



# WACONIAH

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

Vol. 39 No. 4      The Director's Theme      "Looking In and Reaching Out"



*Debbie Hinchey*

*2011 – 2013 Pacific Region Director*

***2012 Pacific Region Convention July 26-28***  
***"Midnight Sun Reflections"***

Have you made your **hotel reservations** for the Pacific Region Convention yet? The convention hotel is Clarion Suites Downtown, 907-929-6461 (be sure to use our group name: Pacific Region Garden Club to get the \$180/night rate). NGC President Shirley S. Nicolai will be our special guest. Come greet Shirley and reconnect with garden club friends from around the region. Registration and information may be found on the Pacific Region website. If you need a roommate, contact Carol Norquist to see if we can match you up with someone.

## *Director's Message*

As we watch 133.5 inches of snow melt we are still expecting a green landscape by the time the Pacific Region Convention comes to Anchorage.

Thinking of green, Earth Day, and being environmentally conscientious all year, an unofficial project is to expand the information available on our website.

Lucky for all of us, Carol Norquist, our Alternate Region Director is good at (and enjoys!) making our website useful. Our goal is to have the answer to almost every question somewhere on the website.

The "members only" section has the most up to date listing of names and contact information for the Board of Directors. Since printing a directory is not only costly to print and distribute, it constantly needs updating to keep communications open. The latest edition of the Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual is there, too. For a few members without internet service, a friend can print current copies for you.

There is also a place for every committee chairmen to add information (and see their job descriptions if written in the P&P Manual.) Not only are current chairmen asked to send Carol any information that they would like to have posted, but past chairmen are encouraged to send what they have done. It is our intention to keep track of what has been done (both successes and flops) with notes (or reports) so that future chairmen do not have to start from scratch each term.

Please send suggestions and information (preferably by email) to Carol or me for inclusion.

Happy Spring!

Debbie

Theme: "Alaskans Giving...Caring"



What a glorious time of year in Alaska! Over 14 hours of sunlight now – still cold at night but beautiful sunny days! You all get to tend your plants year after year – you get to BOND – but where I live, we basically get to plant all new every year! Even though it's a lot of work in the

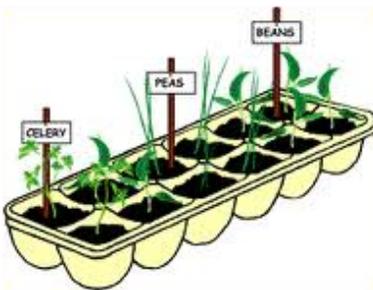
spring, and a bit expensive, there ARE some advantages – we can change entire landscapes every single year! Aren't we just as lucky as can be?

EVERYONE has been poring through their seed catalogs with visions of what their garden will look like THIS year – seeds have been ordered (some clubs have seed parties!) – and a lot of seeds have already been sowed. Our tomatoes are about 2" tall!

Alaskans start most of their seeds indoors – we have plant lights set up wherever we have empty tables or windowsills, or husbands' workbenches – we are creative! Our season is so short, and we are all SO ANXIOUS, that we start them now, put them into the greenhouse around April 15 (yes, we have to provide heat for the still cool nights), and then in the ground around May 20. We are such optimists!

Our clubs continue to inspire. Most of the yearly meetings are just about over – to make way for lots of garden tours, plant sales, and the ever-popular "weeding" parties! While our plants love the 24 hour sun, so do our weeds! Our clubs are working hard on preparations for the Pacific Region Convention in Anchorage and the pre-convention tour from Fairbanks through Denali Park. Hope to see you all there!

### Going GREEN



Cardboard egg cartons can be recycled into the perfect seed-starting flats. When it's time to plant, separate the sections with a sharp knife, and tuck each one into

the soil. The cardboard will decompose as the seedlings grow.

Theme: "Nurture Natives — and each other"



We are busy bees! Gala XXXIV in March was a success as 224 people heard a delightful speaker, Frank Acuri, a local designer in Everett. Fundraising for Headquarters House was most successful.

Landscape Design Study Course III was held in April in

Normandy Park, presented by Chinook District. Gardening Study School Course I will be May 17-18 in Pasco, presented by Blue Mountain District. Flower Show School Course I begins October 2-4 in Tacoma, presented by Capitol District Judges Council and garden clubs.

Along with other WSFGC Board members, I am attending District meetings and enjoying giving presentations on horticulture and designs. However, I must confess that I like designing best. Of course, this means that I began selecting my horticulture to use for designs to save some of my florist's expenses; has that happened to you, too?

I never knew that I would do so much traveling as a member of garden club. Am looking forward to NGC Convention in May in Buffalo, New York. Preparing for our "Wild Things" WSFGC Convention in June in Mount Vernon, Washington. We will share a lot, enjoy our awards, and have fun, too. Then on to Pacific Region Convention in July in Anchorage, Alaska. We have friends there, so will go early to enjoy them and the lovely city.

Check our webpage for ongoing details: [wagardenclubs.com](http://wagardenclubs.com) (NOT '.org'). Our clubs are growing, members are enthusiastic, we share and love what we are doing.

### Pacific Region Websites

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

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

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



Ground was broken for a new Base Chapel to be completed in the summer of 2012 at Dover Air Force Base, the nation's only stateside military mortuary. Every military casualty outside the United States - no matter what rank, branch of service, or manner of death - is transported to Dover Air Force Base and prepared for burial.

Plans are underway to create a Chapel Garden, Phase II of the Memorial Garden for the Fallen. At the CGCI Winter Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved supporting the Memorial Garden for the Fallen, Phase II, a project of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (895 members in 28 garden clubs).

**CGCI will match \$100 donations** from CGCI districts, clubs or individuals, up to a total CGCI contribution of \$5,000, in support of the Memorial Garden for the Fallen, Phase II. \$1,100 has been received to date.

Be sure to save the dates, April 21-24, 2013 when CGCI hosts the Pacific Region Convention at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel in Santa Rosa. With hotel negotiations behind us, plans are underway for a memorable event for all who attend with fun workshops, tours, etc. Tentative details will be shared at the 2012 Pacific Region Convention in Anchorage, AK. See you there!

### **Sad News**

**Lisa Stephens** passed away on November 15, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. Lisa served as Arizona state president from 1993-1995; as **Pacific Region Director from 1999-2001**; and as National Headquarters Gifts and Grants Chairman 2001-2005. Cards may be sent to her husband Bill Stephens, 1016 E. Gemini Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283.

**Mary Tebo**, passed away on March 6, 2012 at her home in Valley Center, California. Mary served as California state president from 1982-1984 and as **Pacific Region Director from 1991-1993**. Cards may be sent to her family at 1598 Mesa Verde Drive, Valley Center, CA 92082-5039.

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



The desert is blooming, desert marigolds everywhere, lemons hang heavy on the tree. Soon, summer will be upon us and our desert plants will go into survival mode, shutting down until fall. So will many of our garden clubs.

Arizona has had a very busy spring having just completed our first Flower Show School I in February. It has been years since we have had a school and we are pleased that our Judges' Council is already scheduling Flower Show School II and III starting in November of this year.

Since winter, we have added two **Blue Star** Memorial Markers to our inventory bringing our total to eleven for our state. We are thrilled that another **Blue Star** Memorial Marker is on order and two more are well into the planning stage. This is Arizona's Centennial, and the Federation has committed to restoring all existing **Blue Star** Memorials in our state that need repair. We are currently working on our first restoration in a remote and sparsely populated part of Arizona. The 4,000 residents of Fredonia are thrilled that their **Blue Star** Memorial Marker will be relocated and restored by summer.

The members of our Scottsdale Garden Club are having a FUNdraiser to benefit the Penny Pines Project. They hope to impact the reforestation of Arizona land that was devastated by the fires of 2011.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the dedication, hard work and accomplishments of all our state, Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs members. It is an honor to be part of such a vibrant group.



## ***The Dragon in the Desert Nevada Garden Clubs Celebrate Chinese New Year***

*By Vicki Yuen, Nevada Garden Clubs' President*

Nevada Garden Clubs was given an opportunity to help create a festive environment for the Chinese New Year celebration in February, at Fremont Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas. We jumped into it with both feet, creating what was widely considered the most beautiful booth in the whole mall area. The festivities took place over six evenings, with Lion Dances and other entertainment. The Fremont Street Experience is always full of colorful characters anyway, and we were able to bring a bit of class to the joint.



We had some small cacti for sale, as well as pyramids of tangerines (Asians often use this in their decor for Chinese New Year), cut flowers donated by Whole Foods, and several other types of plants. State President Vicki Yuen was called to the stage area twice, for recognition of our participation.

Of course, our main objective was to get the word out, about garden clubs. We updated and reprinted our tri-fold brochure listing contact information for all our clubs, and handed them out to all interested passersby. We also had a nice time chatting with many locals who were interested in gardening, and who may yet seek us out.

A number of members helped out on the evenings, some of them coming every night we were open. And spouses came as well, especially to help with loading up when we finished every evening. Everyone who came out had a wonderful time. It was especially great to spend time with other members, in a more relaxed situation than our meetings. And taking in all the activity on Fremont Street was a treat for all of us.



***Why do melons have fancy  
weddings?***

***Because they cantaloupe.***

## ***The Pacific Region Project***

*By Sally Bagley, President, Southern California Garden Club*

As President of the Southern California Garden Club, I informed our Board in early January that Debbie Hinchey, Pacific Region Director 2011-2013, had initiated a Reaching Out Project by asking clubs to document the time, financial commitment and variety of activities that garden clubs accomplish for their clubs and communities.

Each committee chairperson was given a clipboard and asked to track the time and money spent on their projects during the 2011-2012 year.

Initially our Plant Market Chairperson thought it would be a tedious task, but has been pleasantly surprised to discover that what has surfaced for herself and the committee is a sense of camaraderie, an appreciation of each other's skills and resources by tracking their time, expenditures, and anticipated needs, and consequently have tapped into a wealth of information and resources through sharing ideas, cupboards, and talents.

To quote Ilona, "Our committee became a team, and our increased sales and club participation in the plant market reflects the committee's enthusiasm that has spread to the whole club. I am grateful for the experience and a very happy gardener."

I believe that when all the committee reports are collected in October, we are going to be impressed by the extent of each committee's involvement.

*For more information on the Director's Project contact Gale Baullinger, Director's Project Chairman, [Gale5904@aol.com](mailto:Gale5904@aol.com)*

## ***Blue Star Marker Pictures Needed on Flickr***

*By Robin Pokorski, NGC Flickr Chair, NGC President's Project*

We have all eight Pacific Region states represented on the NGC Flickr site, now we need pictures of **Blue Star** Markers in Washington, Nevada and Hawaii. Hasn't anyone visited and taken a picture of a **Blue Star** Memorial in these states?

Send pictures to Robin Pokorski at [RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com). Then visit the site ([Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs](http://Flickr.com/NationalGardenClubs)) and find ideas for your club.

## Sharing the Wealth

By Karen Brown, Food Gardening Chairman

Who doesn't love a bargain? No matter where you live, you can probably grow something to eat, and that is a bargain! Not only do you cheat the grocery store out of a sale, but you get the enjoyment of watching every phase of the growth of your beautiful edible plants, a healthy connection with nature, and a fresh and tasty addition to your meals. That's priceless.

Many of our members, from the southern desert to the frosty north, already grow something edible. How about sharing that with your club members who may not have considered your particular favorite crop? Let's help each other learn more about edible plants, and then help the children in our circle too. My city-born grandchildren were in awe when they discovered cucumbers and carrots in my garden. Now they have a little vegetable bed at home in a spot that just supported a ground cover before.

Don't overlook fruiting trees and shrubs in the landscape design either. Whether you choose to pick those blueberries and cherries, or let the birds have their fill, the shrubs and trees they grow on add beautiful colors and forms to the overall picture.

Our Region is so diverse that I can hardly begin to suggest what you might plant, but the choices are many. And don't be put off if you have nothing more than an upper floor apartment balcony to work with. A suitable container filled with light weight potting soil will support a variety of herbs, lettuce, a tomato, some strawberry plants, all the while adding the same kind of freshness and color that any other potted plant would provide.

Tuck a few vegetables among your flowers this year. The foliage contrast will be attractive, and as you pick the veggies, the flowers will grow out to cover the vacancies.



If you always grow edibles, try a new variety. Grow a little extra to share with a friend. Intersperse a few flowers. Dig into those garden catalogs and learn even more about what grows where you live. Report what you learned at garden club.

Have more fun by gardening with edible plants this year!

## Tally-HO – "The Tally Project"

By Gale Baullinger, Director's Project Chairman



Time is moving along and perhaps some are thinking, is this project really worthwhile? Consider that the facts of time and money will show that we really do make a difference.

The numbers will give validity to our claims of being an organization that has an active effective volunteer base and we can use these numbers for our membership recruiting efforts. Then, there is the possibility of obtaining grant money because we have hard numbers to back up our request.

At the outset, I was going to record my time each day. That soon became too burdensome and I realized that looking at my calendar on a monthly basis, counting the hours for each day noting a garden club activity and making a notation at the end of the month worked quite well. It is now very easy to count the monthly hours. So, if the tedium of daily recording is getting to you, try doing it on a monthly basis.

Remember, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

## Fresh Berry Season



The key to preventing moldy berries... Wash them with vinegar. When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar,) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. You're so berry welcome!

**Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.**  
**Robyn McCarthy, President**

*Theme: " Plant Friendship, Stimulate Growth, Harvest Happiness"*

Something very exciting is happening in Idaho Falls, Idaho. It's about the Japanese Friendship Garden located on the bank of the Snake River to the south of the Broadway Bridge near the **Blue Star** Memorial By-Way Marker. In August of 2011 Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. applied for a CHC Foundation, Inc. grant of \$2,800 for the purchase of an etched granite stone called a Kanji stone depicting symbols for "Friendship" to be placed in the garden and for new plantings which will be added to more closely conform to the traditional Japanese Garden. Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. was able to apply because of its 501(c)(3) non-profit status which the CHC Foundation requires for its applicants. We received the letter on October 24, 2011 that our application for the grant was awarded.



The history of the garden goes back to 1981 when a Sister City Agreement was signed between Idaho Falls and Tokai-Mura, Japan. The two cities make a perfect match as both have nuclear research laboratories and had been exchanging scientists, engineers and technology for many years. The cities were of similar size and shared many artistic and cultural interests. It was the wish to promote a positive relationship with Japan and heal the memories of WWII and the Internment Camps which brought many Japanese to Idaho.

Since the inception, delegations have been exchanged between the two cities. In 2010 Tokai-Mura sent 15 delegates to Idaho Falls. Thirty people were scheduled to visit Tokai-Mura in 2011. Unfortunately, the March 2011 earthquake in northern Japan, 80 miles north of Tokai-Mura, caused major destruction in Tokai-Mura and the exchange of the Idaho Falls group was cancelled.

Over the years, interest in keeping up the garden was lost and the garden became an embarrassment when the Japanese delegation visited Idaho Falls. Because



of the 2011 earthquake and the Garden's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 4, 2012, interest was sparked to spruce up the garden. A volunteer steering committee comprised of Master Gardeners (including GCII SE District members), Sister City members, Master Naturalists and a landscape Architect began to revive the garden in the summer of 2011.

Great progress was made over the summer months with plants donated by volunteers and local nurseries. Over 64 volunteers, including a county jail work detail accumulated over 600 volunteer working hours in the garden. Over \$3,000 has been donated. The Kanji stone has been placed along with the construction of a Japanese Country Gate. More trees and shrubs of Japanese origin and style will be planted in the garden this spring. A dedication is scheduled for July 2, 2012 when the Japanese delegation will visit. If you happen to visit Idaho Falls in the coming months please call me (Robyn McCarthy) for a special tour of the garden.



This is a very exciting and rewarding community volunteer project. It's a chance for everyone to learn about Japanese Gardens, about our Sister City, Tokai-Mura, and to get to know other fellow citizens who are uniting to give Idaho Falls another special area along our river's edge. Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. is proud to be a part of this beautifying project.

Let's take a look at a couple of Alaska's state symbols:

**Dog** Alaskan Malamute



The largest and oldest of the Arctic sled dogs, the Alaskan Malamute possesses great strength and endurance. He is not designed to race, but rather to carry large loads over long

distances. Today, many Malamutes are family pets, but are highly athletic and still capable of enjoying sledding, weight-pulling, back-packing, jogging and swimming with their owners. The Malamute coat is thick and coarse, with a plumed tail carried over the back. The coat usually ranges in color from light gray to black or from sable to red. Face markings, including a cap on the head and a bar/mask on the face are often distinguishing features.

An American breed, the Alaskan Malamute was named after the native Inuit tribe called Mahlemuts, who settled in Alaska. They have always been used as sled dogs for heavy freighting in the Arctic. The breed is cousin to the other Arctic breeds: the Samoyed, the Siberian Husky and the American Eskimo dog.

**Flower** Wild native Forget-Me-Not (*Myosotis alpestris*)

It grows well throughout Alaska in open, rocky places high in the mountains, flowering in midsummer.



These small plants have long leaves and petite flowers borne on top of the stems. They are best planted with spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinths to easily transist from spring to summer.

**Land Mammal** Moose (*Alces alces*) –

Or as your editor calls it – the "Official **Imaginary** Land Mammal of Alaska" (being imaginary, no picture is available)

*By Elaine Gunderson, Schools Chairman*

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

May 9-11, Course II, Grants Pass, OR  
 Contact: Suzy Twist-Powell, 541-862-7090  
[sueann@banyanfinancial.com](mailto:sueann@banyanfinancial.com)

August 20-22, Course I, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA  
 Contact: Martha Hunt, 323-856-8617  
[floramelrose@gmail.com](mailto:floramelrose@gmail.com)

September 11-13, Course III, Happy Valley, OR  
 Contact: Sandra Rassi, 503-658-7505  
[hatl8e@aol.com](mailto:hatl8e@aol.com)

September 25-27, Course IV, Moscow, ID  
 Contact: Edith Cole, 509-843-1010  
[edithcole@wildblue.net](mailto:edithcole@wildblue.net)

**FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM**

June 16-17, Anchorage, AK  
 Contact: Sheila Parcel, 907-223-9371  
[sparcel@gmail.com](mailto:sparcel@gmail.com)

**GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL**

May 17-18, Course I, Pasco, WA  
 Contact: Ellen Rector, Local Chairman  
 509-967-2449, [perwa@aol.com](mailto:perwa@aol.com)

July 2-3, Course I, Encino, CA  
 Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873  
[RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)

August 30-31, Course II, Encino, CA  
 Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873  
[RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)

**Calendar of Events**

- May 16-19 NGC Convention, Buffalo, New York
- June 3-9 National **Garden** Week
- July 21-25 PR Pre-Convention Tour
- July 26-28 68<sup>th</sup> Pacific Region Convention, Anchorage, Alaska
- July 29 Anchorage GC, Annual City Garden Tour
- Aug 4-5 Anchorage GC, Flower Show
- Apr 21-24 Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, California  
 2013

**Issue Deadlines**

- August 2012** deadline 6-25-2012
- November 2012 deadline 9-25-2012
- February 2013 deadline 12-25-2012
- May 2013 deadline 3-25-2013



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**NGC Award  
 Winning Newsletter**



# *Thank you! You're our HERO – taking WACONIAH by email.*

## **Parliamentary Procedure - Conventions**

*By Greg Pokorski, Pacific Region Parliamentarian*



Board meetings and conventions are meetings held to conduct the business of our organizations on behalf of the membership. Convention season (NGC, region, state) is now upon us. All voting members of the organization – that's all board members (not just officers) and convention delegates (from our state garden clubs for NGC and Pacific Region; from individual clubs, in the case of the state organizations) – have convention responsibilities: be familiar with bylaws and standing rules that govern the organization

whose convention you are attending (NGC's bylaws and standing rules are available on its website for board members; your state bylaws and standing rules may be in your state yearbooks; Pacific Region is governed by NGC bylaws and its Policy and Procedure Manual which is posted on the Region website); know which meetings you are to attend; attend and participate in all business meetings; be informed about business items expected to come before the convention assembly (bylaws amendments, elections, etc.); take advantage of educational and informational opportunities offered; prepare an oral or written report for your constituency – in other words, report back to your state garden club or individual garden club.

Come see and be part of parliamentary procedure in action. Attend, participate and benefit from your state, regional and national conventions.

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