



# WACONIAH

WASHINGTON • ARIZONA • CALIFORNIA • OREGON • NEVADA • IDAHO • ALASKA • HAWAII

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

Vol. 42 No. 4

The Director's Theme "Expand Horizons - A Conservation Rainbow"



**2013 – 2015  
Pacific Region  
Director  
Elaine Gunderson**

*Thanks for a great  
two years, Madame  
Director!*

## ***Director's Message***

This Director attended two conventions in April. First, the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention in Yuma followed by Pacific Region Convention in Eugene, Oregon - *"From the Mountains, To the Valleys, To the Waters . . ."* - expressing the wonderful geographical diversity found in the eight Pacific Region states.

**DIRECTOR'S THEME/PROJECT:** Director's Project Chairman Sandy Ford forwarded the state reports of how local garden clubs, districts and states carried out the 2013-2015 Director's Theme, *"EXPAND HORIZONS - A CONSERVATION RAINBOW"* through its Project - *"It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! - Plants Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship."* Tears came as I read what powerful forces for good local and state garden clubs are in supporting their communities, youth and organizations of similar goals. It fills a Regional Director with pride. One of the greatest achievements that Pacific Region accomplished for the first time

in 10 years was 100% state participation in the Director's Project enabling the Region to apply for NGC Award of Excellence for Region #25.

**OTHER 2013-15 REGION ACHIEVEMENTS:** Pacific Region newsletter *WACONIAH*, which is now free electronically to all Pacific Region members, received the NGC Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit in 2013 as an effective source of information for the region.

In each issue State Presidents and chairmen contributed articles. The "Painted Lady" was selected as the Pacific Region butterfly. A successful "Rainbow" Region fundraiser was achieved. Monetary awards for all 1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth Award Winners were established. A \$1000 university scholarship was given in both 2014 and 2015. Policy and Procedures were revised to meet NGC requirements. The overall sense of unity in our very diverse region was enhanced. "Thank you" goes to all the officers, state presidents and chairmen who accomplished this for their Region.

I want to thank all our members for the support and the many kindnesses extended to me the past two years. It has been an honor to serve you. I am filled with pride over what is being accomplished by clubs and states. I applaud you and wish for your future the joy you so richly deserve.

Pacific Region will be in capable hands as Kristie Livreri of Nevada assumes the position of Director of the Region for 2015-2017. I know graciousness and support will be extended to her in the quest of her theme:

*"Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child - A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities."*

Love,

*Elaine*

**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Carol Mossholder, President**

Theme: "Arizona, Our Land-Be Proud, Productive and Preserve"



I have sent out the call letters and agendas for our Executive Committee, Board of Directors' and Annual Meetings for April 9-11 in Yuma. Tina Clark gave "The History of Yuma" at breakfast. We had a wonderful Presentation of Colors with songs and a welcome from Mayor

Douglas Nicholls.

At the AFGC President's Luncheon, Charles W. Flynn spoke on "Still Water/Green Pastures-Challenges of Restoring the Colorado River." After lunch, we had the Award Presentations.

In the evening, we had the Pacific Region Director's Reception and the AFGC Installation Banquet. After the banquet, the Arizona Flower Show Judges Council put on a design program, "Designs from Movie Titles Filmed in the Yuma Area." And last but not least the 2015-2017 AFGC President's Desert Reception.

On Saturday, April 11, Dalene Kelly and Elizabeth Moody gave a program, "Creating the Demonstration Garden" at breakfast. We then boarded buses to tour the Moody Demonstration Garden.

At lunch our AFGC Essay Winner, Lieren Hefner spoke. Following the afternoon business meeting, we had the 2015-2017 President's Board Meeting.

Yuma always puts on a wonderful convention and has a great party the first night, so we put on our western wear and boots for a good time!

I've booked my flights and hotel for the NGC 86<sup>th</sup> Convention in Louisville, Kentucky May 16-18, 2015. I will be giving my last report at these meetings. It has been an honor to represent Arizona for the past two years.

**Nevada Garden Clubs**

**Vicki Yuen, President**

Theme: "Growing in Nevada"

We are using Nevada's message space this issue to honor one of our most illustrious members. Many of you know **Linnea Miller Domz**, our first state president (1963-65), **who will be 102 years old this May**. But you might not know all the wonderful things she has accomplished for our state, and the



wonderful opportunities she has had, to serve Nevada and National Garden Clubs.

Linnea was born in Wisconsin, worked as a nurse in California, fell in love with one of her patients and married him. She and Abe Miller moved to Las Vegas, where she had a chance to pursue her love of flowers and gardening. She entered her first flower show with some flowers from her yard in a pretty little teacup, and got an Honorable Mention. Later shows were more successful for her - she went on to win the Sweepstakes Award three times.

On a vacation in Arizona, she discovered *The National Gardener* magazine. Asking about it, she realized that Nevada was missing out, so she worked to get the Nevada Garden Clubs federated. Linnea became Nevada Garden Clubs' first state president, in 1963.

Another visit to Arizona led her to learn of a Study Course being held in Tucson. Linnea entered that course, and eventually became a Flower Show School instructor. She has since instructed in Japan, Guatemala, Peru and 20 States. She was an instructor for over 18 years.

Linnea has been featured in the *Vision of Beauty* calendar, three times on the cover, and also received the Best Designer Award in 1982. She served on the NGC Board for 27 years, as Secretary, *Vision of Beauty* Chair, chair for sending packages to overseas troops, chair for replanting trees in New Orleans after a hurricane, and countless other positions which have slipped her mind.

She is still active in three clubs in Nevada. We are so proud to have her as one of our own.

**Alaska Garden Clubs  
Becky Hassebroek, President**

*Theme: "Let's Keep Our World A-Buzzing"*

**W**ow! **A**laska's finished **C**hilling **O**ut and

**N**ow **I**t's **A**lmost **H**ot!!



Some of the happiest people in the world, I believe, live in Alaska in the Springtime! Yes, May is springtime for us! Our clubs have had productive educational meetings throughout the winter. And, now ALL of them have been busy starting plants

and making plans for their community plantings and garden tours. Ketchikan is busily working on finalizing the plans for our annual convention to be held in June in their lovely city! Anchorage is gearing up for their annual Arbor Day Celebration and Lobelia Basket Workshop, along with planning their summer flower show. Fairbanks is working on their summer flower show schedule and getting ready for their annual garage sale/plant sale. And, our Wildflower Club has just held a very successful Children's Marigold Giveaway and it's almost time for their annual plant sale which is a HUGE and always very successful community event! Life in the Alaskan gardening community is good!

It is with great pride that I will introduce our new Alaska Garden Clubs President Martie Black to all of you at the upcoming Convention! She is a delightful, talented lady and will do a great job for Alaska AND the Pacific Region! I have greatly enjoyed these last four (four – can you believe it?!) years as President. You can't get rid of me, though! I'm looking forward to serving you as your Pacific Region Treasurer for Kristie's administration, and I will be serving Sandy on

her National President's Project as your NGC "Bee a **W**ildlife Action **H**ero!" Chairman. You'll be hearing more from me!



**Washington State  
Federation of Garden  
Clubs  
Brynn Tavasci,  
President**

*Theme: "Garden Club — Outside the Box"*

The garden club members of Washington State can find many opportunities for learning. Education is an important part of our mission. From NGC's diverse offering of schools to our local "homegrown" workshops and programs, we show we care by sharing our knowledge with each other and the public at large. We are proud of the schools that we sponsor and we seek opportunities to enhance our learning at every opportunity.

Many of our clubs have an emphasis on learning about the growing and appreciation of the horticulture that we enjoy in our own gardens and in the local area. Some clubs and affiliates are created just for this purpose only. Flower Gals in the Chinook District is one such affiliate. Programs and tours are focused on the cultivation of horticulture. It is an extremely popular and valuable group and the members speak highly of the experience.

Our state also enjoys many groups who are affiliated with plant societies. These plant enthusiasts appreciate the focus on one particular type of horticulture. Intense learning is the bonus. WSFGC seems to have a particular love of chrysanthemums, dahlias, iris, roses, lilacs, peonies, and dwarf conifers. Something for everyone's taste and obsession. Frankly, I think life is better with a few obsessions.

Then we have the judges councils and the designers guilds. The judges councils have a dual purpose of studying both horticulture and design, along with keeping up with the latest information concerning judging considerations. Design guilds often form with the eye to future designers and the progression of skills that are taught. Beginner groups feed into the more established groups. This enables the new members to hone their skills without feeling intimidated by the "designers who have been around." It is fun to observe the advancement with the designer's special qualities that are unique to them in technique and interest. Everyone can learn something from watching others develop.



I am proud of our state's love of learning, from the "aha" moments to the "so that's what that means," to the "whoa, you just blew my mind," simple happy revelations. It's all good, valuable, and just begs to be

shared. Go forth and share what you know and be proud of what you have learned. You just might "blow someone's mind." Then you can tell them that you learned it in garden club. Nature's best classroom.

It has been a privilege to serve WSFGC. The friends that I have made in Pacific Region and NGC have been frosting on the cake, and I do like lots of frosting on my cake.

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Rita Desilets, President**

*Theme: "Growing Together"*



The 2014 CGCI Wildflower Conference was held in Tehachapi last April. The conference featured seven speakers and a tour. Of special interest was a talk by Dr. Daniel Gluesenkamp, Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society.

Dr. Gluesenkamp described their project to identify, map locations, propagate and cryogenically preserve the seeds of rare California native plants. Partnering with the California Native Plant Society created an exciting new CGCI 5-year project called the "Rare Plant Treasure Hunt" which was adopted in June of 2014. CGCI is helping to provide the resources to train and support the volunteers' trips into the field to locate rare native plants. We are proud to be able to help discover and preserve our native plants!

**Cinco de Mayo and the Titanic**



A little known fact is that back in 1912, Hellmann's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. In fact, the Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery in Vera Cruz, Mexico, which was to be the next port of call for the great ship after its stop in New York. This would have been the largest single shipment

of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico but as we know, the great ship did not make it to New York.

The ship hit an iceberg and sank and the cargo was forever lost. The people of Mexico, who were crazy about mayonnaise and were eagerly awaiting its delivery, were disconsolate at the loss. Their anguish was so great, that they declared a National Day of Mourning which they still observe to this day. The National Day of Mourning occurs each year on May 5<sup>th</sup> and is known, of course as Sinko de Mayo.

**Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**  
**Peggy Olin, President**

*Theme: "Growing for the Future, Planting in Special Places"*



A new and exciting OSFGC Beautification Project started as an idea presented at our Fall Board Meeting. With the official launching date of April 22, Earth Day, a lot of planning has gone into creating a "A Tapestry of Color across Oregon." This is in the honor of 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of Lady Bird Johnson's Beautification Act.

We have met with the Department of Transportation in Salem and key staff to iron out the critical parts and pave the way for all garden clubs to participate. Every OSFGC garden club has received a packet of wildflower seeds. These seeds come from an Oregon Roadside Council grant, Silverton Oregon Seed Company. As part of this new OSFGC Wildflower project two garden clubs in the Pioneer District, have started planting.

With the cooperation of the postmaster, members of the Hillsboro Garden Club converged on Hillsboro Post Office with shovels and gardening tools and began the beautification project.

St. Helens Garden Club is creating several plantings in the St. Helens, Columbia City area of Oregon. The first planting is going to be our new Veteran's Park and Blue Star Memorial Marker in Columbia City. This will actually be two areas, one on either side of the road leading to the park. These smaller plantings are approximately 200 square feet and will be visible from US Highway 30 both north- and southbound.

The second planting will be on Highway 30 in St. Helens where a one-way street ends at the highway. This site will be planted in front of a flagpole and small billboard. Another planting in St. Helens will be done by the Builders Club at the Middle School on Earth Day. Located along the driveway into the school, it will be a visible location that compliments the new nature area the students have created on the property.

The fourth planting we hope to have at the "Welcome" sign alongside US 30 northbound. With these visible plantings, we hope create just one part

of the larger "Border to Border-Tapestry of Color across Oregon."

A press release was given to the Oregon Department of Transportation and The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs in April, 2015.

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**Q: What do you call it when worms take over the world?**

**A: Global Worming  
Garden Clubs of Idaho  
Janet Petersen, President**

*Theme: "We All Live Downstream. Choices Matter. Go Organic."*



Happy Spring to everyone. Idaho's garden clubs are off to a great start for the 2015 year. We are all excited about what we are going to plant and what is new this year in horticulture. Garden Clubs of Idaho's theme is "We All Live Downstream. Choices Matter. Go Organic." We will be

focusing on growing our gardens and yards in an organic way.

GCII is encouraging all our garden clubs to participate in the education of our schoolchildren. Almost every club is working with one or more schools, helping them to learn how to grow a garden. It is the rage for schools to have produce and herb gardens on site. GCII clubs are working to help in the education of planting and maintenance of these gardens. GCII clubs are: teaching a six-week class on gardening, working with propagation of plants for plant sales at schools. We are advising FFA judging, Flower Arranging classes, making Native Bee Hotels in the classroom, planting hundreds of sunflowers, handing out educational material on Arbor Day, teaching 4-H classes, working with the Boys and Girls Clubs and much more. GCII Clubs tend and care for at least 40 public gardens throughout our state.

All GCII clubs participated in Elaine Gunderson's Pacific Region Special Project "*Expanding Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow*" and NGC President's Linda Nelson's "*Making World of Difference – Choices*

*Matter.*" Members put in hundreds of hours educating our communities and ourselves about protecting our wonderful planet. I am so proud of what a few people with dedication and desire can accomplish.

GCII's State Convention is being held in McCall, Idaho June 14-17, 2015. The theme is "*Our Rivers, Lakes and Streams – The Ribbon that Connects Us.*" We will have an evening historical cruise on McCall Lake and GCII incoming officers will be installed. There will be a reception hosted by the Merry Tillers Garden Club of Boise honoring the newly installed state officers. Dave Crawford from the United States Forest Service will speak on water conservation. It will be a fun and educational meeting.



**Think ORGANIC  
This Year!**

By Karen Brown,  
Organic Gardening  
Chairman:

Just a reminder, as you start gardening in earnest, to move gently into a more

organic approach this year. You don't have to abandon all of the materials you may normally use, but evaluate before you buy.

Look for gardening practices that compliment nature, rather than fighting it. There may be a natural method to control the weeds, rather than a chemical. Build healthy soil with organic amendments, and the bugs may not need your attention.

Choose to grow and love the plants that are well adapted to the climate you live in, rather than depending on artificial means to keep a favorite alive. One way to achieve a healthy garden in your own climate area and still be able to grow unusual or interesting plants besides the natives is to learn about what grows well in similar conditions in other parts of the world.

In Oregon, where I live, our climate is similar to that in the British Isles, which allows us to choose some of the same plants that are in English gardens. In drier states and further south, perhaps some African plants might be easy yet bring color and joy to your garden.

Organic gardening doesn't have to be rigid and strict or frightening. Think of it as working with nature rather than using chemical means to control the natural world. You will enjoy gardening more, and your garden will show it, if you become an "organic gardener."

I HATE WHEN  
I THINK I'M BUYING  
ORGANIC VEGETABLES  
AND WHEN I GET HOME  
I DISCOVER  
THEY'RE JUST  
REGULAR DONUTS

\*\*\*\*\*

**Growing your food is like printing  
your own money.**

Ron Finley

***Grow Your Own Salad Easily***

*By Char Mutschler*



Here's a simple, weed-free way to grow lettuce, spinach and even radishes.

Take a 2-cubic feet bag of potting soil, rumple it around quite a bit to loosen the soil, poke quite a few holes in the back side for drainage, then lay the bag on a smooth surface that will allow drainage and not get too hot, and cut out the top, leaving about a 4" or 5" border all around.

Lightly rake through the soil to even it out, then evenly sprinkle the seeds around. I put my salad green seeds in an old spice bottle with large shaker holes, added some cornmeal, shook it all up to mix well and sprinkled them out of it. I put the cornmeal in so I could see that I had covered the soil evenly. If planting radish or spinach seeds, mark lines the depth recommended on the seed pack, plant the seeds and cover appropriately. For salad greens I

sprinkled a light covering of soil over the cornmeal and seeds and then spray-misted to water them in.

I put my bags on metal sawhorses and grates to make them waist level. This kept the bags off the hot concrete and I didn't have to bend over when cutting my salad. When harvesting, just use a pair of scissors and cut what you need - don't pull the plants out. Same goes for spinach - they will grow back almost magically overnight, and you can't tell where you cut.



Spray mist the seeds and plantings at first when watering, until they are established, then you can water more vigorously as the plants mature. You will probably need to water more often, since the depth of the bags are not as deep as a regular in-ground garden. I just kept mine moist, but not sopping wet.

***National Garden Week – June 7 – 13, 2015***

*By Shirley Schmidt, National Garden Week Chairman*

Let's encourage pride in our communities and cooperation among groups interested in educating the general public on the importance of general gardening information. The more involved in the community we can be, the more awareness we can generate for National Garden Clubs and everything we do.

First: from the NGC website, download the National Garden Week Poster and Proclamation. Having requested to make a public announcement, take it to your city and/or county commissioners meeting and read it aloud – just as this chairman has done on several occasions prior to National Garden Week.

Be sure to publicize the event/s and maximize visibility of National Garden Clubs, and the benefits of being a member. Your local news outlets love sharing these good deeds with your community.

Think about doing something – Plan an event related to NGC's projects:

- Plant it Pink
- Rain Gardens
- SAGE and ROSES
- Youth Programs – field trip to a local blueberry
- Penny Pines
- Recycling
- Water Projects

farm to tour, to pick a pint of berries and to enjoy a picnic.

Plant a serenity garden at a nursing and rehabilitation facility.

Prepare bud vases for patients at a VA center.

Create large arrangements for the front desk, atrium, chapel and library.

Plant your state flower at a veteran's facility, or other local community location (check first for permission).

Highlight our own gardens by planting red petunias to let other people know that we support gardens.

Clean-up and plant new horticulture at local Blue Star Marker Memorials.

Plan a "Secret" garden tour: advance tickets (\$10-12); gather at a local garden to distribute maps of the other gardens that may be toured.

How about a "Lunch and Learn" event at a community center. It may begin with vendors and growers offering gardening supplies and plants. Then a speaker will share information on a particular topic. End the event with drawings for door and/or raffle prizes will make this a memorable occasion.

### **Roadside Beautification and Invasives**

*By Verna Pratt, Roadside Beautification Chairman*



Spring has finally arrived after a strange and sometimes harsh winter for some parts of the country. It seemed like our weather was turned upside down. Mother Nature could still play a trick or two on some of us, however, as years past have proven.

Despite an abundance of snow, some areas will still be facing droughts, making beautification more difficult. After all, water is a critical part of good plant growth. It is definitely time to consider more drought-resistant roadside landscaping. Unfortunately this can easily lead to invasive plants as many of them thrive on poor conditions. This is how many invasives have inadvertently been introduced.

Nurseries in the Southwest, out of necessity, have grown drought-resistant plants and encouraged using

them for many years. The areas needing this help have grown immensely and even if we don't need it, we should encourage conserving all of our resources. Hopefully we can employ good methods of doing this before it becomes absolutely necessary. Let's all put on our thinking caps and take a step forward before it becomes essential. Let's learn more about saving our resources and help teach and encourage others to do the same. With the proper approach, our roadsides can continue to be attractive with as little upkeep and resources as possible.



### **GOING GREEN**

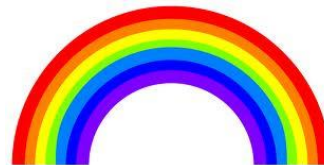
*Excerpts from  
www.futurefriendly.com*

A leaky toilet may go unnoticed, as will the extra **CA\$H** absorbed by your **water** bill. To check for leaks, add enough food coloring to your toilet tank to really brighten the

**water**. After 30 minutes, look to see if any of the dye has leaked into the bowl.

### **Pacific Region Director's Project**

*By Sandra Ford, Director's  
Project Chairman*



**"It's Our World! It's  
our Responsibility!"**

**Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship"** was the 2013-15 Pacific Region Project. All eight states reported many activities that promoted education to their members and the general public regarding protection and conservation of our natural resources – **air, water, forest, land, plants and wildlife.**

Our fundraiser of selling T-shirts was so successful, that our region director turned it into a contest with cash dividends going to three of our states. The eight state presidents or their chairman collected all the reports from the clubs and reported it to this region chairman.

A judging committee was selected and the three winners were announced at the convention in Eugene, Oregon.

### **Attracting Birds is as Easy as 1-2-3**

*By Orvalita Hopkins, Bird Chairman*



Attracting birds to your garden is as easy as 1-2-3.

Mature trees and shrubs provide shelter, so leave a bit of litter on the ground to build a nest or two. Providing a reusable bird house is nice, but only if you clean it out once a year.

In your garden, plant trees, bushes, shrubs and flowering plants that produce seeds they love to eat. Sunflowers and plants that produce berries are the best attractions.

Provide fresh clean water, birds relish bathing and drinking. Keep your birdbath clean and healthy. It's fun to watch the birds in a shallow fountain on a sunny morning.

You don't need to buy bird food, but if you do, then keep the feeders clean and get the best bird seed your money can buy.

After all, wild birds enjoy foraging for food in your garden. So plant your garden with fruits, veggies and flowers, the birds will come.

### **The Benefits of Kale**

*By Jan Billiam, Stewardship – Plants Chairman*

My daughter introduced me to the benefits of the

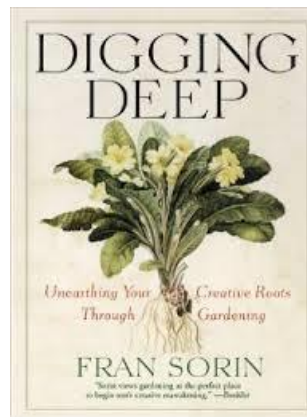


kale plant several years ago, and even though I am not a vegetable gardener, I decided to try one in my perennial garden in Sedona, Arizona. This one plant has grown and provided plentiful kale leaves each year, producing many crops year round for our culinary use. I have since learned that kale is rich in beta carotene, vitamins K and C, as well as rich in calcium. We now use it in soups, salads, sautéed as sides and also as wonderfully healthy kale chips! My twin granddaughters love this as a daily snack! My daughter's recipe for kale chips is as follows: Wash and dry kale leaves thoroughly and break into bite size pieces. Place in a bowl and toss with a minimal amount of olive oil to coat leaves. Season with salt or other desired seasonings, but she recommends nutritional yeast to add extra value to the chips. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for about 45 minute at a low oven temperature of 280 degrees. Curly kale is recommended for the chips. Apparently, ornamental kale is as edible as any other variety.

An added bonus this year, has been the beautiful yellow blooms on our kale plant that is now over three feet tall! I encourage gardeners to try kale in the garden, not only for the nutritional value, but also the green foliage and the beautiful yellow spring flowers!

### **Book Review**

*By Linda Larson, Book Review Chairman*



10th Anniversary edition of **Digging Deep, Unearthing Your Creative Roots Through Gardening** by Fran Sorin

Author Fran Sorin offers a clear song of hope in an era of earnest gardening. This book offers garden guidance, motivation and inspiration to reframe your definition

of gardening. So many gardeners are digging in their plants with a fear of doom and food apocalypse in their hearts. If a gardener isn't connected to the beauty and randomness of nature in gardening many will give up when the birds devour the first crop. In these pages find you find a way to weave the everyday joy a garden offers as the essential work is done. You will know flowers are essential to feed the soul. This book will coach beginning gardeners, encourage the discouraged and inspire the devoted. If you are lucky enough to have a small patch of earth to tend this book will speak to your heart and help you see you are indeed lucky enough.



## Judging Comments

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman



Do Judges take the time to refresh in the handbook before a judging assignment, especially on what they will be judging? As a conscientious judge, it is important to do the best job possible for the exhibitor. Come prepared. This is why it is so important for

schedules to be in the hands of those judging at least a month before the show. Sending out a tentative schedule electronically for exhibitors and judges to preview is fine, but a hard copy of the final version **MUST** be made available to judges.

Judges must select their comments carefully on the entry tag in order to more clearly explain the merits and/or faults of an exhibit. The positive comment should always be stated first before the unfavorable comment. A positive comment is NOT "Thanks for bringing in." It should refer directly to the exhibit.

When judging Designs, each Principle of Design is applied to those Elements of Design present or missing

from the design. The comment on the card should be appropriate and be related to the principles of design. Do not comment on how you would remake the exhibitor's design. Check the conformances in the schedule for design type, fresh/and or dried plant material allowed, space allowed and any other conformances. Again, **the Design Scale of Points** was revised, effective January 2015.

## What's the Buzz at the Airport?

By Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman



Airports are getting into the apiary business. A popular trend among airports seems to be installing apiaries, odd as it may seem to some. The first to do so was Hamburg Airport in Germany in 1999, quickly followed by numerous other airports in Germany.

Inspired by their success, other countries followed like Malmo Airport in Sweden, Copenhagen, and Chicago's O'Hare, Seattle-Tacoma International and Lambert-St. Louis International in the USA.

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport houses beehives on 400 square feet of airport property just north of a runway. The abundance of Dutch clover and the lack of pesticides are big draws to both the beekeeper and the bees. It's considered a great opportunity to assist in a green initiative that's positive for the environment and the community.

Beehives now sit on land owned by Chicago O'Hare International Airport and produce about 1,000 gallons of honey each year. Their honey is used in such beauty products as lip balm, moisturizer and bath lotion that are sold at Hudson News stores and other locations in O'Hare and Midway airports.

Flight Path, a joint venture with the Port of Seattle and Common Acre, a local agriculture nonprofit group, has established honey bee colonies at the Seattle – Tacoma International Airport. What really sets the Sea-Tac pollinator initiative apart from other airport apiaries is that this is a full-fledged conservation effort. They are actually trying to selectively breed more genetically vigorous bees that are adapted to the regional Pacific Northwest area. In the past, Seattle apiaries have had to import California queen bees that do not survive well in the Pacific Northwest winters.

The project takes advantage of unused open space at Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport, transforming the south end into a native bee habitat. The goal is to support healthy pollinator populations and breed bees that are better at surviving the local climate. They are working with the airport to install 50 acres of native wildflower meadows. Their long term goal is to raise healthy local bees, create healthy habitat, support native bee populations, and educate and inspire tens of thousands of people who travel through the airport.

But is it a good idea to keep bees at airports? They seem to like it and mind little of the noise. According to some beekeepers, an airport's green space is the perfect place to control the breeding area for building a better bee. It's a balancing act of introducing the bees to other, heartier species, like wild bees and



feral bees. These bees are members of survival colonies that are already acclimated to airport life.

With colony collapse disorder threatening the health and stability of the honeybee, there's an urgent call for creative conservation solutions that support healthy habitats for the bee population.

Bees thrive in urban environments where there's flower diversity and no pesticides. At the same time, urban spaces are crowded and bees are left with little room to mass a proper hive. That's where airports come in as they have plenty of space. Next time you're down the airport concourse to your gate, stop for a second and look outside. You might be in for a surprise!



### ***What Do All the Pacific Region States Have in Common?***

*By Jane Buck, Invasive Plants Chairman*

The Pacific Region is made up of states from Alaska down the North American west coast to California. Inland we have Arizona, Nevada and Idaho plus, across the Pacific ocean, Hawaii. What invasive plant do all these states have in common?

If you guessed the Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) from the sunflower family (*Asteraceae*) you would be correct! Canada thistle is also known by a number of other common names including Californian thistle, Canadian thistle, creeping thistle, perennial thistle, prickly thistle, corn thistle and field thistle.



It is native to Europe and was introduced in the United States in the 1600s. In its native habitat the standard English name is creeping thistle. So if it isn't native to Canada, why does it carry the name Canada thistle?! One story has it that creeping thistle contaminated a farm seed shipment from Europe which reached the United States through Canada. Henceforth the name Canada thistle, despite the fact it is not native to Canada.



Generally speaking, an invasive plant crowds out native species as it spreads, potentially invading crop lands at great cost or threatening ecosystems by destroying native plant habitats. Canada thistle, an aggressive perennial broadleaf plant, is a state-listed noxious weed in all of the Pacific Region states. It can be found along creek banks, forest edges, rangeland, waterway banks, hillsides, overgrazed pastures, gardens, tilled fields, roadsides, and other open, disturbed sites or abandoned sites.

Canada thistle is a creeping perennial that reproduces from laterally spreading rhizomes, but also from seed. The purple-pink flowered, prickly-leaf plant spreads by wind-blown seeds that can remain viable for many years. The extensive root system consists of a network of vertical and creeping horizontal roots. Most roots occur in the top 1½ feet of the soil, however vertical roots may commonly extend to 6½ to almost 10 feet deep. Whatever you do, don't rototill the plants! Rototilling breaks up the roots, but from these pieces may spring many more plants. It is difficult to control Canada thistle because its extensive root system allows it to recover from control attempts.

Combination control methods are the best form of Canada thistle management. Canada thistle can recover from almost any stress thrust upon it because of root nutrient stores. Different types of control are cultural control (grasses and alfalfa which compete effectively with the thistle), chemical (herbicides), mechanical (mowing) and biological (*Ceutorhynchus litura*-the stem-mining weevil). Used alone these methods are seldom effective against the Canada thistle, but a sound management plan



implemented over several years can be successful in reducing Canada thistle populations. Fire is not effective – it will stimulate this species. Herbicides are most effective with two applications per season: in spring, just before flowering, and in fall on new growth after mowing (treat all stems).

Even a weed can have its good points. It is a seed food for goldfinches and linnets and other finches. Canada thistle foliage is used as a food by over 20 species of *lepidoptera*, including the painted lady butterfly.

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6. Invasive.org permission for photos
7. Invasive plant drawing by Gina Bowen

Picture credit:

Top: Canada thistle flowers - *Cirsium arvense* - Chris Evans, University of Georgia, [Invasive.org](http://Invasive.org).  
 Bottom: Canada thistle foliage - *Cirsium arvense* - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of CT, [Invasive.org](http://Invasive.org).

***The Plight of Whitebark Pines – Pinus albicaulis***

By Robyn McCarthy, Forest Chairman

If you have had experience skiing or hiking in the high mountains of the northern Rockies, you have probably seen the whitebark pines. In a brutal environment at high altitude they take on a dwarfed form with twisted branches – called krummholz.



These incredible trees live in an environment where the drying wind is almost constant and in any month of the year a blizzard can occur. At 50 – 70 years old



these pines reach maturity and produce egg-shaped densely scaled cones. The cones rarely open and seed dispersal depends on the Clark's Nutcracker to pry open the

whitebark cones. These birds pack the fat-laden seeds into a special pouch beneath their tongues and fly off to bury them in seed caches. Some forgotten seeds will grow into baby trees. The cones are also a favorite food of the grizzly bear. The high fat content of the pine's seeds help the grizzly get through winter hibernation to give birth to healthy cubs.

Many living things depend on the whitebark pine. Even people benefit because the trees slow spring runoff from the mountain slopes and contribute to water supply in the valleys below. Right now the whitebark pine forests are endangered as they contain more dead trees than living ones.

Three problems are combining to imperil this species.

Blister rust, a fungus imported to western North America in 1910 kills young whitebark pines, weakens mature trees



and reduces cone productions. Animals that rely on the high-calorie seeds find less food each year. Mountain pine beetles lay eggs under the tree's bark. The beetle larvae make feeding tunnels that block the flow of water and nutrients from the roots to the needles which slowly starves the trees. Fires have increased in number and killed mature trees as climate change lengthens summers and drought seems to be the norm.

Thankfully, forest management is working to restore the whitebark pine. Cones are being harvested from rust-resistant trees, which will produce rust-resistant seed cones in 50 years. Beetle-repelling pheromone is being placed on the pines to save the trees from attack. Fire-burned areas are often used by Clark's Nutcrackers for their seed caches.



Only our children and/or grandchildren will know how successful these efforts will be in 50 years when they visit a high ridge and look for the whitebark pine.

### ***Kentucky Tri-Refresher***

*By Greg Pokorski, NGC ES, GS, LD Schools Coordinator*



A **Tri-Refresher** is being held at the NGC Convention in Louisville. Note if you are participating that the initial (corrected since then)

Multiple Refresher Consultant Registration Form (on the NGC website) did not list the number of hours of instruction required to receive refresher credit.

**Multiple Refreshers at NGC Conventions require seven hours of instruction. Consultants must attend a combination of tours and seminars to account for at least seven hours of education credit.** (All other Multiple Refreshers and single-subject Refreshers require eight hours of instruction. Refreshing at a School Course requires ten hours of instruction.)

Convention Multiple Refreshers are a reward in several areas – they encourage attendance at conventions and keeping credentials current, with hours of instruction reduced by taking into consideration all the convention has to offer, including additional “refreshing moments” provided by meal programs and meetings.

### ***Spring, Glorious Spring***

*By Toni Coon, Herb/Vegetable Gardening Chairman*



Spring, oh glorious Spring, all joys are mine. With high hopes I sow seeds, transplant and prune. I feed the soil and delight in early blooms. Abundant energy sustains me all day long. Wherever my gaze falls I



find one more thing to prune and improve. The to-do list instead of getting shorter seems to grow while I add more to it. I read the seed packets planting instructions repeatedly, then still unsure, I lack the confidence how to accomplish tasks efficiently. If only I had a coach by my side. What is also annoying is the ever revolving learning curve. The geranium cuttings I gathered last fall and nursed through the winter I joyfully transplanted into larger containers. What happened next? I overwatered them! They are so sad looking just now. For months I have been watching them sprout now I nearly killed them. Hopefully I can save them from the compost pile. Running a garden and a mini greenhouse can get stressful. If I don't make too many mistakes like this I shall forgive myself. I shall add this experience to the many lessons learned. Every experienced gardener can relate to my moans.

It is time to rejoice in the nature's beauty. Most native shrubs tolerate my neglect. As a matter of fact, those natives prefer my lack of attention, they like the heat and drought. These shrubs shelter the quails and rabbits. Lovely, how a nearby nesting hummingbird greets me as I visit the other side of the yard. A pair of house finches are desperately attempting to build a nest in an unacceptable location. They sit on the NO NESTING HERE sign I erected.

Heck, what other experience is lurking in the garden? Two months ago I was puttering in the iris patch when I spotted a strange poop nearby. Puzzling over these unknown remains of a visitor I bagged it for the wildlife biologist. Clearly, by process of elimination of dog, coyote, javelina - turns out this scat is from a mountain lion! in my front yard! From now on I wish for the company of a body guard or a gardening friend. We shall chatter and laugh as we gather the season's produce: kale, broccoli, sorrel, green onions, lettuce, leek and spinach. Other spring produce in the ground are yellow and red onions, garlic, peas, fava beans, artichokes and herbs. In the greenhouse I planted the first tomato seeds. I shall pay close attention to the crucial details to truly experience the Joy of Spring.



***Using Shade & Water to Create that***

## Special Garden Space

*By Alexis Slafer, ASLA, CLARB – First run in The National Gardener, Spring 2015 but your editor thought you shouldn't miss this interesting article!*

Creating a special landscape can lift your spirits as you walk through a garden, sit on a patio, or see it through a window. The aesthetic and functional features in a landscape are key attractions that enhance that enjoyment. A good design can provide a sense of security, recreation and comfort, while creating an interesting, fun, and beautiful space to



enjoy.

A well-designed garden doesn't happen by itself; it must be planned in detail, before a single plant is purchased or brick is laid. Special features, including plants, are really the "icing on the cake." Have you brought a plant home from the nursery or plant sale and then struggled to find the right spot to plant it? That is common gardener behavior and if that describes you: embrace it and enjoy finding a treasured plant or experimenting with a new introduction.

Good planning in the beginning will enable you to spend more time enjoying that special space, instead of becoming a slave to its maintenance. The first step towards a well-designed garden is to create the base and framework. When that is complete you are ready to enhance the design. When this planning is put on paper it is called a master plan. A master plan is developed through the "design process" -- a step-by-



step method that considers environmental conditions, your desires, along with the elements and principles of design. The goal of a well-designed master plan is to organize the natural and man-made features into an aesthetically pleasing, functional, and environmentally sustainable landscape.

Celebrating a sense of place by creating a garden that is unique to your life-style, environment, and budget is key to accomplishing these goals. The aim is to have the aesthetics seamlessly tie the indoors to the outdoors and create a garden that accommodates your lifestyle.

Shade and water are two components of a residential garden. Shade can create an outdoor space for reading, dining, or meditation. Shade can enhance the ambiance of a patio for entertaining with an outdoor kitchen, conversation area, or just a table and chairs.

The environment changes throughout the year as the sun's path changes, impacting the shade created in the garden. Consider this when determining where to sit while enjoying a morning cup of coffee or watching the evening sunset. Shade will change dramatically during the day and throughout the year. For example, when deciduous trees are dormant, the area beneath them receives full sun, but when the trees leaf out, that same area may be in full shade.



Shade can be created by man-made structures or naturally by plant materials. Overheads and leafy canopies cast shade to make gardens livable during hot summer months and an outdoor dining area surrounded with shade trees provides an inviting

environment created by the dappled shade. Man-made elements include such things as arbors, trellises, gazebos, specialty furniture, woven shade-cloth and/or a shade sail. Even small spaces can benefit from the focus created by a small arbor or gazebo. Walk the garden at different times of the day, seasons and weather conditions to find the perfect point to locate a gazebo or arbor.



Shade can vary dramatically during the day and throughout the year. It is important to choose plants that are suited for shade conditions. To save you time, effort, and money, before purchasing any plants, determine the sun and shade areas of your garden. Special interest can be created in a shade garden by including plants with variegated leaves, blue or silver leaves, white flowers, and various plant sizes & textures.



Water features help a garden come alive. Water in motion is enchanting and brings brightness and music into the garden as it spills gently, gurgles, or tumbles. A fountain or small pool can be a mesmerizing focal point that is pleasant to both the eyes and ears. Splashing water, seeing golden fish, or gazing at the petals of a delicate water lily can provide a cool and soothing garden retreat. Consider how pleasant a reflecting pool would be as it reflects the sky and clouds or the branches of a tree, presenting an ever-changing picture.

Historical garden design philosophies continue to be embraced, as water features become beautiful and peaceful additions to gardens today. A pleasing water feature can be as simple as a wall-mounted fountain that trickles water into a basin or as elaborate as a stream with bridges and waterfalls. Or, perhaps it is a tiered fountain in a patio or a pool so natural it seems like it has always been there.



A little water in a garden can go a long way. Where space is limited consider adding a wall fountain or a birdbath. A small water feature, with mosquito fish and plants, can be created in an attractive container with a re-circulating pump. A water feature should be placed where it can be easily seen and enjoyed. Before selecting a water feature, consider its location, purpose, maintenance, and feasibility. Environmental factors to consider are high winds, dust, sun, and temperature extremes. Also consider the purpose: is it for recreation, to modify the environment, create a focal point, become an organizing element of the garden, or enhance views.

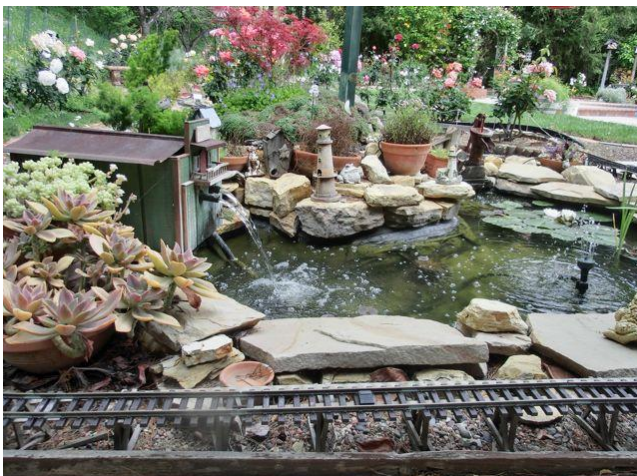
Residential design addresses both public and private landscape. Public design concerns the landscapes visible from the street, while private landscapes are the back yard or enclosed areas. A water feature added to the public landscape also enriches the community and enhances the neighborhood.

The selection of a water feature is based on personal preference and the layout of the garden. Whether it is a pond or fountain, function or aesthetic, visual or habitat, formal or informal – water adds richness to your special space and should be placed where it can be easily seen and enjoyed. Water plants add to that enjoyment, as do koi and other fish (be sure to provide protection from predators). Fountains and waterfalls bring moving water into the



garden. Splashing water enlivens a garden and can mask intrusive noises, while bubbling water cascading down a boulder or millstone provides soothing sounds.

Water features are as individual as the gardeners who create them.



WACONIAH

Don't be afraid to play and be inventive, there is no single correct way to create a successful landscape with shade or water. The path that you take to reach to your goal is as varied as your imagination.

### ***Policy and Procedure Guidelines***

*By Jeanette Pruin, P&P Chairman  
Committee: Sandra Ford, Beverly Brune, Greg Pokorski*

The duty of this committee is to see that Pacific Region's *Policy and Procedure Guidelines* is kept current and that it reflects NGC policies.

*P&P* revisions have recently been made to meet with new NGC financial requirements. Since these were primarily procedure changes the Executive Committee has approved them and the up-to-date *P&P* is available to all on the Pacific Region website.

The committee also maintains the *Convention Guidelines*. At the Oregon convention we will meet and make the guideline revisions necessary to meet NGC requirements. The updated *Convention Guidelines* will be available on the website.



*Ed Note: Just a pretty picture that your editor liked because there isn't a picture that would go with the P&P article.*

\*\*\*\*\*

"Last night we had three small zucchini for dinner that were grown within fifty feet of our back door.



I estimate they cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$371.49 each. "

- Andy Rooney



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

### ***What Did We Achieve This Term?***

*By Jeanette Pruin, Historian*



It is the historian's job to submit a summary of an administration to the NGC Historian by March 31 in the odd-numbered year. This has been done. Part of the summary is included below. We can definitely be proud of our region's accomplishments.

#### **Achievements: Major Goals, Projects and Results**

- 100% state participation in the Director's Unified Project "It's Our World! – Our Responsibility."
- Pacific Region newsletter *WACONIAH* is now free electronically to all Pacific Region members.
- Policy and Procedure was revised to meet NGC requirements.
- The "painted lady" was selected as the Pacific Region butterfly.
- A successful "Rainbow" fundraiser (caps, t-shirts and mugs)

#### **Activity that gave our region the most pride**

- Monetary awards for all 1<sup>st</sup> Place youth award winners.
- \$1000 university scholarships were given in both 2014 and 2015.
- Increased use of *WACONIAH* and the website as sources of information for the region
- The overall sense of unity in our diverse region.
- Pacific Region newsletter *WACONIAH* received a Tommy Donnan Certificate of Merit.

### ***NGC Conservation Pledge***

*Adopted May 19, 1994*

### ***2014 Pacific Region Convention Final Report***

*By Sandy Ford, 2014 Convention Chairman*

The 70<sup>th</sup>/71<sup>st</sup> Pacific Region Convention was held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort on Lake Coeur d'Alene July 1-3, 2014. Less than one month after signing the hotel contract, I lost my co-chairman Dotty Hurd. I was ready to throw in the towel, but my husband Russ said "WE can do it!"

Many thanks to Robyn McCarthy for taking Dotty's place, and the Garden Clubs of Idaho members for all the donated sales table and silent auction items we received and sold. Several Pacific Region members stepped up and made this a successful convention, especially our first evening entertainment and Robin Pokorski for the props she made before each song was sung.

The three-day pre-convention tour to Glacier National Park was enjoyed by the 20 members who attended and added \$1,000 to our Ways and Means fund.

Jon Throne from Isaaquah, Washington presented a humorous, unique and colorful design program. Our talented auctioneer, Tory Bennett, sold all his designs, and brought in almost enough money to cover the expense of the program.

The BeeGAP program presented by Elsie Olesen was informative and several people, even non-garden club people are now raising Mason Bees.

Linda Larson from Arizona showed us how important trees are with her beautiful photography. It left you with a new way to appreciate the beauty and purpose of trees.

The highlight of the convention was the resort itself and the boat cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene ending with a tour of the resort owner's beautiful garden not open to the general public. One hundred and twelve of the 118 people registered took the tour. Many people sent thank you notes to Elmer Hurd for making the boat rental possible and to the resort owner himself for letting us wander through his gardens.

It was a gamble to hold a convention 400 miles away from the chairman with no garden clubs in Coeur d'Alene, but it paid off with \$4,631.76 in the Pacific Region treasury.

Thanks to Maxine Smolowitz, Registrar and Idaho's state treasurer, and Gale Baullinger, Pacific Region



Treasurer for hanging in there with all the changes that had to be made at this convention.

We thank our NGC President Linda Nelson for attending and our Region Director Elaine Gunderson for running a smooth convention and her cooperation to every detail of putting on a convention.

We especially want to thank my family and everyone who attended this convention.

### ***A Harvest with Great Benefits***

*By Lynn Chiotti, Rain Gardens Chairman*

Incoming Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri recently asked me whether a rain garden could be created in a desert climate. I did a little research to validate my response. With our ongoing drought in the West, capturing the rain has become extremely important.



I live in an area that is known for its rainy winters and drenching Spring soakers. Just this morning our garden club planted over 130 bedding plants in a heavy rain storm at a new veteran's park. But Kristie's question was still on my mind. Nature provided my answer. All I had to think of was an oasis in the desert. Nomads had used the oases in the Middle East for centuries as watering holes for their animals. So why not create an oasis in your own landscape. Capture the rain and run-off from your roofs and driveways.

The principle is the same, regardless of the climate. Many of you already capture the rain in barrels for use on your plants. Why not create a meandering stream bed to direct the water to a lower spot where it can slowly seep into the soil? All it takes is a slight slope and some rocks and stones leading to a low spot you can dig out, removing the soil to a depth of 18 inches maximum to create a basin. Line the low spot with rock and drought-resistant plants that can absorb the water slowly.

Check the low spot for its ability to absorb water. Fill the basin you have created by either digging soil out, or creating berms to hold water back and slow the rate at which water is absorbed. Fill the depression

with water and time how fast the water is absorbed. Water should gone within 24 hours.

Select plants that can withstand drought. Plants such as desert agave, soaptree yucca, and desert rose mallow are good for berms. Plants such as apache bloom, deer grass, sacred datura, velvet mesquite, and hummingbird trumpet are excellent for the bottom of the basin. A complete list of plants can be found at [www.zonagardens.com](http://www.zonagardens.com) in an article by Scott Calhoun, "Toward the Desert Rain garden."

In designing your garden, try to avoid the appearance of burial mounds. Meandering stream beds and berms, along with walking paths can be pleasing to the eye. The Southwest has several good examples at its various botanical gardens such as in Tucson and Santa Fe. And there are other places where rain gardens are being used in civic areas such as at the Glendale, Arizona Library.

Experiment with capturing the rain. It is a harvest with great benefits.

### ***Make an Indelible Impact***

*By Mary Lou Waitz, World Gardening Chairman*



National Garden Clubs' members can make an indelible impact by helping to provide clean water to villages in Latin America. Global Partners Running Waters, Inc. is a nonprofit organization established to build relationships through collaboration on water, food and health projects in Latin America in cooperation with the United Nations and National Garden Clubs, Inc. to increase access to safe water. By raising funds to purchase simple filters that deliver clean, life-giving water, NGC members also reach out to Voice of Haiti, which provides relief to Haitian children in several sites damaged by the 2010 earthquake. More than one billion people around the world currently get their water from rivers, ponds or other sources subject to contamination. Donations made through NGC World Gardening will help to bring safe drinking water to villages. Past NGC contributions helped to complete a project at Ojo de Agua Quiche in Guatemala. Clean drinking water was brought into this village. The hours villagers spent walking miles to fill jugs with water can now be used to plant food and raise animals for families. Global Partners Running Waters current major project is to bring water to 263 families or 1,578 individuals in Los Llanos, Quiche, Guatemala.

Celebrate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or recognize a special achievement with a donation from an individual, club, a district or state. Donations may

be made in any amount. Make checks payable to: National Garden Clubs, Inc. Indicate "Global Partners" on the memo portion of your check.

### **Gardening Tip**

To ease watering and prevent erosion, punch pea-sized holes in the side of a coffee can, fill with rocks to keep debris out, and sink the can up to its rim. Water through the can to ensure water is getting to a plant's roots.



### **Gavel Guidance**

*By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian*



It's that time of year when nominations, elections and installations are taking place at local, state, regional and national levels of garden clubs. How does this work?

The first resource is the organization's bylaws. For most groups the highest level of rules is contained in its bylaws. Most organizations place in their bylaws a provision prescribing that the current edition of a specified generally accepted manual of parliamentary law (usually *Robert's*) shall be the organization's parliamentary authority. The parliamentary authority contains default rules which govern only if there are no contrary provisions in the organization's bylaws or special rules of order or in any applicable federal or state law.

Nominations are intended to narrow voting down to qualified and willing candidates. The two most common methods of nominating candidates for office are by a nominating committee and from the floor. When a nominating committee is used, its members should be elected, not appointed. The duties of the NGC Nominating Committee (like many state garden clubs) are to consider recommendations from members and nominate one candidate for each elected office to be filled after having ascertained that each nominee is qualified and willing to serve.

Elections are commonly conducted by ballot unless there is only one candidate for each office. Nominations and elections should take place early in a convention so there is time to complete balloting if more than one ballot is needed. A majority vote is normally required to elect to office.

If there is no different bylaw provision, a candidate takes office as soon as the election becomes final, but organizations often prefer to provide for new officers to assume office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected or at some later time.

### **CELEBRATE WITH MODEL MEMBERS**

*By Lana Finegold, Washington*

A model member, can we find?  
Who comes to meetings all the time,  
And always lends a helping hand,  
And always says, "I think I can".  
A model member, what a find!  
Who shares ideas and has free time.

***Celebrating outstanding volunteers  
strengthens an organization.***

### **HORTICULTURE – CUCUMBERS**

*By Robert Schuler, U-Daily News*

A homegrown cucumber is refreshingly tasty and versatile...no matter how you slice it. Varieties of cucumber include the slicing, or fresh salad type; the pickling type (which also can be used fresh); the standard, the dwarf cucumber plant or bush varieties.



On a normal cucumber plant, the first 10 to 20 flowers will be male and, for every female flower...which will produce the fruit...10 to 20 male flowers are produced. Many of the new varieties will produce a greater proportion of female flowers, and others, called gynoecious types, have only female flowers. These plants are pollinated from nearby male flowers by bees. They tend to bear fruit earlier, with a more concentrated set and better yield overall.

Parthenocarpic cucumbers are all female and are



seedless because the fruit is produced without being pollinated (must be kept from other cucumbers to keep the fruit seedless). All other cucumbers must have insects and bees to pollinate them. Hand pollination is tedious and time-consuming. 'Sweet Success, Sweeter Yet' and 'Diva' have all female flowers.

'Oriental' and 'Burpless' cucumbers are long and slender with a tender skin. Through plant breeding, the bitterness associated with the burp has been removed. Environmental causes of bitterness in cucumbers include temperature variations of more than 20 degrees, shaded conditions and moisture stress.

Cucumbers grow best in soil of 60 degrees or more, in full sun with good air circulation and planted 1 foot apart. May 1 is the best time to plant seeds.

Vine cucumbers do best if trellised or fenced, keeping fruit off the ground, using less space, and making the fruit longer, straighter and cleaner. Trellised vines are less likely to be stepped on or damaged during weeding. If vines are not trellised, avoid destroying the blossoms or kinking the vines by gently rolling the vines away rather than lifting them while searching for fruit.

Wait until mid-morning to work with cucumbers to help prevent diseases. Check to see if the variety of cucumber you have planted is disease resistant, including bacteria wilt (BW); powdery (P) or downy (D) mildew (M), cucumber mosaic virus (CMV); and anthracnose (ANTH). Avoid growing cucumbers in cool or shaded areas and provide uniform moisture and ample nutrients to ensure a good crop. Continue to side dress the rows halfway through the growing season with fertilizer. If you grow organically, use cottonseed meal and blood meal to provide extra nitrogen.

### **History of Nevada Garden Clubs**

*From Silver State Gardener, newsletter of Nevada Garden Clubs*



Nevada Garden Clubs is an association of twelve garden clubs in Nevada. Our members have a variety of interests, from general gardening to specific plants to flower arranging.

Our History (as remembered by Linnea Miller Domz): The Rose Garden Club was organized around 1945, by Adeline Bartlett. Linnea was a member of that Club. She "discovered" a copy of *The National Gardener* magazine on vacation one year, and was intrigued by the idea that there was more to gardening than just the Rose Garden Club. She saw that there was a Flower Show School being held in Tucson, so she and Hobby St. Denis attended.

They came back quite enthused about "federating" with National Council of State Garden Clubs which finally happened in 1963, with ten clubs in Reno, Fallon, Ely, Caliente, Pioche and Las Vegas.

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There are two theories to arguing with women.  
Neither one works.

### **Cut Down on Cutworms!**

To discourage cutworms from taking out young tomato plants, wrap the base of each seedling with a piece of aluminum foil.



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

May 12 -18 NGC 86<sup>th</sup> Convention – Louisville, KY  
June 9 – 12 CGCI 83<sup>rd</sup> Convention – Reno, NV

### **Calendar of Events**

May 12 – 18 NGC 86<sup>th</sup> Convention – Louisville, KY

#### **2016**

April 5-7 73<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Region Convention, Henderson, Nevada

### **School Days**

*By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman*

#### **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS**

September 9-11, 2015, Course II, Kent, WA  
Contact: Esther Banholzer, (425) 228-6330  
Registrar: Betty Burkhart, (253) 852-2935  
[Paul-Burkhart@msn.com](mailto:Paul-Burkhart@msn.com)

September 21-23, 2015, Course I, Encinitas, CA  
Chairman: Emily Troxell, [etroxell@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:etroxell@mail.sdsu.edu)

#### **FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM**

July 18-19, 2015, Anchorage, AK  
Contact: Sheila Parcel, (907) 223-9371  
[parcel@alaska.net](mailto:parcel@alaska.net)

#### **GARDENING STUDY REFRESHER**

October 29-30, 2015, Encino, CA  
Contact: Robin Pokorski, (818) 361-7873  
[RobinP@juno.com](mailto:RobinP@juno.com)

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

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: [GCI.org](http://GCI.org)  
Alaska: [AlaskaGardenClubs.org](http://AlaskaGardenClubs.org)



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NGC Award-  
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Newsletter

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## Share **WACONIAH** with your club and district

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### **Meet Our New Director – Kristie Livreri**



#### *About Me*

I am a native Nevadan born in Caliente, Nevada and raised in Pioche. My mother was a charter member of the Pioche Garden Club. I joined the Rose Garden Club under the sponsorship of Linnea Miller in 1975 and have been an active member ever since.

#### *I am interested in....*

I love gardening, of course. Believe it or not we can have a great vegetable garden in Las Vegas. I love to be with my family. I have three children: Michael, Curtis and Maggie. And I have two beautiful grandsons, thanks to Michael and his wife Becky. My husband is also a native Nevadan and we love our state. We still have a home in Pioche and love to go there as often as we can get away.

#### *I belong to which garden club?*

I belong to the Rose Garden Club, one of the oldest garden clubs in Nevada. It was organized the year I was born - 1949. We meet every third Thursday at 11:00 a.m. except June, July and August. Please join us any time.

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If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring??

*Pilgrims. Get it? Pilgrims. Ha, ha, ha!*

