



# WACONIAH

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

Vol. 44 No. 3 Director's Theme: "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"



Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri with Somerset Academy First Grade Class

### *Director's Message*

Happy New Year! I don't think anyone has ever looked forward to a new year more than I have this year. I am so excited about the future of Pacific Region Garden Clubs. We are now a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation. What does this mean exactly? We will now move forward as a financially independent organization comprised of the eight states in the Pacific Region. These eight states in our region will continue as members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and will follow their guidelines as they pertain to the programs, goals and rewards of this wonderful organization. As a new 501(c)(3) we can accept charitable contributions for scholarships and other worthwhile programs to make our region strong. Our eight states must unite to make this a strong corporation. We can meet and share ways to accomplish our goals. A perfect time to do that will be at the spring Convention to be held in Seattle, Washington on April 18 - 20, 2017, and again at the NCG Convention to be held in Richmond, Virginia, May 18 - 20, 2017. We have so many great minds and willing hearts, that when we meet, we can take on the challenges which lie ahead.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have tirelessly worked to strengthen our Region. We have been hard hit financially and are in the rebuilding process. We can do it, if we are united for the good. I have thought a lot about unity. I think it is important to express opinions and to disagree from time to time with one another, but when a decision has been made by the majority, I feel it is important to get behind that decision and make it work for the benefit of all.

Now on to my passion. I have been encouraged as Sandra Ford, Director's Project Manager, and I read the reports from each state in the Region with regard to working with children. I know that the hearts of children in our region have been touched. If one goes on to achieve a goal of making this planet a better place to live, we have succeeded. Thank you to all who have participated and a special thank you to Sandra Ford for her support and generosity in this endeavor.

I look forward to 2017 with a happy heart and seeing you all in Seattle.

*Kristie*

### **CALL TO CONVENTION**

see pages 7 – 9



### **Former Pacific Region Directors**

*are Pacific Region Gems for your dedication and continued work for the Region:*

**Lee Pearn, Linda Nelson Bentson, Beverly Brune, Jeanette Pruin, Sandra Ford, Debbie Hinchey and Elaine Gunderson**

*~With Appreciation, Kristie Livreri*

**Alaska Garden Clubs  
Martie Black, President**

*Theme: "Grow and Share Your Knowledge"*



We have had many below zero days so our outdoor gardening is at a standstill. We look out at the very white snow and enjoy the beauty it adds to our winter garden. Then our seed catalogs start to arrive and we sit by the fire and dream about next summer.

Members will travel to Seattle for the big garden show there. They will bring home new ideas to share. We will do all the prep work between now and snowmelt planning meetings, outings, and other duties. Fairbanks will continue the landscape classes they started this year. The Anchorage clubs will prepare for Garden Day at Sears. Ketchikan should be able to start planting earlier than the rest of the state. Then we will all work to make our yards beautiful for next summer.

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

*Theme: "People, Plants and Projects"*



This New Year brings lots of activities and fun things to do and see, and it also marks the last leg of my term as AFGC President. It is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and the things that realistically can be accomplished in the next few months, and realize that there are some

things that won't make the cut. But regardless of those lists, the main thing to judge is whether we left our organizations better off than when we started. That, I suppose, is true of any endeavor.

Regardless of my personal results, it is a fact that the members of AFGC accomplish amazing things each and every year. Weeders Garden Club will install a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** on February 11 and they have begun developing a butterfly garden at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler. Desert Pointe Garden Club recently rescued 50 shrubs to be relocated as a part of their ongoing project with TCH, a rehabilitation facility in Tempe, Arizona.

Scottsdale Garden Club continues to be involved with students at a local school. Their most recent project was developing new garden beds. A parent applied for a

grant and the school was awarded \$2000 to build the four garden beds. It took almost all of last year to get everything approved through the city and school district. The kids were so excited that they started planting late in the school year, and fortunately some things survived our rugged summer. They planted again this fall and were very excited to receive garden tools through the NGC Ames Tool project.

While attending the Western District meeting, I was told that over 500 entries had been received for the NGC Poetry Contest. Pecan Garden Club has a remarkable youth program.

Tempe Garden Club had a large turnout for their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration last month. It was a lovely affair honoring several Tempe Garden Club members. Harry Mitchell, former U.S. Representative for Arizona and a life-long resident of Tempe, was the key speaker and shared wonderful historical stories and photos of early Tempe.

Among the top ten of most exciting news is the Arizona Herb Association joining AFGC as a Plant Society bringing 126 new members. AHA is a well-established organization and we look forward to this new partnership.

Landscape Design School Course I was a huge success with 63 attendees, and 44 of those students taking the exam. Many were not current members but planned to join a garden club to be eligible for certification in the NGC Landscape Design School program. LDS Course II will be offered on March 4-5. Interested parties email Linda Rominger at [Lsrom@gmail.com](mailto:Lsrom@gmail.com).

**Pacific Region Supports NGC**

*By Becky Hassebroek, NGC President's Project*



Remember that the NGC President's Special Projects Awards deadline is March 15. To view the available

awards, go to our website [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org), click on Projects, then President's Projects, then "Service in Action." Sections 4 and 5 will explain the available awards and how to apply. Lucrative monetary awards are available, as well as beautiful Certificates of Participation signed by President Sandy for each participant. Let's show the rest of the regions that our Pacific Region supports our NGC President and the special projects she holds dear to her heart by applying for those awards – and "bringing home the money"! Questions? Contact Becky Hassebroek, [beckyhasse@aol.com](mailto:beckyhasse@aol.com).



Idaho is a land of rugged beauty with beautiful lakes, mountains and rivers. Garden Clubs of Idaho's theme was chosen to help educate our members, state and youth about the importance of keeping our air, land and water environmentally sound. GCII's three Districts, the Clearwater District in the north, Southeast District and the Southwest District

are all in the watershed of the famous Snake River, which runs 1,075 miles in length before it empties into the Columbia River. GCII's 16 clubs and one youth club are passionate about our planet earth and preserving our precious environment. GCII works constantly to educate our members, homeowner associations, public park workers and anyone who will listen how important it is to grow organic.

GCII has completely rewritten our bylaws and policies and procedures this year to stay in compliance with NGC. We have voted to form a Group Tax Exemption for our clubs.

GCII has embraced our Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri's theme "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child - A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities." GCII's sixteen garden clubs and one youth club chose to take our participation in promoting youth gardening, environmental awareness, school gardening projects, and youth contests to the next level this year. Garden Clubs of Idaho's 335 members have been creative in new youth projects as well as updating our continuing youth projects.

One hundred percent of our adult and youth garden clubs have participated in making Idaho's youth more aware of the importance to love and to appreciate nature. Our engagement with local youth has brought us great joy as the spirit of wonder in young gardeners rejuvenates our delight in the beauty and grace of growing things.

We want our youth to be responsible citizens for their environment.



*The Good, The Bad and The Recycled!*

"The Good Earth" was the theme for our 2017 Winter Board Meeting which boasted to be a "once-in-a-lifetime", memorable experience (and it was). The theme fit perfectly with the name of the hotel **Gaia Hotel and Spa** (Gaia definition, the ancient Greek goddess of the

earth, mother of the Titans.)

The members of the Cascade District, who hosted the meeting, had a judged flower show for our enjoyment and education in the foyer area. It was delightful to see what talented members we have. Topics for Workshops and Speakers included "All About Dirt," "Wildflowers of Tehama County," "Bees, Honey & Venom" and "Got Bugs?" (That's where the bad comes in). Jim, from the Department of Food and Agriculture, shared ways of testing our gardens for critters, good and bad, and educated us on how to identify safe chemicals and organic ways to keep our gardens safe from bad bugs.

"Growing Minds" was a topic at one of the Business Meetings. Instead of a panel, the chairman and district directors were asked in advance to discuss topics at their forums and bring them to this meeting. We were able to share what the District Directors needed from the chairmen and vice-versa. Other questions were discussed as well. Robin Pokorski facilitated the discussion.

"Planting Seeds" – Robin Pokorski, CGCI Leadership Chairman and NGC Leap into Leadership Chairman, gave a four-hour Leadership Workshop that was conveniently scheduled immediately after the board meeting. Robin has been traveling throughout the United States giving her workshop – in fact some states have asked her to come back. This workshop was open to everyone for a fee of \$25 that included lunch.

### **Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse Fashion Show**

We experienced some of CGCI's awards, committees and projects interpreted in new fashion statements. The models showed apparel purchased only from yard sales and thrift stores or re-made or hand-me-downs. The show was presented in a fun way to recognize those who Recycle, Repurpose & Reuse and encourage others to do the same. A very creative evening.

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

Theme: "Nurture Nature -- Nurture Friendships"



Oregon has a celebrity among us and he was sighted in a recent television commercial for Advil ringing his hand bells. Did you see it during the holidays? Do you know who this man is? It is Rod Lloyd: our webmaster! Congratulations are in order!

In Dufur, Oregon, the high school Botany Class is where many students learn about plants and their growth, as well as getting hands-on experience in planting vegetable gardens. In November the class harvested some Mustard greens out of their garden, and sauteed them in oil. They are currently planning a garden for next semester. The Dufur Valley Garden Club is giving learners tips on how to grow certain species of plants, their care, and the easiest ways to grow them. Thanks to club president Phyllis Olson for purchasing Paper Whites as a fundraiser for the class. In the spring the class is planning to sell some of their fruits and vegetables at a local Farmer's Market. Applause to this club for their work with Youth!

One of our districts is in the process of planning a grant-writing workshop. How cool is that!

Another district is pondering the project of creating "blanket/mats" created from plastic bags. Now that's a wonderful idea utilizing our focus on recycling.

This President appreciates the fact that our Oregon members are implementing the President's message to "Try Something New!"

**Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Nancy Lee Loesch, President**

Theme: "Digging, Planting, Cultivating: GROWING MEMBERSHIP"



Greetings from Henderson, Nevada. Summer is gone and we had a pretty good one. Our temperatures for July and August were good. Only around 110°F. for most day time temperatures. Fall gave us a wonderful treat with the changing of the leaves and quite nice temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Now we are in winter. Yes, it does

get cold here. It can be 45°F to 55°F and 32°F to 40°F,

or colder, at night. It is hard to work in the Rose Garden at our Nevada Garden Club Center where we have over 100 rose bushes during the hot summer but will be much easier for our major cleanup and pruning in January.

This fall many of our members accepted an invitation from Bob Middag of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Southern Nevada to visit his cactus and succulent garden with over 300 cactus and succulent plants. Bob has become an expert and is always willing to answer questions and give advice to all. He will be offering additional tours in April.

Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. had a successful flower show October 29 - 30. The flower show was open to the community and provided our members with the opportunity to display their horticulture and floral designs. Our next flower shows will be the Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. Spring Flower Show on March 29-30 and the Sunset Garden Club Flower Show on April 8.

We are already planning for our Spring Annual Meeting June 3 when our honored guest will be National Garden Clubs President-Elect Nancy Hargroves. At that time she will be the new President of NGC. Nancy will install our new Nevada Garden Club officers and will also present a special program.

Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. is planning to hold an NGC Flower Show School at our Las Vegas Garden Club Center in the near future that will be open to anyone that would like to attend. If you are interested, please let me know and I will keep you informed as our plans are finalized. This could be a good time to visit Las Vegas and attend an NGC Flower Show School at the same time.

Sunset Garden Club is planning a bus trip to the new Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway on Mount Charleston Wednesday April 26. The Visitor Gateway is about a 30-minute drive from downtown Las Vegas. This is near the areas where our Penny Pines contributions are being used in the recovery work to restore the damage caused by wildfires several years ago. A USDA Forest Service Botanist will meet us there to provide information on the recovery work progress. The Spring Mountains are part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest which is the largest National Forest in the lower 48 states and the only National Forest in Nevada.



**2015-2017 Executive Committee  
and Board of Directors**

You shine brightly as gems of the Pacific Region. Thank you for your Support.

~ Kristie Livreri

**Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs**  
**Terry Critchlow, President**

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



We begin the New Year thankful for the past year of good health and good friends. As winter gives our gardens time to rest it gives garden club members time to reflect and look toward spring and the garden club activities it brings.

We begin in March with Gala XXIX, a Design luncheon with a presentation by guest designer Margaret Kirkpatrick. This year's theme *'Call of the Wild'* highlights her use of natural components. She will also hold a workshop *'Wild New Designs'* teaching some of the basics of the new designs.

In April we look forward to hosting the Pacific Region convention in Seattle *"The Best of the Northwest – The Pause that Refreshes"* to include horticulture presentations and workshops, tours, a design presentation showcasing some of Washington's special places, and the celebration of Director Kristie Livreri's service and friendship to our membership as she finishes her term. Late April we will celebrate 40 years of ownership of our Headquarters house located in Seattle. Nestled on Beacon Hill, this old Victorian is a treasure. Over 100 years old, the home and its surrounding grounds are a familiar sight as the city continues its growth.

Educational opportunities abound with four NGC schools holding courses; Environmental Studies, Gardening Study, and two Flower Show Schools. In May Washington will sponsor a Symposium in Mt. Vernon. The diverse landscape of the area is breathtaking as spring awakens our natural and manmade environment.

**Pacific Region Fundraiser**  
**"Floral Design Program"**

Come and spend the day with a Texas Lady and have Tropical High Tea with a Twist!

Thursday, March 30, 2017

11:00 a.m. "Design Program" - Given by Barbara Baker  
1:00 p.m. "Tropical High Tea"  
2:00 p.m. "Floral Design Auction"

\$40.00 - Don't forget to wear your hat and gloves.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 3405 SW Alice St.,  
Portland, Oregon 97219

Mail registration to Peggy Olin, 315 6<sup>th</sup> St., Portland,  
Oregon 97024-1944 Questions: 503-666-4083 or  
[peggyolin@msn.com](mailto:peggyolin@msn.com)

**Pacific Region Life Membership:**  
**Can You Find Your "Big Hat"?**

By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman



"What?" you say. "What is this Run for the Roses?" Our *"run for the roses"* is Pacific Region's Life Membership. The excitement – and who wouldn't be excited

about winning a "purse" of \$180 for your very own special state project? Join in the running of this race to increase our new Pacific Region Life Members by joining the competition. We are through the clubhouse turn and the backstretch looms ahead. And there is still time for you and your state to join this thrilling race.

The excitement builds as the winner of our *"run for the roses"* will receive a *\$180 donation to a special state project...* presented by this Pacific Region Life Membership Chairman.



Experience the excitement and pageantry of the *Victory Lap* at the 2017 Convention, in Seattle, Washington, by the state with the largest percentage increase of Pacific Region Life Members. Each state's entry is currently being groomed as a thoroughbred and is ready to run! However, you might think that they look somewhat like "My Little Pony"!

A Life Membership recognizes members who have worked hard -- and celebrates their guidance and commitment to strengthening your club, state organization, and/or our region, while supporting our scholarship program.



Grow our life members' cadre by honoring those who have gone that extra "furlong." Your fully tax-deductible \$40 donation purchases a Pacific Region Life Membership. Don't you want to see your state's

winning "Thoroughbreds" entered in our derby? You can add their name to the field by purchasing a life membership or individuals may purchase their own.

The application forms are available on the Pacific Region website: [pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms). Let's get those applications in and watch our scholarship program grow while honoring our deserving members.

Increase your state's odds of winning this *"run for the roses."* The finish line is just ahead down the homestretch!

## The Buzz: Mason Bees – The Bees For You??

By Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman



We know that bees are the super insects that we need to protect in order to save the human race. But what if you are allergic to bee stings? Or you've got kids that are frightened of bees?

Blue Orchard Mason bees are your answer. You can still do your part to save the world by keeping these non-stinging gentle pollinators. They'll happily move into a home you can make yourself or you can buy mason bee homes in many places – including nurseries and online.



Mason bees like long tubes to move into. Some commercial bee homes are made with tubes of bamboo – super pretty, but somewhat pricey. I've also read that bamboo is not absorbent enough for mason bee's mud so you may have a mold issue if this happens. Do it yourself tubes can be made by rolling paper tubes around a pencil and filling an old coffee can with them, though I've read that these thin tubes are easily pierced by parasitic wasps so use your good judgment. If you have wasps around your garden, you may not want to try this. Add a simple pitched A-frame roof to keep out the rain and hang in a sunny, south or east facing spot near your flowers and you'll have mason bee neighbors in no time.

You may also have plenty of "reed" material in your yard or around your area to make your own bee nests. I am currently drying every hollow stemmed cutting that I've collected from my yard. I've got dahlias, castor bean, and many other hollow stocks currently drying to

see what works for me. I'll let you know what works and what doesn't for me during my bee program presentation. Just one more reason to schedule a program for your club or district! I am available so why not schedule a native bee presentation right before or after a CGCI Board Meeting/Convention or Pacific Region Convention that is held around your club or district meeting? I've typically attended these and National Conventions for the last few years. Email me at [Beechairman@CAGardenclubs.org](mailto:Beechairman@CAGardenclubs.org) to set up a program presentation!



Mason bees are interesting to watch. They do not make honey or live in a busy hive like honey bees who have one queen to lay eggs. Instead, mason bees are solitary and every one of the females is fertile. They make their nests in existing tubes that they find and fill it up with eggs before moving onto another tube. There are no worker bees.

Larvae live in the tubes on the food that the female has left for them and pupate in a cocoon (still in the tube) through the winter. Then the cycle begins again.

Remember to supply water and mud for your bees. And enjoy the show!

## Going Green

By Robin Pokarski, Contributor



What a fantastic way to repurpose old tires!



**PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS**

**74<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – April 18-20, 2017**

**“The Best of the Northwest – the Pause that Refreshes”**

Embassy Suites, 15920 W Valley Hwy., Seattle, WA 98188

Telephone: 1-800-Embassy (1-800-362-2779)

(Mention group code **PRG** to obtain the special group rate. Deadline March 17, 2017)

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

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

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

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

**Voting Status:**  PR Board of Directors Member  Delegate  Alternate Delegate

BADGE INFORMATION – Please check all that apply:

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC President                  | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chairman            | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Life Member            | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse or Guest             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Director        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Officer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former Pac. Region Director |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Region Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Club Member         | <input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge              | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Consultant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Consultant |

**PACKAGE PLAN REGISTRATION:**

Plan includes: Registration (\$45 - \$25 for Washington members), 3 Banquets, 2 Lunches, all workshops.

Full-time Package - <b>received by April 1</b>	\$271	\$ _____
Full-time Package, Washington Members, - <b>received by April 1</b>	\$251	\$ _____
Full-time Package - <b>received after April 1</b>	\$296	\$ _____

**PART-TIME REGISTRATION:**

Part-time (per day) Registration Fee (meals not included; add below if meal desired) # of days \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part-time (per day) Washington Members Registration Fee \$10 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Per-Meal Registration Fee (add cost of meal below) # of meals \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, April 18	<b>Entertainment, Awards Banquet</b>	\$ 50	\$ _____
Wednesday, April 19	<b>Luncheon</b>	\$ 38	\$ _____
Wednesday, April 19	<b>Design Banquet</b>	\$ 50	\$ _____
Thursday, April 20	<b>Luncheon</b>	\$ 38	\$ _____
Thursday, April 20	<b>Installation, Life Member Banquet</b>	\$ 50	\$ _____

(All meals are open to all members, spouses and guests)

**OPTIONAL TOURS:**

Highline SeaTac Botanical Gardens (bus transportation)  
 Wednesday, April 19, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Limited # available) \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Kubota Gardens (bus transportation)  
 Thursday, April 20, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Limited # available) \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Golf Wednesday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. Check if interested

Spouse Vintage Hydro Museum Thursday, April 20, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Check if interested

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

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

**No Refunds after April 6, 2017**

**Make check payable to “Pacific Region Convention”**

Mail registration and check to: Jeanette Pruin, 530 SW 182<sup>nd</sup> St., Normandy Park, WA 98166-3756

CONTACT: Brynn Tavasci, Convention Chairman [brynn-tavasci@comcast.net](mailto:brynn-tavasci@comcast.net) or 253-813-9678

Diane Franchini, Assistant Chairman [franchinisd@gmail.com](mailto:franchinisd@gmail.com) or 253-653-0827

**PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS 74TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**APRIL 18 – 20, 2017**  
**"BEST OF THE NORTHWEST, THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES"**  
**Convention Tentative Schedule**

**Tuesday April 18, 2017**

Breakfast and lunch on your own		
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Registration	Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Centerpieces	Del Mar
12:30 p.m.	Budget meeting	Saratoga
1:30 p.m.	Policy & Procedure	Saratoga
2:30 p.m.	Presidents meeting	Saratoga
4:00 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting	Saratoga
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Vendor set up	Canterbury
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Drinks/snacks (complimentary with hotel overnight)	Atrium
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Awards Banquet</b>	Triple Crown

**Wednesday April 19, 2017**

Breakfast (complimentary with hotel overnight)		
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Registration and Credentials	Atrium
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Vendors and Opportunity Drawings	Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Centerpieces	Canterbury
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Del Mar
9:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies	Triple Crown
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting	Triple Crown
11:30 a.m.	Room turnover for lunch/centerpieces	Triple Crown
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch, Far Reaches Nursery</b>	Triple Crown
2:00 p.m.	Garden Tour	Triple Crown
2:00 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Workshop, Far Reaches plant talk/sale	Lobby
3:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Workshop, New Handbook review	Saratoga
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Drinks/snacks (complimentary with hotel overnight)	Saratoga
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Design Banquet (BoNW, "The Gallery")</b>	Atrium
		Triple Crown

**Thursday April 20, 2017**

Breakfast (complimentary with hotel overnight)		
8:15 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Organizational New Board	Atrium
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Registration and Credentials	Triple Crown
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Vendors and Opportunity Drawings	Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Centerpieces	Canterbury
9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting	Del Mar
11:30 a.m.	Room turnover for lunch/centerpieces	Triple Crown
12:00 p.m.	Drawing/silent auction winners	Triple Crown
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch, Oxbow Farm programs/research</b>	Triple Crown
2:00 p.m.	Garden Tour	Triple Crown
2:00 p.m.	Workshop local food, ag., conservation	Lobby
3:00 p.m.	Workshop Native Plant talk/sale	Saratoga
4:00 p.m.	Clear vendor room	Saratoga
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Drinks/snacks (complimentary with hotel overnight)	Canterbury
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Installation Peggy Olin, Life Member Banquet</b>	Atrium
		Triple Crown

The registration form may also be found on the Pacific Region website: [www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org](http://www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org)

**Convention Registration**

**Make check payable to "Pacific Region Convention"**

Mail registration and check to: Jeanette Pruin, 530 SW 182<sup>nd</sup> St., Normandy Park, WA 98166-3756

## Hotel Reservations

Embassy Suites, 15920 W Valley Hwy., Seattle, WA 98188 Telephone: 1-800-Embassy (1-800-362-2779)

Mention group code **PRG** to obtain the special group rate. Deadline March 17, 2017

Single - \$155, Double - \$155, Triple - \$165, Quad - \$175

These room rates will be available 3 days before and 3 days after the event based on availability.

Complimentary hotel shuttle to and from Sea-Tac airport.

From I-5: Exit I-405 (North), take Exit #1 (West Valley Highway) and travel 2 blocks south to the hotel. Hotel is located at southeast corner of West Valley Highway and Longacres Way.

From the airport take highway 518 East to 405 North. Take exit #1 West Valley Highway and at the bottom of the exit turn right. In approximately ½ block the hotel is on the left.

Complimentary parking for overnight stays with group rate. Day guests park complimentary.

Embassy Suites provides a made to order complimentary breakfast, two complimentary beverages and snacks for their nightly Atrium Cocktail Party.

Lunch, Wednesday April 19, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

**Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken**, owners of **Far Reaches Nursery**, have travelled the world to bring back specimens to enhance their collection of rare plant species. Plant preservation and propagation are important to Kelly and Sue and it is evident in the quality of their botanical treasures and their extensive knowledge that they are happy to share with us. Please come and enjoy the stories of their expeditions and the work that they do in their nursery. Stay for the workshop so that you can purchase plants for your own collection.

**Plant sale** and in depth discussion of plants continues with Kelly and Sue at the 2 p.m. workshop.

Pacific Region Flower Show Schools Chairman and NGC Instructor Marva Lee Peterschick will discuss the newly revised *Handbook for Flower Shows* at the 3 p.m. workshop.

Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

**Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center's** mission is to inspire people to eat healthy, sustainably grown food and to steward our natural resources for future generations. Oxbow is situated on 230 acres of land bordering Western Washington's Snoqualmie River. We feel fortunate to have three key people from their staff as speakers at our convention. **Jessica Price, Oxbow Executive Director**, who after two plus decades working in the field of global health made a career change. After completing a certificate program in

agroecology she came to Oxbow where she could work on environmental impacts from modern agriculture. **Bridget McNassar, Oxbow Native Plant Nursery Manager**, heads a small nursery operations team and provides technical leadership in Oxbow's restoration and conservation research and practice. Currently the native plant inventory has 52,000 plants representing 120 different species. **Adam McCurdy, Oxbow Farm Manager**, has over 17 years farming experience in the Willamette, Methow, and Snoqualmie valleys. Adam manages a 20-person team that grows 30 acres of mixed vegetable crops and supplies product throughout the region to the CSA, local grocery and restaurant businesses, and to hunger relief organizations. Oxbow Farm programs research talk will be followed by the first workshop discussion of local food and agriculture conservation and then followed by our second workshop with an Oxbow native plant sale.

## Tours

**Kubota Gardens** is unmatched in its quality of mature landscaping, streams, waterfalls, ponds, and rock features. Planted in a Japanese manner, the 20-acre garden was started in 1927. It is a City of Seattle Historical Landmark.

**Highline SeaTac Botanical Gardens** is an example of the good that can happen when communities work together to save and preserve beloved gardens that are threatened by development. Enjoy walking the 10.5 acres including 2 relocated gardens and the work of "Partner Gardens."

**"The Gallery – Portraits of the Northwest."** Our design program will feature some of our best designers showcasing special places in our state.

A golf outing on Wednesday April 19 at 9:00 a.m. and a Vintage Hydro Museum tour on Thursday April 20 from 2 – 4:30 p.m. will be offered.

## New Bylaws



As previously reported, draft bylaws to continue the region as its own entity were adopted by the Executive Committee at its September 23, 2016 meeting in Portland, Maine. The region is currently governed by its Policy and Procedure Guidelines and NGC bylaws. The new bylaws will be presented to the convention body for their approval in Seattle in April and will become the primary governing rules for the region going forward. To preview them, see the posting on our website. Click on Forms, then click on PR New Bylaws to be Approved at April 2017 Convention. Copies will be sent to convention attendees with voting rights with their registration confirmation.



**YOUTH:** Garden Clubs in Alaska are finding ways to mentor and teach children about gardening. Fairbanks Garden Club helped 4th graders at North Pole Elementary plant strawberries for Mother's Day with local senior citizens. Six FGC members, 30 4th graders, and 10 North Pole senior citizens participated. They also put on an annual flower show in July. This summer 14 youth displayed floral designs in teacups. Fairbanks Garden Club gave a grant to Joy Elementary to purchase trees that were planted by the students.

Lee Skidmore from Ketchikan Garden Club read The Frightened Frog to first graders as well as donated the book to the library. Anchorage Garden Club also donated a copy of the book to the Junior Master Gardeners Coordinator to share with his students. Wildflower Garden Club assisted children in planting marigolds, an annual event held at the Sears Mall every April.

Donating to benefit projects, donating to further education and hands on help are all ways to promote the fun of gardening and floral design to children.

*Brynn Tavasci, Youth Coordinator*

**TREES:** The world's largest spruce, the Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), became the official tree of Alaska on February 28, 1962 and was proclaimed the most valuable tree species in Alaska. *Picea* is Latin for pitch and *sitchensis* refers to Sitka, Alaska, the area where Europeans first sighted the tree.

The Sitka spruce is native to North America and can be found on moist, sandy, in often-swampy soils, and wet rocky slopes from coastal areas of Northern California north to Alaska. Moist ocean air and summer fog are the main factors that account for Sitka spruce's large growth. It is found



abundantly throughout southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula, and north of Girdwood. It also is called the tideland spruce, coast spruce, and yellow spruce.



This coniferous (cone-bearing) evergreen can grow to almost 330 feet tall with a trunk diameter that can exceed 16 feet. A long-lived conifer, this spruce may live 400 to 800 years. The spruce was named after Sitka Island off the coast of Alaska. It can

be identified from other spruces by its needles. Its needles are 4-sided, somewhat flat, stiff and sharp. Each needle comes from a square, raised woody peg that remains on the branch after the needle drops. Its cones are pendulous (hang downward). It dislikes shade and is intolerant of atmospheric pollution. The base or large trees are commonly swollen and buttressed. Sitka spruce are often associated with western hemlock, the state tree of Washington.

Its size and quality of lumber make the Sitka spruce the primary timber tree in Alaska. It is used in musical instruments, general construction, millwork, furniture, boatbuilding, aircraft construction (including "The Spruce Goose"), woodenware and plywood. North American Indian tribes pounded the tough and flexible roots and shredded them to make rope and tightly woven baskets to hold water.

There are edible parts of the Sitka spruce. The young shoots can be eaten raw or cooked. When boiled in water they become a refreshing tea, rich in vitamin C. The young cones are eaten roasted. As an emergency food, the inner bark can be eaten raw or cooked.



North American Indian tribes widely used the Sitka spruce medicinally for its antiseptic qualities in the treatment of lung complaints, wounds, and sores. The resin is antiseptic and diuretic. It has been chewed as a breath freshener and as a treatment for TB. A poultice of the resin was used as a rub on rheumatic joints and the cones have been used in steam baths to treat rheumatism. It is, however, little used in modern herbalism.



Not only does this most valuable Sitka spruce provide construction use, nourishment, and medicinal properties, but very visibly provides roosting for bald eagles and peregrine falcons while deer, porcupines, elk, bear, rabbits and hares browse its foliage.  
*Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman*

**HABITAT:** How many of you have visited the Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage? In many botanical gardens I've visited, you are led from one segment of the garden directly into another and it's really easy to forget what State you are even in. But, not at the Alaska Botanical Garden. You may walk through their rose garden, but before you are allowed to see any other specialty garden you get to walk through Alaska native woods. Then, maybe you will visit their vegetable patch, but again you will be sent through Alaska natives, where all of the local birds and insects and other creatures are given the habitat that they need for their survival. It keeps the garden truly alive and provides much needed habitat at the same time! Why don't you try that in your



landscape? It doesn't have to be a large native area, but it works well to divide your outside living spaces and provide food and cover for our wildlife at the same time.  
*Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman*

**BEES:** I am pleased to report that Alaska, the last frontier, has a healthy bumble bee population. These bees are genetically distinct from the bees found in the northwestern part of the United States and southern British Columbia. They are more resistant to many of the common bee ailments of their southern cousins.

Alaskan bumble bees are so well adapted to their environment that they have been seen flying in temperatures as cold as 27°F during snowfall, during the night, and above the tree line. Many of the berries, nuts, and seeds consumed by birds, mammals, and other insects are a result of bumble bee pollination of native plants. Without these bees, much of the Alaskan wildlife that we know would not survive.



There has been a disturbing trend in populations of the western bumble bee, *Bombus occidentalis*. Once considered to be one of the most common west coast bumble bee species, it is now declining in the Pacific Northwest. In Alaska, however, it is doing quite well.

The western bumble bee has an annual life cycle. Mated queens (colony founders) emerge from wintering sites in the spring and search for potential nest sites. Once a nest site is chosen, the queen forages for pollen and nectar, returning to the nest to lay eggs which will produce a brood of workers. Workers emerge and take over nest care, pollen and nectar foraging. In late summer, males and new queens are produced. These bees leave the colony, mate, and only the mated queens enter hibernation while all others, including the old queen, perish at the onset of colder temperatures.

Possible threats to Alaskan bumble bees may include the transfer of pathogens from managed bees used for greenhouse pollination that have escaped. As with other parts of the Pacific Region, additional threats include agricultural pesticide and chemical use, and habitat loss.

Everyone likes bumble bees. They're considered the pandas of the insect world. They're big and fuzzy and

people can see them since they move a little slower than other bees.

One bumble bee in Alaska is hunted more than any other, *Bombus polaris*, the Arctic bumblebee (pictured right). Other bumble bees live in the Arctic, but *polaris* survives closer to the North Pole than any other bee. (Stop it! – That isn't a real Arctic bumblebee – silly editor! – a REAL Arctic bumblebee is pictured below.)



It has adapted so well to the cold that by shivering its muscles it can raise its internal temperature to more than 95 degrees when it is 32 degrees outside. It lives around the world in the northern areas like Alaska and Greenland.

It doesn't just stay warm enough to fly. A spring queen warms up her ovaries to jump-start the production of eggs to be fertilized with sperm stored in her body since the previous fall. Now that's an impressive survival tactic!



*Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman*

**BIRDS:** Some folks will tell you the Alaskan state bird is the mosquito, but we know better. In 1959 Alaska was admitted to the Union and already had a designated state bird. The school children of Alaska had voted for the Willow Ptarmigan (pronounced tar-mi-gan). This bird is in the Grouse family, subfamily of the Pheasant family and closely related to the famous Red Grouse of Scotland.



There are three kinds of Ptarmigan, all of which can be found in the great state of Alaska. The Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) – pictured – and the Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*) can also be found in Eurasia, Scandinavia, and Russia. But the White-tailed Ptarmigan is only found in North America.

The Willow Ptarmigan is a stout sociable bird that is common all across Alaska's high treeless country. It uses its camouflage as protection against predators, changing its plumage from light brown in summer to snow white in winter. In addition to the color changing feathers, another distinctive feature is the feathered toes, which help them negotiate the frozen ground.

The Willow Ptarmigan is a medium-sized ground-dwelling bird 14-17" tall, with a wingspan of 24-26", and weighing about 15 - 19 ounces. In winter months this bird eats moss, willow buds, twigs, seeds and berries when available. In summer their diet expands to vegetable matter and occasionally small insects, such as caterpillars and beetles.

In winter, Willow Ptarmigans usually feed and roost close together in the snow. In the spring, they travel to their breeding grounds in flocks of thousands. These flocks disperse out over the tundra in the summers as the males elbow for foraging room. Unlike other grouse, the male Willow Ptarmigan takes care of the young defending them against predators.

The young birds do not get their full summer plumage before they are two years old. Many of the middle-aged birds differ from the older birds. They are much lighter in color, have shorter tails and weigh less than the older birds. They have smaller broods than the older birds which can have up to a dozen in theirs.

This species rarely if ever alights on bushes or trees after becoming fully grown, and prefers the ground, living among the naked rocks of the open moors. Alaskans love their Willow Ptarmigans!

*Orvalita Hopkins, Birds Chairman*

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**Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?**

**A: Frost-bite**



**Peggy Olin, Pacific Region Director-Elect** is a gem in the Pacific Region.

May she continue to shine brightly as she serves as Director, 2017-2019.

Congratulations,

~ Kristie Livreri

## Encouraging Prospective NGC Instructors

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

### Instructor's Oath

I am my sister's/brother's keeper.  
We're in this together  
Not to win,  
Not to compete,  
Not to conquer,  
But to educate  
To nurture,  
To help.  
We are each other's keeper.  
Let us celebrate  
The power within us all  
To make a difference.

~Author unknown

(Reprinted from NGC Manual for Flower Show Schools Personnel and Instructors)

Are we doing enough to encourage new NGC Flower Show School and Symposium Instructors?

These are individuals who are willing to share their knowledge with potential and existing Accredited Flower Show Judges. New Instructors should have active years of garden club participation, flower show and judging experience. Do you know an individual who belongs to Plant Societies, or Master Gardener programs; has experience presenting programs and workshops in horticulture or floral design? They do not need to be an NGC Master Judge but must be an Accredited Judge who has refreshed at least once. One of the best compliments to a current NGC Instructor is "How do I become an instructor like you?" National Garden Clubs has an application form, #19F called "*New Flower Show Schools Instructor Application*." If you know an individual who you would like to recommend, get the form for them and make it available to them. Remember, knowledge and experience make the best judges and instructors. As an NGC Horticulture Instructor, it is important to grow it to know it!

## Share the Challenge!

By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Million Pollinator Chairman



PLEASE SHARE THE CHALLENGE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND REGISTER YOUR GARDENS!

Find this logo on our website [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) and it will take you to the Pollinator Partnership SHARE map where you can register your gardens. Be sure to tell them you're part of NGC! Questions? [BeckyHasse@aol.com](mailto:BeckyHasse@aol.com).

## Parliamentary Procedure: Election vs. Installation

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



We are coming upon that time of year when nominations, elections and installations will take place at club, district, state, region and national levels of garden club.

Nominations and elections have parliamentary significance. Installations do not. Installations are ceremonial and celebratory, but not strictly necessary, and have no impact on when officers take office, unless provided for in the organization's bylaws.

The organization's bylaws should be followed regarding nominations and elections. If the bylaws do not make provision for these subjects then *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (RONR), if it is the parliamentary authority, provides the fallback/default position.

The most common means of nominating candidates are nominations from the floor and by a nominating committee. When a nominating committee is used, its members should be elected, not appointed. Elections generally require a majority of the votes. If there are more than two candidates and one receives a plurality (the largest number of votes), but not a majority, balloting continues, retaining all candidates who do not voluntarily withdraw.

If there is only one candidate for an office and the bylaws do not require a ballot vote, the chair simply declares that the nominee is elected. This is election by unanimous consent or acclamation and this is the default position per the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of RONR.

Bylaws should define when officers take office or begin duties. If there is no provision for this, a candidate takes office as soon as the election becomes final. However, organizations often prefer for officers to take office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected or at some later time.

## Wildflower Conference, Kernville, California

By Robin Pokorski, Correspondent



Join us for California's Wildflower Conference in Kernville. The \$90 registration fee includes all speakers, "Wienie Roast" reception, entertainment, one lunch, one dinner and tours. Other meals will be on your own. The event starts on Monday evening, March 27, with the "Wienie Roast" reception; Tuesday will be filled with interesting and educational lectures; Tuesday evening we will enjoy after dinner entertainment; and the conference concludes Wednesday morning with a tour of a local fish hatchery on the Kern River and the Kernville Museum.

By Elaine Gunderson, NGC Scholarship Chairman



At our NGC 2016 Convention in Grand Rapids, 39 university students were announced as recipients of an NGC named scholarship.

The students' gratitude and appreciation of this tremendous honor bestowed and generosity provided by National Garden Clubs, Inc. was expressed in their written thank you notes. "It will be invaluable to me as I pursue my dream of becoming an environmental engineer." "It is motivating to know that there are organizations like NGC, Inc., that passionately support my personal and professional interests in environmental conservation. This scholarship will allow me to focus on school instead of having to worry about my finances." The students feel fortunate to receive the honor.

In 2017 up to forty-one (41) NGC Scholarships are available, each in the amount of \$4,000.

Each State is eligible to submit one candidate using the NGC Scholarship Program Application and Financial Guidelines and Forms. States with membership greater than 10,000 members may submit two candidates. All guidelines and forms are available on the NGC Website, gardenclubs.org - Click on Scholarships-SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES and SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DETAILS.

*Deadline* for the student to submit to the NGC State Scholarship Chairman is February 1, 2017.

*Deadline* for the State Scholarship Chairman to send to the NGC Scholarship Chairman the student's application is *to be received* by March 1, 2017: NGC Application Form, NGC Financial Aid Form, Complete Official Academic Transcripts, Applicant Letter with List of Activities and Letters of Recommendations *plus* signed State Scholarship Chairman Checklist of Required Application Items.

The NGC Scholarship Committee composed of the eight Region Directors evaluate, score the candidate's credentials and then rank all applicants accordingly.

It would be wonderful if every State could receive an NGC Named Scholarship. It is a realistic goal to strive for and is within reach. Students need our support.

**"Education is the Transportation to Our Future"**

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**I don't mean to brag but... I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes!**

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By Elaine Gunderson, NGC AMES Tools Liaison and Project Chairman



NGC AND AMES PARTNERSHIP  
AMES + NGC = Gardening

In 2014 NGC formed a partnership with AMES Companies, Inc. This partnership continues during 2016-2017 until September 30, 2017.

Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. Over the coming year, AMES will again grant tools up to \$5,000 (retail) for approved NGC State or local garden club community projects/programs.

To submit an application, email this chairman the what, when, why and where of the event - what the project is; what is the garden club involvement in the project; why the tools are needed; what tools are requested (including tool name and item #); where tools will be securely stored; when the project will take place; where (location) including address tools are to be sent.

The AMES Tools Project Application Form is posted on the NGC Website: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) under Ongoing Projects. Complete the Application Form, save it and then email it to me at [cggleg@gmail.com](mailto:cggleg@gmail.com) or [NGCAmesToolProject@gmail.com](mailto:NGCAmesToolProject@gmail.com)

The AMES Companies, Inc.'s tools can be found on [ames.com](http://ames.com) or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrueTemperTools>

<https://www.facebook.com/AmesTools1774>

<https://www.facebook.com/RazorBackProfessionalTools>

To allow time to approve the project and for AMES Companies, Inc. to mail the tools, this information needs to be received a month before the event.

Photos are to be taken and a short article written for possible promotion/publicity on NGC's Website, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch* plus your own state and region websites. The chairman of each would need to be contacted to obtain the guidelines for submission. Photos and articles are to be emailed. Note: Publicity Release Forms are on the NGC Website and need to be used for the garden club's protection.

The photos and short article are also to be emailed to NGC President Sandra H. Robinson, [sandyr5342@gmail.com](mailto:sandyr5342@gmail.com), AMES Director of Marketing Karen Richwine, [karen.richwine@ames.com](mailto:karen.richwine@ames.com), AMES Brand Manager Prema William [Prema.William@ames.com](mailto:Prema.William@ames.com) and this NGC AMES Project Chairman.

I am looking forward to receiving information about your project.



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Q: What happened when a Maine fisherman was late to work?

A: She lobster job.

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### ***A Hidden Jewel in Maine!***

*By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Wildlife Gardening Chairman*

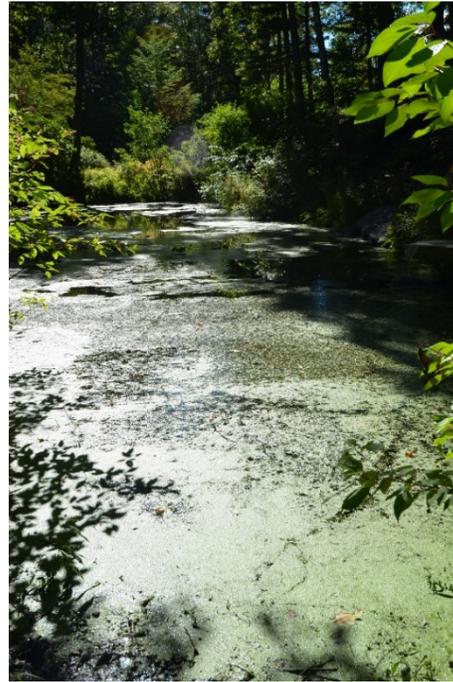
We all belong to a garden club for different reasons: community service, socializing with the best people (we all know gardeners belong to that group!), learning about gardening and much more, but one thing we all seem to have in common is that we enjoy seeing beautiful gardens. One great benefit of belonging to a nationally accredited garden club is that you're invited to conventions held all over the country where the host clubs can't wait to share with you their very favorite spots!

Our NGC Fall Board meeting was held this Fall in Portland, Maine – I've ALWAYS wanted to visit Maine! Kathleen Marty was the President of the Garden Club Federation of Maine when I was the President of Alaska – we both served back to back terms so we were together for four years – and she said I HAD to stay with her a couple of extra days when we came to Maine so she could show me around! Well...you know I just HAD to accept her gracious offer! She made me feel like royalty and shared with me her favorite spots: beautiful lighthouses, bays, lovely New England towns – and her most favorite – The Coastal Maine Botanical Garden.

I've seen lots of gardens, and I must say this holds a place among the best. Maybe part of it was because Kathleen is a delightful tour guide and wonderful friend – and maybe part of it was that she had made arrangements with a friend of hers and fellow docent at the garden to spend the afternoon just showing me around, and maybe part of it was that it was a beautiful Maine Fall day – but it was a perfect example of a little known local hotspot that shall forever hold a special place in my heart.

Of course, as your Wildlife Gardening Chairman, nothing pleases me more than a garden that is "committed to providing a healthy and beautiful environment for our human and non-human guests," where it is understood that "our beloved gardens are also food for all manner of insects, mammals, birds, fungi, bacteria and on down the food chain," and where only organic fertilizers and pest-control measures are used and integrated pest management practices are followed – meaning that they scout for problems before they become serious. Yes, indeed, this is my kind of place!

Please let me share part of this beautiful garden with you through a few of my photographs:



Native flora



Nature designs beautifully, too!



The Children's Garden (previous page) is a Magical Place.  
Garden of the Five Senses (below) where all creatures are invited to do what they do.



Garden art dances in the wind (right)



Children's Garden (left)



And perfect specimens prevail (above)



I hope you've enjoyed your short visit with me! If you ever get the chance to see it in person, please don't pass it up!

We are so fortunate to have our NGC friends to share with us the best places in our world!

## Where Oh Where is My Suitcase

By Becky Hassebroek, Correspondent

Our NGC President tries her best to visit all 50 States during her administration. When planning her visit to Alaska this last September, President Sandy Robinson had a very long flight from Kentucky and an extended layover in Seattle before the last leg of her flight up to Fairbanks. She decided to take that time in Seattle to freshen up and change clothes, so she checked her bag to Seattle. Well, you know what happens to all good plans! Her flights on the way were delayed, and when she arrived in Seattle she only had time to run to make the plane. I can just see that bag going 'round and 'round on the carousel waiting to be picked up!

We had every moment planned out for her, of course: arrival at midnight, a brunch in Fairbanks at 9:00 a.m., drive to Denali Park for the evening, early wildlife tour through the park the next morning, drive to Anchorage in the afternoon, and our Alaska convention the next morning. And no clothes except what she had on her back!

A few calls the next morning and the bag was located in Seattle. There wasn't enough time to get it to Fairbanks, so she requested it be sent to Anchorage – at least she'd have her clothes in time for the convention. In the meantime, we raided my closet for her – HA! We are like Mutt and Jeff! I had to take out summer capris for long pants for her. And, even though it was beautiful September weather, she wore multiple layers over her entire body in order to stay warm! When we arrived in Anchorage the next afternoon we stopped by the airport to get her bag – but they had known that she called from Fairbanks, so when she didn't show up to pick it up right after it got there, they decided to send it to Fairbanks! We could only laugh!

Final outcome? They sent the bag back to Anchorage – we were able to pick it up 20 minutes before the beginning of the convention. She dashed into the convention hall to change, and she made her entrance looking her normal beautiful self! No one was the wiser.

*Until Now!*

### Alaska State Flag



Alaska's State Flag was designed by Bennie Benson in 1926 at age 13. It would become the official state flag upon Alaska's adoption into the Union in 1959.



*President Sandy in Denali Park trying to mimic a caribou! It was all she could do to pick up the horns!*

### Alaska Fun Facts

Barrow, 800 miles south of the North Pole, has both the longest and shortest day. When the sun rises on May 10, it doesn't set for nearly three months. When it sets on November 18, Barrow residents do not see the sun again for nearly two months.

Giant vegetables are common in Alaska due to the extremely long days in summer. Alaska has grown a record cabbage weighing in at 94 pounds.

It is illegal to whisper in someone's ear while they are moose hunting in Alaska.

Alaska has no plants poisonous to the touch. Poison ivy and poison oak are found in all other states.

The average temperature for Fairbanks in the month of January is -1° F.

The highest temperature recorded in Alaska was 100° F in Fort Yukon in 1915.

The lowest temperature recorded in Alaska was -80° F at Prospect Creek Camp in 1971.

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman



NGC Consultants, are you planning to celebrate you during National Garden Week? See the Schools article in the last issue announcing **National Consultants Day during National Garden Week** ~ June 4-10.

We want to make NGC's Consultants more visible and vibrant, to give them a stronger purpose and a national purpose and to give them an opportunity to give back. We want Consultants to recognize their own achievement in completing an NGC school and we want them to share the information they have obtained while letting others know about NGC and their state and local garden club organizations.

See related articles in NGC's *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch*.

Things that a Consultants Council can do during National Garden Week:

1. Organize a program open to the public
2. Promote an environmental, gardening or landscape workshop
3. Collaborate with a school - either teaching some aspect of good environmental, gardening or landscape practices etc., presenting a program, or giving plants or information sheets away
4. Have a program and invite other gardening-related organizations to participate
5. Have an open garden day of members' gardens with teaching at each garden
6. Plan a work day (outdoors) at a non-profit center

Things that an individual Consultant can do during National Garden Week:

1. Volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity house (or similar non-profit) to do some outdoor cleanup/planting
2. Present an environmental, gardening or landscape program at a school or nursing home
3. Give a program/workshop at your local library
4. Invite gardening friends to your own garden and teach them about how your garden works - or does not work - problems and good environmental, gardening and landscape solutions etc.
5. Write an article on any of these NGC school subjects for your local newspaper or state publication or *WACONIAH*
6. Help a neighbor/friend who needs guidance or help in their own garden or yard.

Share your ideas and plans with us!

There is a new NGC Gardening Consultants' newsletter linked to the bottom of the NGC Gardening Study Schools page. Issues of *Newscape* are available at the bottom of the NGC Landscape Design Schools page.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOOL**

April 25-26, Course II, Normandy Park, WA  
Contact: Chris Calderon, (206) 242-1955,  
[Christine.calderon@gmail.com](mailto:Christine.calderon@gmail.com)

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

March 13-15, Course IV, Poway, CA  
Contact: Jill Coleman, (915) 684-2635,  
[bcnjill@hotmail.com](mailto:bcnjill@hotmail.com)

May 2-4, Course II, Port Angeles, WA  
Contact: Mary Lou Waitz, (360) 928-3728,  
[Marylou.94@hotmail.com](mailto:Marylou.94@hotmail.com)

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM**

May 23-24, Mt. Vernon, WA  
Contact: Billie Fitch, (360) 379-9242

June 26-27: Ontario, CA  
Chairman: Shane Looper (650) 871-0172,  
[SLooper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SLooper@sbcglobal.net)

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS**

March 4-5, Course II, Phoenix, AZ  
Contact: Joyce Girvin, (774) 217-8253,  
[joycegirvin@gmail.com](mailto:joycegirvin@gmail.com)

March 18-19, Course III, Fairbanks, AK  
Contact: Becky Hassebroek, (907) 456-3066,  
[beckyhase@aol.com](mailto:beckyhase@aol.com)

April 1-2, Course IV, Fairbanks, AK  
Contact: Becky Hassebroek, (907) 456-3066,  
[beckyhase@aol.com](mailto:beckyhase@aol.com)

**Director's Travel Schedule**

Apr 18-20	Pacific Region Convention, Seattle, Washington
May 16-21	NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia

**Calendar of Events**

Apr 18-20	Pacific Region Convention, Seattle Washington
Apr 28	National Arbor Day
May 16-21	NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia

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**Kids don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk nine feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.**

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## Moose Fun Facts



**Moose are naturally gifted swimmers. It's common to see one swim at up to 6 mph. Swimming is innate, even calves can swim.**



**Just like the moose themselves, antlers come in different sizes. The paddles are essentially a big bone, so they generally weigh quite a bit; bulls develop muscular necks to help hold up the enormous paddles. A full-grown moose's antlers can weigh about 40 pounds.**



**With huge size comes a huge appetite. Moose are browsers and will casually devour 73 pounds a day in the summer and 34 pounds in the winter. They eat an assortment of shrubs, woody plants, and aquatic vegetation; in the winter, their diet is more restricted, so they eat the buds of plants.**

## Arctic Foxes 'Grow' Their Own Gardens, Too!

*By Becky Hassebroek, On-location Correspondent*

We know that humans aren't the only gardeners in the world, but did you know that the little carnivorous Arctic Fox is responsible for beautiful oases in the arctic tundra?

They have been dubbed by scientists as "ecosystem engineers." In Northern Alaska, these 6- to 12-pound foxes prey mostly on lemmings and small game. They must take refuge in underground dens to stay warm and protect their young from the elements. The dens are re-used year after year and, beyond being beautiful, those areas around them add a boost to the Arctic environment, with the lush vegetation and greater plant diversity providing herbivores rich forage spots. It seems that their "organic waste supports almost three times as much botanical biomass in summer months as the rest of the tundra."

We who live in the "North Country" may still think that there is so much natural area around us that we don't need to "garden for wildlife." But that's not true – especially around our major metropolitan areas. Let's learn from this little animal and become "ecosystem engineers," as well!



Photograph by Daniel J. Cox, Article By Adam Popescu, as published by National Geographic. For the entire article, please go to: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/05/160520-arctic-foxes-animals-science-alaska/>

## Pacific Region States' Websites

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

**Q: Why do moose have such big antlers?**

**A: So they get better radio reception!**



Return Address:  
 WACONIAH Circulation  
 PO Box 1046  
 Naches, WA 98937-1046  
 WACONIAH

Vol. 44 No. 3  
 February 2017

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

**Denali – No Words Needed**

Photo by Becky Hassebroek



**WACONIAH Staff**

Editor Robin Pokorski [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com) 818-361-7873  
 512 Newton St, San Fernando CA 91340-2421

Ass't Editor Greg Pokorski [GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)

Circulation Terry Critchlow [tcritchlow@aol.com](mailto:tcritchlow@aol.com) 509-945-5465  
 PO Box 1046, Naches, WA 98937-1046



There are three ways a man wears his hair.  
 Parted, Un-parted, or Departed!