Gaye Stewart.

Check total: \$ _____ made payable to OSFGC

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your interest and participation in the important task of building membership in the Pacific Region or wherever you live. Together, we can do this!

Life Memberships

By Marlene Kinney, Life Membership Chairman



TOGETHER
WE CAN DO IT

As we continue to live with restrictions, we also have so much to be thankful for. We, as gardeners, have brought beauty to our communities by taking on community gardens, sharing our knowledge, or teaching our future

gardeners how to grow their own healthy food. What a better time to say "Good-bye 2020" by surprising our fellow gardeners with a Pacific Region Life Membership and supporting the scholarship program at the same time. I am looking forward to receiving your Life Membership applications.



Peggy Taylor is a **GEM** because of her expert leadership as president of MGM Garden Club. Her dedication to making our club prosper is appreciated!

~ Karen Bowen

Horticulture

From *The Green Thumb*, newsletter of Southern California Garden Club

Myosotis, from the Greek: "mouse's ear," (after the leaf) is a genus of flowering plants in the family *Boraginaceae* that are commonly called **Forget-me-nots**.

There are approximately fifty species in the genus, with much variation. Most have small, flat, 5-lobed **blue**, **pink** or white flowers with **yellow** centers, growing on scorpioid cymes (see associated article – pg 14). They bloom in spring. Popular in gardens, Forget-me-nots prefer moist habitats and, where they are not native, they have escaped to wetlands and riverbanks. They tolerate partial sun and shade.

I tried to make a salad... I failed



Pandemic & Propagation: How One Club Continued Meeting Safely and Successfully

By Nancy Compton, Chair, Urban Gardens

Like all garden clubs, the River Valley GC, located in the southeastern corner of Sacramento County, California, wished to continue meeting and learning despite the pandemic, while meeting all safety protocols. This presented a challenge.

Not only was the community room in which we typically meet closed indefinitely, but the community regulations were such that no more than ten non-family members could congregate together in any outdoor spaces.

A highly creative program team came up with the idea of having outdoor learning stations of no more than ten people socially distanced and masked with presenters moving from station to station. Members who planned to attend the meeting were required to R.S.V.P. to the program chair, after which they were assigned to a group. Group #1 were Pears, Group #2, Persimmons, and Group #3 were Pomegranates. Members were asked to bring their own chairs and drinks.

The program planning team arrived early and set up 6-foot tables at each station, which was identified using an easel and poster board so that arriving members would know where to sit. Attendees also received the fruit identified with their group, generously donated by a local grower who is also a club member.

The topic of the October meeting was Plant Propagation. Three presenters provided propagation demonstrations, and, in one case, invited members up to the demonstration table to propagate a small sample.

Presenting at Station #1 was Irene Slavens, an avid vegetable gardener who also has a multitude of lovely roses, who demonstrated the process for propagating roses by cutting off a stem from either the top or side of the plant, as they seem to root better than cuttings from the middle or bottom.



Simultaneously, at Station #2, Pam McCabe explained how to propagate geraniums, which is also accomplished by using cuttings from the main plant. Geraniums are a popular plant to propagate, as they are easy to maintain, tough, and extremely prolific.

At Station #3, Nancy Compton demonstrated two methods for propagating succulents: one method uses succulent leaves, which, when separated from the main

plant, can lie on a shallow bed of cactus and succulent soil, eventually producing a baby at the cut end. Another method of propagating succulents is by separating pups from the main plant.

At the end of each presentation, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, the presenters packed up their items in little red wagons and rolled on to the next station, so that by the end of the program, attendees had seen all three demonstrations without having to move.

Our meetings in the park have been enormously successful and thoroughly enjoyed by our members; however, cooler weather has forced us inside with Zoom meetings until once again spring will bring us warmer weather and an opportunity to gather in the park and enjoy learning in a natural outdoor environment.

State Presidents' Reports

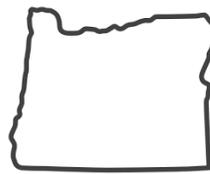
This term, the state presidents are writing their reports based on a common assignment. This issue's assignment was: ***How is your state's Nominating Committee accomplishing its mission?***

If your state isn't featured it's because nothing was submitted! We are missing several of our states.

State Presidents: you are meant to be submitting a report on the assigned topic for EACH issue of this newsletter.

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Tanja Swanson, President

Theme: "Kids, Community, and Creativity"



We have been communicating by Zoom, which works wonderful, but so many of our members are reluctant to use it.

Nominating new officers: it always is a struggle to find new officers and very seldom somebody steps forward and indicates that he or she would like to be involved at the State level. It is even hard to find people to volunteer for their local boards.

One of the drawbacks from this year was that we didn't see each other in person at Conventions or Board meetings, so it made the task for our Nominating Committee even harder.

In Oregon the Nominating Committee is the only committee that the State President is not actively involved with, but I do get updates about how hard it is to fill all the spots.

Finding a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer is just as difficult as finding a Second Vice President. It helps to hand out detailed instructions on what the job entails though. These need to be updated regularly, because

duties seem to be changing over time and especially this past year.

I have written different articles for our newsletter about serving at the local or State level - about how once you take that big step you will find out how satisfying it is to have some say in what is happening in your organization. And it is fun to bring your own ideas to the table.

I think even when we can meet in person again that meeting more often by Zoom for the Executive Committee, ahead of meetings and all through the year, will make things easier. But it will add one more thing to the list of things that officers are asked to do. Doing part of our business virtually might make it more attractive for younger people to participate though.

I am sure my Nominating Committee will find the right persons in time for election - they always have!

Gardener's Tip



Keep track of your garden tools by painting the handles bright yellow, orange, or pink. Then you will be able to find them once you've set them down. There's nothing more frustrating than spending time hunting for your tools.

*I need to practice social-distancing
from the refrigerator.*

Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. Judy Stebbins, President

Theme: "Make a Difference Whenever, Wherever and However You Can - in Your Garden Club, in Your Community and in Yourself"



I hope you had a Merry Christmas (or whichever holiday you observe) with a safe, immediate family celebration. Due to the COVID-19 virus, celebrations in Las Vegas for New Year's Eve were cancelled or very limited. Our thoughts and prayers are still with our Pacific Region fellow garden club friends. Unfortunately, during the last couple months, we lost our Las Vegas Iris Society President, Michael Meagher and our LV Flower Arrangers' Guild President, Rosalind Cline's husband. Our *WACONIAH* Editor, Vicki Yuen, also lost her husband. Personally, I lost a cousin and her husband, my best friend, and 4 girlfriends. Sympathy is extended to their families and friends. I am sad not to be able to go back to upstate New York to see my Mom for her 98th birthday in October and my younger sister who is in a nursing home since serious surgery last April. May you and your family stay safe and well. We will look forward to seeing everyone next August 2021 at the Pacific

Region Convention at The Oregon Garden and here in Las Vegas in 2022!

On Saturday, October 3, we had our scaled down yearly "Fall Conference." Luckily, we have a large meeting room which made it easier for social distancing. Our Nominating Committee presented an excellent slate of Officers for the 2021-2023 term for us to vote on. The slate was unanimously elected! I'm sure Marcia Brown will be a great President and her new (except one) officers will work tirelessly to support Nevada Garden Clubs. It is important to have the Nominating Committee familiar with our garden clubs and their members who already are showing leadership, dedication and skills needed for each officer position. I wish them all the best for the future when they get installed by Robin Pokorski at our Spring Annual Meeting June 5. Marcia is already attending Executive Committee and Board of Trustees' meetings to see what goes on, and is working on her appointments for chairs. Of course, I will be there as Immediate Past President, to help in any way I can.

On November 11 - Veterans Day, we had a **Blue Star** Marker rededication at our Nevada Garden Club Center in Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas. The Desert Gardeners, Karen Elliott President, sponsored the move of the **Blue Star** Marker on our outside front wall to a more suitable location. Kristie Livreri, Nevada **Blue Star** Chair, officiated at the event. Local Boy Scouts performed a flag ceremony, and the local newspaper sent a reporter and photographer. Desert Gardeners also had a 200 "Flag Planting" event in Lorenzi Park - Garden of the Pioneer Women - to honor our veterans and all their sacrifices. Several volunteers, some from other clubs, and even the Boy Scouts stayed to help. What an inspiring display! Packaged snacks and drinks were served in the clubhouse using social distancing to stay safe. We had front page coverage on the Nevada section of the *Las Vegas Review Journal* the next day. Large color photos were included. Any time our name and recognition for our community activities gets out to the public is a plus!

Thank you to all the garden club members who have helped to keep us going during the past year's difficult times. We're looking forward to a better 2021 - being able to meet in person, having Flower Shows, having educational meetings, and being more involved in Community Service.

Remember to Make a Difference whenever, wherever and however you can - in your Community, in your Garden Club and in yourself.

Strange but True Around the Region: In 1849, during the Gold Rush, a hot commodity was laundry services. It was actually cheaper for **California** miners to send clothes to Honolulu for laundering than pay to have them washed in California.

Planning an Arbor Day Celebration

By Mary Lou Goodwin, Arbor Day Chairman

1. Select a location
2. Contact the location to set a date
3. California's Arbor Day is March 7-14; your date may be different
4. Contact Dignitaries – Pacific Region Director, State President, District Director and Club Presidents and owner of property - and invite them to attend
5. Set a budget
6. Select the tree and where it is to be planted
7. Create a flyer with information
8. Send out the flyer and contact media
9. Print a program with poems about Arbor Day
10. Pick up the tree, shovel, decorations, banners, etc.
11. Have a wonderful party
12. Take pictures in small groups for next year's publicity



Sharon Jessup is a **GEM** because of her decades of service to Yuma, Arizona's garden clubs. Her energy and enthusiasm have inspired all our garden club members to make their best even better!

~ Karen Bowen

PRGC Coloring Contest

By Robin Pokorski, the one to blame for the PRGC Coloring Contest

You guys are THE BEST! Thank you to all who participated in the PRGC Coloring Contest. The results will be announced in a couple of weeks and the honor and glory of the winners will be revealed at convention! Judging is waiting for the last of the entries to come in.

There is an "action" shot of a Coloring Contest entrant on page 17.

Parliamentary Tidbits – Nominating Committees

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



In the last issue, state presidents were given a focus topic for this issue addressing how their state's nominating committee is accomplishing its mission.

I understand that this was difficult for some because their committee was not efficient or because it is hard to get people who are both willing and qualified to take on leadership roles. It was therefore suggested that I might write something about nominating committees.

Increasingly, I receive inquiries about the "nomination committee." The appropriate name for this committee is "nominating committee."

The bylaws of your organization are always going to be your primary governing rule, but here are some of the relevant points made in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* (RONR):

- The nominating committee should be elected (rather than appointed) by the organization wherever possible.
- The president should not be a member – ex officio or otherwise (in the interest of having a completely impartial committee).
- Members of the committee are not barred from becoming nominees for office themselves.
- The committee is automatically discharged when its report is formally presented to the assembly, but the committee is revived if a nominee withdraws before the election, and should meet immediately to agree upon another nomination.

NGC's bylaws provide that its nominating committee may seek counsel of the parliamentarian. California Garden Clubs' bylaws provide for the parliamentarian to give instruction to the nominating committee after its election. If you do not have similar practices, these may be ideas for helping to give the nominating committee direction.

Nominating committee members should know as much about the organization as possible and be familiar with its bylaws, standing rules and any other governing rules so that they know what is expected of each position they are seeking to fill. They should present the requirements of the offices realistically to possible nominees and not sugar-coat the expectations. That can lead to unrealistic expectations of candidates for office that can become a source of frustration for the officer once they are elected and in office and set the officer up for failure.

Prior to election of a nominating committee (especially for the state organization), remind the electing body (the board of directors or the membership) that this election

Theme: "Plant America – Plant Parks"

is coming and what the job entails and who is eligible. Seek to have willing candidates available so that the election of the committee does not come as a surprise to anyone at the meeting and is not overly time-consuming.

I continue to suggest and advocate that clubs have two-year terms that are in synch with the terms of the district, state, Pacific Region and NGC. This cuts time spent by the nominating committee in half when candidates for office are needed every two years rather than every year.

Our Director Robin has long said, "Nominating Committees are THE most important committee – for they set the leadership path for an organization."

So do not elect the people who stepped out of the room and couldn't decline a nomination, rather elect thoughtful, diligent members that look for commitment, talent and energy in potential candidates.

What Can You Give Someone Who Received Everything on Their Christmas List?

By Michele Noe, GEMs Chairman

What about a GEM! A GEM is *your* personalized message to a family member, a garden club member, or a friend. Reflect, during this past year, who was that someone who made a difference for you. Give them a gift of "a few heartfelt words" with a GEM.



Express **G**ratitude for their thoughtfulness, **E**njoyment of their friendship, or the **M**entality of their wisdom.

GEM SPECIAL OFFER: For a limited time, when you purchase a GEM for only a \$15 donation, not only will it be published in an issue of the *WACONIAH*, but a GEM note card and GEM USPS stamp will be included as a bonus, a \$5 value! It will be mailed to you to use as you like.

The GEM order form will be found on the home page of the Pacific Region website at PacificRegionGardenClubs.org. Click on the **PR GEM Order Form** tab. Download the form and print as many as needed. (Surely you have more than just one person to honor!)

Any questions, please contact me at prcgems@gmail.com



Robin Pokorski is a **GEM** because she is our Energizer Bunny!

~ Sandra Ford



California Garden Clubs Inc. is still having new clubs join us during this stay at home COVID-19 crisis.

New clubs are attracted to CGCI's excellent benefits of membership. We offer reasonable liability insurance rates. Also, CGCI's insurance company is a California Liability Non Profit Insurance Company. CGCI has a chairman who handles the individual clubs' requests for insurance and who is a contact regarding all liability issues. And this chairman handles most of the service work for CGCI which allows us to have favorable rates for our members. This benefit for our members is optional and about 90% of CGCI clubs do purchase the insurance through CGCI's group plan. In addition to the general liability insurance, we also offer clubs that are incorporated Directors & Officers Insurance. The rates are very inexpensive for the amount of coverage - an excellent benefit for our member clubs.

Another benefit of joining - we have developed a group tax exemption program for our clubs that want to be a 501(c)3 tax exempt club. We help them with becoming a tax exempt organization at a very reduced rate and guide them through the process. Each year we advise them regarding the tax process. And again we have a chairman who notifies the IRS regarding the clubs who have satisfied the regulations and helps clubs with their exemptions problems.

These two benefits alone attract new clubs to CGCI each year, whether they are newly formed clubs or established clubs not previously part of NGC or CGCI.

Remembering Rosemary

By Sally Thompson, Herbs Chairman



The "Herb of Remembrance" grows 2 to 6 ft. high on woody stems, thrives best in a warm climate, and must have well drained soil. Rosemary is more easily started from cuttings or root divisions, not seeds, which are too slow to germinate. Harvest anytime and they freeze well too. Use mostly in meat dishes, especially pork.

Bouquet Garni

The traditional French herbal mixture enhances any soup or stew. To make a garni, take a 4 inch square of cheesecloth and lay it flat. Pile into the middle the following.

- 1 tablespoon parsley
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 1 teaspoon marjoram
- 1 teaspoon summer savory
- 1 bay leaf

Gather up the corners of the cheesecloth and tie with a length of string. Store in a closed container until ready to use. You can vary the garni by adding rosemary, basil or tarragon.

Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

Alaska Garden Clubs Chris Wood, President

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



In Alaska, at our convention on the even-numbered years we form a nominating committee that consists of one member from each of the five clubs, who is chosen by the club Presidents. Among the five members, the group picks the chairman of the committee. This committee works to find members who will be capable of leading Alaska. The committee takes into consideration the abilities of these individuals and asks each nominee if they agree to run for the office.

Due to the vast expanse of our state, this work is done by email. When the committee has a slate of officers to put forward, they send the list to the President. The President announces the slate and the two individuals who will run the election. These two individuals announce the rules of the election. The voting takes place after a week of allowing any additional nominees from the floor. Voting then takes place the next week and lasts for one week. At the end of this time the winners of the election are given to the President and the committee. The slate of new officers is announced by the two election monitors by email.

Strange but True Around the Region: Oregon is home to over one-quarter of the nation's llama population. We're not quite sure why llamas are such a big deal there, but **Oregon** is home to *a lot* of llama ranches and llama backpacking tours.

Establishing a Garden for Wildlife

By Kathy Itomura, Wildlife Gardening Chairman



This is number 7 in a series of articles on Gardening for Wildlife. We have discussed the basic elements needed to attract wildlife to your gardens, and some readers may have begun eliminating pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers, as they add new plantings from the palette of plants native to their areas, in hopes of bringing the birds and butterflies that love them.

The challenge now is to keep them thriving for the first two years of their lives, after which they should have become established and should flourish with little human intervention. This can be tricky with natives; there are formulas for growing prize-winning roses, but natives are adapted to specific conditions, which is why they only appear in certain locations in nature.

Wherever you are gardening, you first did your research to select your plants, consulting botanic gardens, native nurseries, and the literature available. You were careful to give each plant the condition it must have to live: some need good drainage, others want constant access to water; some require x hours of sun every day, and some thrive in deep shade; some want an alkaline soil, others acidic. Your native plants are adapted to live on the amount of rainwater that falls during your region's rainy season.

Let's assume then, that you planted your plants with the correct exposure to sun, just the right amount of drainage, and in the soil it likes best. What's so tricky about that? It's the *watering!* It bears repeating, that "Native plants are adapted to live on the amount of rainwater that falls during your region's rainy season." Some native plants are more tolerant to water and will cheerfully accept more water and even take it in a season it wouldn't naturally receive it. But *many* will not.

So, for example, in Southern California where we naturally have a warm, wet winter with hot, dry summers, if I take pity on my California lilacs (*Ceanothus* sp.) and give them the water my roses enjoy, I will not have them for long. Any water at all to the beautiful Fremontia bushes will kill them as quickly as if I'd applied herbicides. Southern California native plants thrive on an

8 to 12" average annual water diet. Our lawns might require 60 to 80" a year.

If the natives you planted are not "water tolerant," then you need to ensure that they are well-watered during their natural season for rain and kept mostly dry the rest of the year. While rainwater is always best, if you have young native plants and the natural rain fails to arrive, then this is when you water.

You don't want to drown them; you want to "pulse" water, soaking the ground slowly at brief intervals without letting the water begin to run off. Do this two days in a row, allowing the water time to move through the soil, creating a moist reservoir for your plants. Drip irrigation will do the job very well, but if you are diligent, hand-watering into constructed water basins is effective too, especially for youngest plants. This encourages deep roots, so that when your dry season comes, you can water much less frequently, if at all. To establish young native plants you will need to provide supplemental water once a month during the off-rain season for the first two years. Be sure not to wet the plant close to its crown. Don't water in the heat of the day.

In most cases you can consider your plants established if, after two years, they are thriving. Thereafter, you might provide supplemental water during the natural rainy season if rains fail to come. You might also provide water once or twice during the dry season if you prefer not to let them go completely dormant.

A word about fertilizer: *No*. Application of fertilizer to native plants causes fast growth, with softer tissue more susceptible to insect and fungal predations and will shorten your plants' lives.

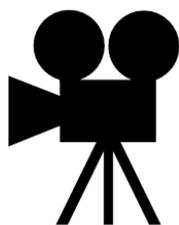
Do You Know...?

... what a Level II arboretum is? And how many levels are there? Answers on page 16.



For Your Viewing Pleasure

By Lana Finegold, Washington



A Life on this Planet: David Attenborough narrates this 130 minute documentary movie on Netflix focusing on the changes in plant and animal life from David's early career traveling, to now.

The Gardener: Garden genius Frank Cabot and his wife Ann P. Cabot developed property in Canada, Les Quatre Vents. This Amazon Prime film is awesome, featuring his garden's history. Many garden rooms are shown and, at the end of the 154 minute film, we see the plants with their Latin names on screen. Cabot's family and others provide the commentary.

It Would BEE-hoove Us to Ask a Pollinator

By Jane Sercombe, Pollinator Chairman & Mike Stewart, Collaborator



As the Pollinator Gardening Chair for the Pacific Region I have had the opportunity to spend extra time in both my own garden and the gardens of some of my friends and neighbors and usually, at some point, our conversation will turn to the subject of pollinators. You know, the usual stuff, what's a pollinator, why are they important, what do they like to eat, what can we do to keep them healthy and on the job so we all don't suddenly go hungry if they should go on strike, or heaven forbid, die off?

Many of you will have a ready answer for most of these questions so I won't repeat them in this article, but have you ever wondered what the pollinators might really think about Director Robin's theme, "**Reconnect to YOUR Pacific Region?**" After all, we are eight rather diverse states and we have concocted a quirky title (*WACONIAH*) for our newsletter so we can remember which eight states we represent. You are right, memory is nothing to take for granted, so it probably is a good idea to jog it occasionally.

There are many different pollinator groups to choose from and any one of them could have responded to my musings, but I choose to consult with the bees. There are hundreds of varieties of bees in our region and, even though there are differences in where they choose to live and what they like to eat, they discovered long ago that it takes more than just a "good buzz" to connect, or reconnect if you will, and get their jobs done. Perhaps their insights about pollinating might give us some new insight of our own when it comes to our efforts to reconnect...you be the judge.

The bees I selected were not only proficient pollinators, they were good at spelling as well and they offered to "keep it simple" for us and just spell out *WACONIAH*. I agreed that might be helpful, especially for those of us who can't remember how to spell *WACONIAH* anyway.



The "**W**" is for **Welcoming**. It takes lots of bees to pollinate and it just make sense to not only invite more bees, but to be "welcoming" when they do show up. The more bees we have, the more pollinating we can do and the more honey we can make. As more bees arrive, our hives could get crowded, but then we will just have to organize more hives.

The "**A**" is for **Anticipating**. If we know it's going to be a big pollinating job, we break it down into smaller pieces and develop a plan for each piece. One or two bees don't have to do it all, but all of the bees need to know what needs to be done and by when. And it is best if each bee has a specific job (or two) and is committed to seeing them to completion.

By Robyn McCarthy, Arboreta Chairman



**Hoyt
Arboretum**

The Hoyt Arboretum is just a few minutes from downtown Portland, Oregon. Being a biological resource, it provides access to a global collection of species including 67 that are threatened or endangered. Researchers and educators can find trees from all over

the world all in one place. Hoyt Arboretum partners with organizations both locally and globally to inventory species in research material and in conserving living specimens. It is in the process of conservation work to include regionally endangered species.

We are all aware that the fires in California, Oregon and Washington have been devastating in the past year.



Fires of historic proportions have claimed more than 40 people, destroyed more than 7,000 structures and scorched more than five million acres across the three states. I was particularly alarmed when the Beachie Creek Fire looked so close to Silverton, Oregon. Silverton is where The Oregon Garden is located and the destination of our 2021 Pacific Region Garden Clubs convention.

A publication from Hoyt's December website by MJ Jackson was of particular interest. She writes about some species of plants that require fire to germinate. One plant is Manzanita of the genus *Arctostaphylos*. In Oregon this plant is found in shrub communities throughout the state. Among many varieties, the most common variety is Hairy Manzanita *Arctostaphylos columbiana*. It can be found in the Coast Range, Cascade foothills and even in the eastern Columbia Gorge. MJ Jackson writes that manzanitas survive through a forest fire and many varieties can lie dormant for years, only germinating when the correct mixture of heat and ash residue has been achieved.

The "**C**" is for **Cooperating**. Have you ever stopped to think how foolish it would be if we only pollinated a portion of the field or garden? Some parts might be easier to pollinate than others, but without doing the whole job the harvest will be lacking. It is the same if you try to spell *WACONIAH*, but leave out a letter or two. It just doesn't work!

The "**O**" is for **Optimism**. If we as bees, as small as we are, wasted time worrying about whether or not we will be up to the tasks before us we might never get started. Most of us have discovered that we don't often quit on a job we are committed to complete no matter how daunting it might look at the beginning. If it gets tough, we just tie a knot and hang on...it's the harvest that counts.



The "**N**" is for **No task is too big**. The only real difference between a big task and a small task is that a big task takes longer. The components are the same, so when bees want big rewards they take on big tasks. Perhaps there is something we can glean from that philosophy as well.

The "**I**" is for **Inspiring**. Can't you just feel the inspiration coursing through a hive when all the bees are on the same flower, so to speak? Inspiration can come from a variety of sources. Sometimes it is from the queen bee, or perhaps one of the worker bees, or maybe from just sitting around the hive at the end of a long day enjoying a honey snack and sharing memories that were made together.

The second "**A**" is for **Another opportunity**. Seems as hard as we try, we don't always get it right the first time so we are grateful for another opportunity. Perhaps the secret is to not waste them if and when they come around again.

The "**H**" is for **Honor**. As bees we honor our effort, our togetherness, our ingenuity and our perseverance. Together we do make a difference. Sometimes we do need to pause to reconnect and that is okay. In that process we often discover that what some might argue has "been lost" has only been allowed to "lie idle" for a time and perhaps the time for being idle has now passed.



In summary, Director Robin has it right...**it is time for the Pacific Region to Reconnect**. I got it from the bees and they well-know what "the buzz" is all about.

They can be trusted.

(Author's Note: Mike and I began working together years ago when he was appointed the chair of the Oregon Pollinator Garden Project during the administration of his wife, Gaye, who served as OSFGC President during 2017-2019. For the past two years we have co-chaired the Pollinator Committee for Tanja Swanson, Oregon's current president. When I recently told him I needed to write a light-hearted article about Pollinators for the *WACONIAH* he suggested we "leave it to the bees.")

By Ann Kronenwetter, Birds Chairman

Curator Martin Nicholson of Hoyt Arboretum has made trips to California to collect plants that may be more tolerant of Oregon's changing climate. His proposal is to study *Quercus sadleriana*, (Sadler's Oak), a shrubby oak native to southern Oregon and northern California.



This species of oak in its native habitat is increasingly threatened by fires. It has a poor survival rate in heavily burned areas. It is considered a "relic species," which means it now inhabits a much smaller geographic region than previously. Less than 50% of its genetic range is represented in gardens, arboreta, and other protected locations. Martin is busy collecting genetic material from the Sadler's Oak and distributing it to conservation partners in the region. These efforts preserve more of this living fossil's genetic material. Meanwhile, more is learned about oaks in general and what will live in what seems to be our continuing change in climate.

My second attempt at making a salad...I don't know what I'm doing wrong



Millions of birds are killed or injured each year by flying into windows. Birds do not perceive the window as a barrier, instead they see the reflection in the glass as a seamless continuation of habitat.

There are many products on the market to help prevent these disasters.

We added a sun room onto our home and realized there were a lot of glass windows that would pose a problem for all the birds in our Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary.

We discovered a product called Bird's Eye View. Bird's Eye View helps reduce bird window collisions by making the glass more visible to our feathered friends. Since bird vision extends well into the ultraviolet range, the solution is a product that emits light where bird vision is sensitive but human vision is not.

To birds, the film presents a bright blue glow spreading out in all directions across the window surface disrupting the reflection of habitat. To people it appears as a faint white geometric design. The window film squares come in different sizes and they are put on the inside of the window.

This product seems to work for me and has saved the birds in our yard from striking the windows. An excellent solution.



Woodsy Owl Takes Center Stage

By Charlotte Tucker, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman



Remember this is Woodsy Owl's 50 birthday year and we are **only** accepting Woodsy Posters this year. After you have your state's judging, you can **only** send the first place winning poster from each grade for a max total of 5 posters.

Please make color copies of your five first place posters. Get the winning entries to me as soon as you can as the Region's judging will be in early March.

You should ask your club Poster Chairman for the following information ahead of time because,

I need to know:

- 1) How many schools participated from all your state's clubs this year
- 2) How many teachers did your clubs get posters from
- 3) How many total posters your clubs received

This information is needed for me to complete my report that goes to NGC.

Thank you in advance for your participation in the Poster Contest.

Yellowstone National Park

By Cynthia Frederick, National Parks Chairman

Ulysses S. Grant dedicated 2.2 million acres in the western United States, largely in the northwest corner of Wyoming, to become our first National Park on March 1, 1872. Over 500,000 visitors are known to pass through its gates on any given day during the tourist season.



The world's most famous geyser, Old Faithful, currently erupts around 20 times a day. These eruptions are predicted within a 10 minutes variation, based on the duration and height of the previous eruption. Old Faithful is one of 3 geysers in the world that erupts with regularity. Home to 60% of the world's geysers,

Yellowstone delivers big when it comes to entertainment.

Yellowstone National Park preserves the most extraordinary collection of hot springs, geysers, mudpots, fumaroles, and travertine terraces on earth. More than 10,000 hydrothermal features are found in Yellowstone, of which more than 500 are geysers.



Norris Geyser Basin in Yellowstone holds the record for the highest temperature ever recorded in Yellowstone. Just 1,087 feet below the surface temperatures measured 459 F. But it's not just the temperatures that make Norris so notable. The colors too are impressive thanks to a combination of minerals and life forms. Due to high silica concentration the area tends to have more milky blue features. Reddish-orange is another prominent hue thanks to the (poisonous) iron oxides and arsenic compounds. Other parts of Norris, with natural springs, tend to be the blue of refracted light in combination with the yellow of sulfur lining the pool. Needless to say, it's an awesome site.

The wildlife is abundant. In addition to having a diversity of small animals, Yellowstone is notable for its predator-prey complex of large mammals, including eight ungulate species (bison sheep, bison, elk, **moose**, mountain goats, mule deer, pronghorn, and white-tailed deer) and seven large predators (black bears, Canadian lynx, coyotes, grizzly bears, mountain lions, wolverines and wolves). Other animals such as weasels, red foxes, badgers, ground squirrels, chipmunks, beavers and bobcats also live in Yellowstone. There are nearly 300 species of birds, 16 species of fish, five species of amphibians, and six species of reptiles.

Safe to say there is enough wildlife to make a trip well worth taking.



You Say Toe-MAH-toe; I Say Toe-MAY-toe

By Judy Shelton, Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs' President

Kalanchoe or kal-un-KOH-ee, or kal-un-kee, also written Kalanchoë or Kalanchoë, is a genus of about 125 species of tropical, succulent flowering plants in the family *Crassulaceae*, mainly native to Madagascar and tropical Africa. Kalanchoe was one of the first plants to be sent into space, sent on a resupply to the Soviet Salyut space station in 1971.



However you may pronounce this name, I have been told by a florist that the common pronunciation among the florist trade is kal-an-choe.

Many years ago, in Arizona during the winter months, we had a hard freeze, and my yard was completely dead. Many of my plants including bougainvillea did come back in the spring after a trimming. I saw a grocery basket full of kalanchoe plants at our local grocery and they were past their prime and marked down to one dollar each. I bought them all, trimmed off the blooms and placed them around my yard. They bloomed again soon, and I now had some color.

From these plants I have propagated at least 50 pots in all colors. They are easy to propagate by taking a cutting and sticking it in soil. Because they are a succulent, kalanchoes do not need a lot of water and they do make it through the hot Arizona summer. I have them placed around my yard by color. Red will bloom first, then pink followed by yellow and lastly orange.

So, the next time someone gives you a kalanchoe plant or you buy one yourself, do not throw it out after it blooms. Plant it somewhere in your yard and then start propagating.

Issue Deadlines and Issue Focus

The deadline for the May 2021 issue is 3-31-21. The issue focus is: Will you hold a state convention? In person? Virtually?

Flower Show Schools & Flower Shows Go Hand in Hand

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman



When NGC members think about Flower Show Schools and Flower Shows, we know it takes many volunteers to make these events happen. By undertaking schools and shows, we develop a common bond that enriches the lives of garden club members along with our communities.

There are no other activities in garden club that develop such a lively spirit more than holding a flower show. It can create self-confidence for some members who might lack this element until they experience the winning of awards in a flower show. Flower shows can take on many different forms; some are classified as Flower Show Educational Displays. They are not actually judged, but may be critiqued. They are not considered a National Garden Clubs' Standard Flower Show but they might have a purpose; this is to educate members until more confidence is gained to enter a judged show which conforms to all the rules. If everyone in the club who is sponsoring a flower show has a job, they feel more valued, but of course it takes leaders to organize a show. If your organization has NGC Flower Show Judges, use them as the means of organizing and educating members. If not, seek out advice from a state Judges Council. We can have flower shows of a sort without judges, but the question is "Can we have FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS without judges?"

My first experience attending and helping with a state holiday flower show brings back wonderful memories. The beauty and creativity remains with me as I look back on past flower shows. Oh, how I hope future members can be inspired by a special flower show in the same way. Let us continue to have flower shows so Flower Show Schools have a purpose and judges have a job!

Kalanchoe – No Matter How You Say It

From Gardening Know-How



Kalanchoe care is minimal but be cautious about light levels. Strong southern light can burn the tips of the leaves. Place pots in partial sun to light shade areas when growing kalanchoe plants. The best planting mix is 60 percent peat moss and 40 percent perlite. Cut off spent flower stems and pinch back leggy growth to force a compact plant. Water the plant deeply and then allow it to dry out completely before you give it further moisture. Fertilize once per month during the growing season with a houseplant food.



**Mrs. J. Gordon Gose
Washington
1953-1955**

**Unified Project:
"Roadside
Development"**

Mrs. J. Gordon Gose (Violet) served as Region Director 1953-1955. The Unified Project during her term was "Roadside Development," with special stress on Clean-Up and Litter-Bug campaigns. Idaho was accepted into National Council membership in February 1954 (the 43rd state federation), bringing 811 new members to Pacific Region and National Council. Mrs. Gose was very proud of the scholarship in Urban Land Planning which was named for her and given by the Washington Federation to a worthy student in the School of Forestry at the University of Washington.

The 11th annual meeting of the Pacific Region of National Council of State Garden Clubs was held June 6, 1954 at Southern Oregon College in Ashland, Oregon. The honored guest was the National President, Mrs. William Walters.

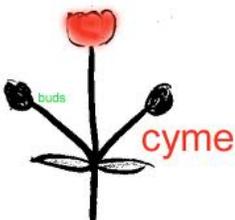
The 12th annual meeting was held April 14, 1955 in Tacoma, Washington.

Secretary Rose Wolff
 Mrs. Andrew Chayka

State Presidents:

Washington Mrs. Myron Harmon
Arizona Mrs. C. W. Schrist
California Mrs. Weston Walker
 Mrs. J. J. Gallagher
Oregon Mrs. L. W. Franks
 Miss Claire Hanley
Idaho Mrs. Bert Ralstin

What's a Cyme?



A cyme is an inflorescence in which each flower, in turn, is formed at the tip of a growing axis and further flowers are formed on branches arising below it - like the Alaska state flower – the Forget-Me-Not.



Water in the Atmosphere - The Hawaiian Islands **water** cycle is dependent on the atmosphere, ocean, land, and sun. Without a healthy **water** cycle, there would be no fresh **water**. This means no living things, including humans, could survive.

It is especially important that **water** move from the ocean, to land, and back again. Interaction between ocean **water**, evaporation, trade winds, and precipitation is crucial.

Water on the Ground – As soon as the rain**water** falls it could become surface **water** or ground **water** depending on geologic, atmospheric, or environmental factors. **Watersheds** catch and store rain**water**.

The rainforest is a luxuriant forest where it rains throughout the year collecting rain and dew. Plant roots stabilize the upper soil layers. This lets the rain**water** filter through to deeper layers of the earth. The rain forest continues to reinforce the stream banks, therefore preventing erosion during surface **water** flow. Another source of **water** on the ground is streams, which start as a body of **water** beginning from rain**water** winding through mountains down to the ocean.

Water below the Ground – Below ground **water** meets geological formations where cracks and crevices store and purify **water** to continue within the **water** cycle.

Water to the Homes – **Water** is extracted from shafts, wells, and **water** tunnels. The transmission mains, booster station, and reservoir then store **water**. Finally, a **water** meter is connected to the home where fresh, clean **water** is available.

To sum up the **water** situation, Hawaii needs a healthy **water** cycle to have fresh **water** for living things and human beings.

Pacific Region States' Websites

PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

- Washington: WAGardenClubs.com
- Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com
- California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.com
- Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org
- Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org
- Idaho: GCI.org
- Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org
- Hawaii: None

**I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today.
That's 7 years in a row!**



The red panda is on the ICUN Red List of endangered species. Loss of habitat, illegal hunting, lower birth rate and higher mortality of the cubs are the main reason for endangerment. The total population of the red panda in the wild is less than 10,000.

Here are some red panda facts:

1. Red pandas get their name from their reddish-brown fur. They have black and white face markings with a long ringed tail.
2. Fur on the soles of their feet helps them remain warm in high altitudes where they dwell.
3. They are native to the southwestern region of China and the eastern region of the Himalayas. Their natural habitat is damp coniferous forests.
4. They are solitary animals with retractable claws and an extended bone which is similar to a thumb.
5. They are good at climbing trees and remain active during the day.

If you want to learn more, Google "Portland Oregon Zoo Red Panda." The Zoo is home to a mama and her baby.

Bamboo, a fast growing woody plant, can grow 35 inches in one day!
On the other hand, the saguaro cactus grows only one inch in a year.



SEND YOUR LIL' MOOSE GARDEN CLUB

DUES IN TODAY!



The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden is located inside the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Reno, Nevada. This is a Level II Arboretum whose mission is to serve as a demonstration garden, educational resource, and as a place of botanical research. The site is located at an elevation of 4,600 feet. It is in a transitional zone between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Great Basin Desert. It receives annual precipitation of only 7 inches. The growing season is less than 100 days per year. The Gardens began in 1986 on 3 acres of former ranch land, since expanded to 13 acres.

There are many diverse educational programs available for families in the Botanical Garden. Every Saturday families can enjoy nature walks. The tour guides adjust the informational walks depending upon the ages of the children present. For children 8 years and older, nature journalism is available led by a museum educator. Children learn both observational skills and drawing skills. On Friday afternoon, classes are available for bird watching and listening. Information shared is about taxonomy and biology. Classes are offered for children in groups from ages 2-6 and 6-18. The Gardens also sponsor many community events during the year.

Since the pandemic started, many classes for children as well as adults have been converted to virtual lessons via Zoom or Social media. During the summer months many events were held outdoors using social distancing.

Evan's Creek flows through the Arboretum and Botanical Garden. The source of the Creek is snow melt and springs on Peavine Mountain. The water continues to the Truckee River and then Pyramid Lake.

Burke Garden is arranged like an English country garden with elm trees and perennials in bloom from May to September. Blooms include bleeding heart, campanula, delphinium, foxglove, iris, and lupine.

Dixie's Plaza Garden contains both perennials and annuals. Honey's Garden contains yellow and white flowering shrubs and roses, surrounding a waterfall and pools.

Songbird Garden contains aromatic flowers, seeds, and fruits to attract many native birds. Most unusual for the Songbird Garden is a special exhibit which includes handwoven pieces created by the Great Basin Basketweavers. The materials used include willow branches, alpaca hair, rope, and other native fibers.

The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Gardens are open daily. Hours depend on the season of the year. The address is 1595 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada.

Who is Wilbur D May

By Robin Pokorski, Interested Party



Wilbur D. May was born on December 28, 1898, in Denver, Colorado. As an adventurous young man, Wilbur developed a passion for big game hunting.

In Reno, Wilbur divided his time between the cattle business and travel. Winters were spent in Switzerland, Austria, France, and from 1948 onward, Wilbur traveled on an annual safari to Africa. During the 1950s, he began to raise quarter horses. The decade of the 1960s was one of philanthropy for Wilbur, who preferred to remain an anonymous donor.

Traveling characterized Wilbur's life. His sense of adventure, his energy, his love of beautiful objects, and his compassion for people all found expression in his travels. Many artifacts that he collected resulted from trades with indigenous people.

When Wilbur died on January 20, 1982, he left plans for a museum and arboretum to reflect his deep and long-standing concern for the welfare and education of children. The Wilbur D. May Center is the final tangible evidence of that concern which spanned more than four decades.

Answer to "Do You Know"

There are four levels of accreditation for arboreta. A Level II arboretum is one that meets all Level I requirements and among a few more criteria is one that has a larger arboretum collection with a minimum number of 100 species, varieties or cultivars of trees or woody plants.

Care to Share

State Presidents: NGC President-Elect Mary Warshauer's next Care to Share? Zoom meeting is on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Mark your calendars.

National Garden Week Isn't Far Off

By Juanita Wood, National Garden Week Chairman



I don't know how many of our clubs or districts have met or will meet in these past or coming months, but some of you have continued with club and district meetings. Do you miss them as much as I do? Although National Garden Week is not until June, you may want to plan something for that special week. Any public display, project or garden craft during National Garden Week is a benefit to your garden club, state, region and nation and promotes the National Garden Clubs' goals as noted in our pledge: *"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 any of you plan and do a public project during the first week of June, please let me know so I can put an article in our August issue of *WACONIAH*. I would especially like clubs to focus on civic projects like landscaping public sites such as post offices or historical sites, educational projects for youth or public entities, and flower shows put on for the benefit of our communities.



At home coloring my hair 🎨🎨🎨



PRGC member getting ready to enter the PRGC Coloring Contest as soon as her hair is dry.

Using Floral Foam

By Mary Lou Paulson



On January 6, I participated in the fun and informative Pacific Region Zoom Workshop Wednesday. One of the topics was floral mechanics. Our presenter shared a number of ways to secure floral material in containers from kenzens or frogs, chicken wire, and floral foam.

The question was asked if floral foam was environmentally friendly. A participant commented that

it is safe for the environment. Years ago a seasoned florist told me floral foam was made from recycled tires. I wanted to free my conscience to make sure my floral foam was not damaging the environment. My grandchildren are constantly reminding me of the importance of recycling and of using eco-friendly products.

That's when I began my research about floral foam and the environment. Website after website condemned the use of floral foam (except for the sites that sell the product).

Floral foam is made from recycled plastics. It is easy to use as it can be cut, and secured to containers. It comes in ball shapes, discs, bricks and more. It is lightweight and can be easily secured in a vessel. It holds up to 50 times its weight in water to keep floral materials hydrated. It is easy to transport designs when using floral foam. It is made from recycled material and convenient so that's good, right?

I was told there are environmentally safe organic floral foams. Apparently, they are not safe; one site cautioned to stay away from these products as they are worse than regular floral foam. The more I read the more I realized there is no safe floral foam.

Floral foam leaves micro plastics and other contaminants in our water, forest, wildlife, etc. Floral foam is made from synthetic, non-recyclable plastic, carbon black, formaldehyde and phenolic foam. These are toxic and potentially carcinogenic to humans. The micro plastics particles and toxins can damage our water supply, forest, and wildlife. The Royal Horticultural Society has banned the use of floral foam as of 2021 at RHS Shows such as the Chelsea Flower Show.

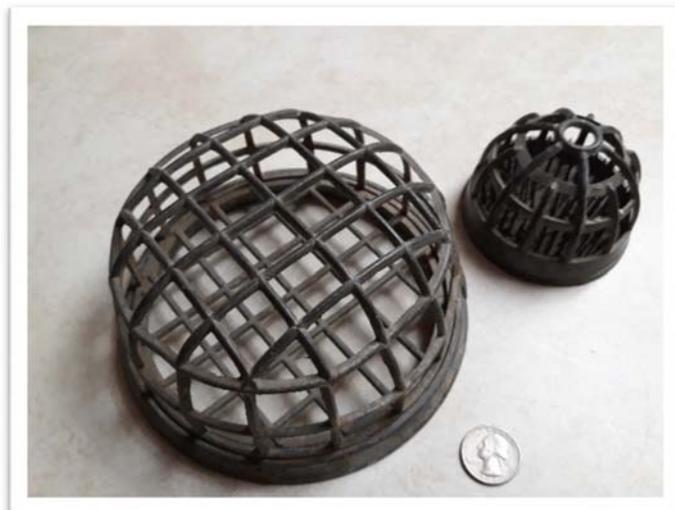
There are other methods of securing floral material in containers which our Workshop instructor mentioned, but none as easy as Oasis floral foam. If there are other devices or methods you can use to take the place of floral foam it would help our environment. It would also ease your conscience when we recite the NGC Conservation Pledge to protect our air, land and water, etc. The Conservation Pledge echoed in my ears as I read more and more about floral foams. Many of us have used foam as a design tool and have a supply.

Here is what I learned about how to safely dispose of floral foam: check with your local waste disposal. Do not put foam in yard waste, in garden or pour water from foam down the drain. Place foam in landfill-bound waste bins. Any water used in foam design should be poured into an old rag to strain foam fragments. Place the rag in landfill bins and pour strained water into a hole in garden soil away from vegetables.

Learn to adapt to new ways of designing slowly so you don't get discouraged. There is more information about Floral Foam and its environmental impact in the sources below and other websites as well. **Thank you for designing responsibly.**

But What Else Can I Use?

Here are a few alternative to using floral foam...



Backyard Habitats Around the Region

By Linda Haas, Backyard Habitat Chairman



As gardeners, we are well aware of the importance of gardening for wildlife, particularly pollinators.

But where to start and how to maintain? We have a very diverse region, from Alaska to Hawaii. I decided to look for helpful websites in each state, knowing that even our single states are diverse, e.g. east and west sides as many are divided by mountain ranges. Most of these websites would be helpful to any of us, so please take advantage of any that strike your fancy.

Alaska: Alaska has a thorough site, entitled *Landscaping for Wildlife*; it can be accessed on The Alaska Department of Fish and Game website. The illustrated publication covers how to get started and developing a plan. There is a section on other enhancements that may be helpful, such as water, feeders, snags and nest boxes, song posts, escape cover, grit, mud puddles and predators. Another section discusses how to use native plants, using softwood or hardwood cuttings, seed collecting and transplanting. The publication also has sections and future changes and more resources.
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifelandscaping.main>

Arizona: Arizona has a few resources for backyard habitats. A one pager is available on the University of Arizona website, and discusses wildlife/urban interface. It also has an interesting section on the use of water as well as different types of shelters. The site is part of a blog of the *Backyard Gardener*. <https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archive/backyardwildlifehabitat2017.html> Arizona's *Garden for Wildlife* website offers steps to get your garden certified. It also has a hyperlink to *Plants Native to Your Area*. The link was to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas. One can narrow a search by state, type of plant and duration. I searched for Arizona, cactus/succulents and perennials and received the scientific and common names and images of 18 results. The search can also be narrowed further, by light and moisture requirements and bloom time. A very interesting site. <https://azwildlife.org/habitat/>

California: I couldn't find a government site for wildlife habitats. (Note, that doesn't mean there aren't any, I just couldn't find them.) Most sites are related to areas, e.g. Sacramento, Bay Area. There are sites by the Audubon Society. The one for Sacramento lists the importance of native plants and provides resources. Not surprisingly, they offer a wealth of information on birds. <http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/programs/edugar-denhabitats.html> The Xerces Society encourages establishing wildflower habitat for pollinators. There is a free downloadable Pollinator Conservation Resource guide for Establishing Pollinator Meadows from Seed. There is a Regional Xerces office in California. There are regional guides for regions of California, Pacific Islands and Western Oregon and Washington. <https://xerces.org/habitat-restoration/> The Santa Barbara Independent has a nice article on Butterflies, including photographs and how to attract butterflies to your garden. <https://www.independent.com/2016/07/20/backyard-wildlife-butterfly-habitat-adds-wonder-your-garden/>

Idaho: Idaho has a thorough 36-page booklet "Backyards for Wildlife" accessed on the Idaho Fish and Wildlife website. The booklet has 22 sections and covers many topics, including: Share your Yard with Wildlife; What's Good for Wildlife May Also Be Good for You; The First Steps; and Some Basic Principles. There are also sections on water, plants for food/cover, trees, flowering plants and shrubs. There is also a section on Hummingbird and Butterfly Gardens, as well as bird feeding, bat houses and shelters for other wildlife. The last section of the booklet has extensive lists of Idaho native plants including common and scientific names and notes on the plants. <https://idfg.idaho.gov/old-web/docs/wildlife/nongame/leafletBackyardWildlife.pdf>

Hawaii: Hawaii has a lovely 20-page illustrated booklet on Backyard Conservation. The booklet covers beneficial insects, composting, managing nutrients and pests, different mulching techniques and native plants. The booklet also covers wetlands, best management practices of stormwater, terracing, trees and

Xeriscaping. Each section has additional resources. https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/files/2013/05/PRC_HawaiiBackyardConservation.pdf The University of Hawaii also has a downloadable, illustrated booklet on Hawaii Backyard Conservation: Ideas for Every Homeowner, which includes integrated pest management. <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/downloads/ext/BYC112812.pdf>

Nevada: Nevada has a Schoolyard Habitat Program through the Fish and Wildlife Office. The flyer covers a definition of the program, benefits and getting started and where to learn more. <https://www.fws.gov/nevada/partners/syh/documents/syh-flyer.pdf>

There is also a website for the Nevada Wildlife Federation, which lists the five basic components of wildlife habitats. <https://www.nvwf.org/backyard-habitat/>

Oregon: The Portland Audubon Chapter and Columbia Land Trust have a program for urban gardeners to create natural backyard habitats. This joint effort covers Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark and Washington counties. Homeowners can enroll on the website and apply for a technician to assess your property, help plan, and provide discounts for plants and materials. <https://backyardhabitats.org>

Another website in Oregon discusses native plants and has URLs of many resources.

<https://www.solveoregon.org/native-plants?layoutViewMode=tablet> The Native Plant Society of Oregon has a wealth of information. I found *Using Native Plants for Gardening* very interesting. It includes ecoregions of Oregon. The Society also has bulletins and a journal. <http://www.npsoregon.org/landscaping2.html>

Washington: Accessed via the Department of Fish and Wildlife, a short instructional section is available on backyard wildlife sanctuary. The section emphasizes the need for backyard wildlife sanctuaries, how to make your property better for wildlife and how to apply for certification. <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/backyard#>

Washington Native Plant Society has chapters throughout the state and a large section on the website with instructions on how to garden with native plants. There is an illustrated, alphabetical plant directory as well as native plant lists by county. The site is a bit difficult to navigate, but well worth it once you get the hang of it. <https://www.wnps.org/>

I hope these are helpful. Please email me with any sites you found particularly helpful and why or any other topics you would like covered. My email is in our directory. In the next article, I'll try to cover getting certified as a backyard habitat.

It's gardening season: Five months ago I planted myself on the sofa and I've grown considerably.

House Plants that Clean the Air in Your Home

By Susan Nash, House Plants Chairman

With the increased time people are spending in their homes I thought this information might be helpful. You may have heard of the NASA study, conducted in 1989 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. The goal of the study was to determine if plants were effective air purifiers, and specifically which plants cleaned which chemicals out of the air. NASA was hoping to find which plants would be ideal for filtering air at space stations. They actually found that there are many plants that efficiently remove chemicals from indoor air, some of which are more effective at certain chemicals than others.

We wanted to share a few of the plants they found to be particularly efficient at removing formaldehyde, as we have found **formaldehyde** is harmful to our health and is present in most homes. A general rule of thumb, per NASA's recommendation, is to add at least one houseplant per 100 sq. ft. in your home. This translates to about one houseplant per room in your house and anywhere from 10 to 20 in a home, depending on the size.

Here are the eight plants that were recommended if you are looking to reduce formaldehyde and add some greenery to your space. These plants are easy to maintain - many of them can tolerate lower light conditions, and will filter more than just formaldehyde out of our air. They're an inexpensive, efficient, and *beautiful* way to improve your air quality!

8 HOUSEPLANTS *that remove* FORMALDEHYDE

BRANCH BASICS



**RUBBER TREE
(FIG OR FICUS)**
very durable, but the milky latex in the leaves can be poisonous if ingested

☀️ ☀️ ☀️ 💧



PEACE LILY
easy to maintain, but poisonous if ingested by pets or humans

☀️ ☀️ 💧



SPIDER PLANT
durable, but tips may burn from flouride in water

☀️ ☀️ 💧



**MONEY PLANT
(GOLDEN POTHOS)**
hearty, grows fast, will hang as a vine

☀️ ☀️ 💧



DUMB CANE
if the leaves yellow, the soil is bad and should be repotted

☀️ ☀️ ☀️ 💧



MOTH ORCHID
keep warm and water sparingly, fertilize for more blooms

☀️ 💧



SNAKE PLANT
one of the easiest plants to maintain!

☀️ ☀️ 💧



PHILODENDRON
if kept happy, it will grow large and quickly

☀️ ☀️ ☀️ 💧

KEY

☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️
needs bright light

☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️
prefers diffused light

☀️
water frequently

💧 💧 💧
water sparingly

💧

Calendar of Events

- Jul 1 \$25 refundable deposit for Post-Convention tour due to Becky Hassebroek
- Jul 25 \$200 balance for Post-Convention tour due to Becky Hassebroek
- Jul 25 Last day to postmark convention registration
- Aug 9-12 Pacific Region Convention, Silverton, OR
- Aug 12-14 Post-Convention Fundraiser Tour – McMinnville and Corvallis – **JOIN US!**

Director's Calendar/Travel Events

Every day Zooming at home, waiting to get to attend **Blue Star Memorial Marker** Dedications



They say every piece of chocolate you eat,
shortens your life by two minutes.

I've done the math, seems I died in 1537.

School Days

By Launa Gould, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

June 22-24 – Course IV. Watch the website for additional information nevadagardenclubs.org

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

Apr 26-27 – Shelton, Washington
Contact: Patricia Grimes 360-769-0202

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You're not fat, you're just easier to see.