



WACONIAH

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

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

Vol. 40 No. 4 The Director's Theme "Looking In and Reaching Out"



Debbie Hinchey
2011 – 2013 Pacific Region Director

2013 – 2015 Pacific Region Roster

The 2013 - 2015 Pacific Region roster is included in this issue as a pull-out page. The roster will be available on the Pacific Region website as well as via email from the Director and Alternate Director.

Director's Message

This term is almost over. I have enjoyed meeting so many like-minded souls and learning about the projects, programs, and the inter-workings of clubs across the region.

In the effort to represent you and be a resource for information I have learned more than I thought existed. I often thought about these popular sayings: "the more you know, the more you know you don't know" and "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

It just occurred to me that maybe we should call ourselves a "Grow Club" instead of "Garden Club" because we are involved in so much more than "just" gardening. We have undertaken interactions that we wouldn't otherwise encounter through our garden club activities (like record-keeping, newsletter production, public speaking, show- and convention-planning, and helping various aspects of our social and biological environments.

I was always busy keeping up while finding even more opportunities. Sometimes the "To Do" list can overwhelm the list of accomplishments. My theme "Looking In and Reaching Out" was a constant for me.

In hindsight, we have done more than most would have suspected. The \$7.4 million value that we reached in the "Let Us Count the Ways" project is a reflection of the countable donations. Compassion, enthusiasm, generosity, and presence at club events have also given to others joy, knowledge, and meaning that is immeasurable. *Thank you for all that you have done.*

And now, with the closing of this term, I fully realize why we stand and applaud our leaders. It is a "Thank You" - because they work very long and hard for garden club members to grow.

Cheers, to you!

Debbie

Theme: "Nurture Natives — and each other"



GROWing new members is a vital endeavor for every garden club. Remember, you were once a new member! I have been a member of my garden club since 1996 and recently reviewed the yearbook roster to discover that in the past 17 years, we have had an 80 percent turnover of members. Life events, obviously, cause people to

come and go in garden clubs. New members are our life's blood! Encourage new members to join and participate.

For all events following, details are in *The National Gardener* and at wagardenclubs.com (not .org).

Our next Symposium will be held July 16-17 at Red Lion Inn at the Quay in Vancouver, WA. Chairman Billie Fitch and Registrar Mary Lou Waitz are in charge.

We continue to provide educational opportunities for our members. Flower Show School III will be held in September in Tacoma, presented by Capitol District Judges Council.

Gala XXXV was held March 11 at the Everett Holiday Inn. Featured designer Julie Reed from Las Vegas entertained us royally with her fabulous show and auction. Headquarters House, also known as "The Garden House" on Beacon Hill in Seattle was the beneficiary. View our website for photos of the house and ask for a tour of the house if you are in the area.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2013 NGC 84th Convention "RainShine" to be held at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on May 24-26. Chairman Jeanette Pruin with Vice Chairmen Sally Priebe and Carolyn Erickson and all our members welcome you.

It is with surprise that I realize that the past two years have traveled faster than light! I am pleased to introduce you to our President-Elect Brynn Tavasci who will be installed at our convention "Around the Sound" in Silverdale on June 12. She will begin her term the next day. Brynn has many talents and a wonderful sense of humor.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be president of WSFGC. I have had fun and met many delightful people on this wonderful journey. I am very proud of the teamwork of our members. Together we accomplish the goals we set.

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



On behalf of the members of CGCI we hope you enjoyed the 69th Annual Convention of Pacific Region. It was a pleasure hosting the 100+ attendees representing seven of the eight western states in Santa Rosa!

CGCI concludes the business of the 2011-2013 term and welcomes another chapter in CGCI's distinguished history with a new administration at the 82nd Annual Convention in San Diego. Members are looking forward to meeting special guest, 2011-2013 Pacific Region Director Debbie Hinchey.

It is with pride that we worked together as an organization pursuing several objectives during the 2011-2013 term – a few are highlighted below:

- \$22,500 will be raised for this term's **President's Project**: permanent interpretive signage at Sonoma State University's Native Plant Garden for the Riparian, Wetlands and Grasslands/Oak Savannah Plant Communities.
- **Project Mission Blue** (2011-2016 CGCI project) received \$10,000+ in donations since adopted May 19, 2011.
- **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**, adopted June 7, 2012, received \$2,700+ in donations toward the goal of \$15,000.
- CGCI's **10th Wildflower Conference** was held April 4-6, 2012 in Palmdale that included a tour to Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, a former CGCI project.
- **CGCI Endowment Campaign** began June 2010 and concluded May 31, 2012 raising \$9,050 from charter members of the Scholarship Endowment Fund and \$4,400 from charter members of the CGCI Endowment Fund.
- 51 clubs representing 13 districts participated in **Pacific Region's Tally Ho - Let Us Count the Ways Project**. When adding CGCI's contribution, the grand total value of CGCI's report = \$3,783,490 (154,412 hours x \$21.79 @ hr. + \$418,853 monetary donations). WOW! Imagine what the total would be if all 280 clubs had reported!
- **Scholarship data** has been collected (as of March 15) representing 96 clubs and districts giving 224 scholarships totaling \$176,860 in addition to CGCI's two \$2,000 scholarships.

- **Blue Star Memorials** included one Memorial Marker, two Highway Markers and five Byway markers dedicated this term.

Serving as President of CGCI will be among my most treasured memories for years to come. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the members of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Carol Parrott, President

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



Spring has finally come to the desert. The orange poppies, blue lupines and yellow Desert Marigold awaken a sleeping desert. Our Arizona Garden Clubs have not been sleeping! They have been busy planting for a fabulous spring.

February and March were fruitful months for our Blue Star Memorial projects in

Arizona with both a dedication and a rededication. March also hosted Flower Show III.

In April we'll skip the showers and have a Standard Flower Show in Scottsdale instead. Our Judge's Council has done everything possible to make education and participation opportunities available, and we thank them.

April also brings our AFGC Convention in spectacular Sedona. We are honored to have our National Garden Club President, Shirley Nicolai join us at Convention.

Our AFGC FUNdraiser "Container Extraordinaire" was a FUN success. There were three workshops going on at one time outside in the beautiful Valley Garden Center, and enough time to attend them all. We learned how to use Herbs, Perennials and flowers in versatile containers throughout our garden.

The highlight of 2013 for AFGC will be the installation of our very own Elaine Gunderson as Pacific Region Director. We are looking forward to Convention in Santa Rosa, California.

It has been an honor to be President of AFGC and represent Arizona at the Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs level. I have learned so much about our states and their projects. The most valuable lesson I have learned is that ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things.

You are an amazing group of gardeners and it will be my pleasure to continue on and be the Alternate for our Pacific Region Director.

Theme: "Alaskans Giving...Caring"

Spring is coming to Alaska – what an exciting time of year! Even though the snow's still piled high outside, we are feeling the warmth from bright sunny days, the World Ice Art Championships have been held and the sculptures are already starting to melt, and the tripod is in place for the annual Nenana Ice Classic where we guess on the exact time and date the ice goes out on the Nenana River.

We gardeners are all busy planting seeds, bulbs and tubers to get them started before we plant them outside in mid-May, and planning the designs for our planting beds – always with minds fresh with new ideas after their long, winter rest. The highlight to our spring is "Whoopin' It Up at the Hot Springs" where Alaskan garden club members will converge on Chena Hot Springs Resort in mid-April for our 54th Annual Convention! NGC President-Elect Linda Nelson will join us – bet she's never been asked to bring snow boots and bathing suits at the same time to a convention before! Chena Hot Springs, about 60 miles northeast of Fairbanks, has won many awards for its geothermal innovations, and we will tour that as well as the year-round greenhouses where they grow the vegetables we eat and the Aurora Ice Museum where we will sit on our ice stool at the ice bar and drink appletinis in our ice glasses, all the while marveling at the beauty of the ice sculptures all around us! Our individual clubs are planning their summer tours, flower shows, and many work parties. Summers are always exciting and extremely busy in the Far North! We hope you'll come join us!

Everything grows big in Alaska, but this grasshopper is exactly like we like them: frozen solid and sculpted of ice!



Q: What do you get if you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy?

A: A rash of good luck.

Meet Our Director-Elect: Elaine Gunderson



Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Elaine at age 12 moved to Wisconsin. After graduating from high school in Neenah, she attended the University of Wisconsin. In 1956 she married her college sweetheart, Chuck Gunderson and started their married life in Michigan. There she graduated from Wayne State University School

of Nursing with a Bachelor of Science degree specializing in Public Health and later returning for accreditation in Emergency Room Nursing.

With Chuck, she raised a family of five children; three daughters and two sons. All now live in the United States, three in Michigan, one in Colorado and one in California.

In 1996, Chuck and Elaine made Sedona their second home. They enjoy spending time with family, including 12 grandchildren, traveling worldwide, participating in church activities, singing in choirs and supporting Sedona's musical and non-profit programs. Elaine is a Stephen Minister.

As a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) for 40 years, Elaine has gained horticulture/design experience and established many lasting friendships. Upon moving to Sedona she immediately joined the newly formed Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs' Sedona Area Garden Club and later started High Desert Designers.

Elaine's love of gardening came from her grandmother and mother. Through growing roses with her grandmother and iris with her mother, she developed a love of horticulture and flower arranging. An adult's interest sets an example for children and is why she strongly supports National Garden Clubs' local garden clubs sponsored educational activities for children.

In the Michigan Federation of Garden Clubs (now Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.), Elaine has been president of two garden clubs, including the flower-arranging guild she started. She served on state and regional boards for 17 years plus served as President of Michigan Association of Accredited Judges, President of the Gardening Consultants Council and

President of the Landscape Design Consultants Council. She also chaired both Art and Flowers: A Festival of Spring with the Detroit Institute of Arts and the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens Garden Show both involving hundreds of volunteers.

Currently, a member of three garden clubs and National Flower Arrangers, Elaine was a former President of Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. 2001-2003 and in 2009 became a NGC Flower Show Design Instructor. Currently she is a three-term member of NGC's Strategic Planning Committee having chaired it in 2003-2005 and has served on NGC's Nominating Committee as Pacific Region's Representative. She is a NGC Master Flower Show Judge, NGC Master Gardening Consultant and NGC Landscape Design Consultant in addition to being a Life Member of NGC, Pacific Region, AFGC and MGC.

Elaine looks forward to her term as Pacific Region Director and the challenges it brings. Relishing in the accomplishments of non-profit organizations like National Garden Clubs' garden clubs in their communities and the educational opportunities available through them, she attests to them as enablers that work with members and other organizations to create positive impacts in their communities.

Wind Power

By Pat Babcock, Energy Conservation Chairman

I believe there is no perfect energy source. Each kind has its advantages and disadvantages.



You think of wind power and you think of those large, high tech towers with slowly spinning blades. Over the last ten years you see more and more of them all over the country on hilltops and windy areas across the United States. I did not realize that wind really is one of the oldest sources of power used by humanity. In ancient times wind was used to propel boats, grind grain and pump water. These same applications exist today. However, at this time wind power is primarily used to generate electricity on a small and large scale.

Large-scale wind power generation of electricity is the topic. Movement of air provides the mechanical power to perform all kinds of work. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) says wind power energy can contribute 80% of electricity in the United States by 2050.

Wind power has advantages:

- It is clean
- It is renewable
- It is cheap



These advantages are the same around the planet earth. Using it would reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel depletion.

Wind power has disadvantages:

- Land use
- Noise
- Visual pollution
- Wind does not blow consistently or steadily

One of the criticisms is windmills kill lots of wild birds, as evidenced near Altamont Pass in California years ago. The wind turbines spun at very high speeds and were located near a major bird thoroughfare. From that experience they build turbines that spin at lower speeds and use smooth poles to support the turbine, instead of the lattice-type structures used earlier, used as bird nesting grounds.

The Audubon Society supports wind power, realizing global warming causes a far greater threat to bird populations than an occasional collision of a bird with a tower.

Windmills cannot cause global warming. Mixing of air could impact local weather in the vicinity of the windmills. The experts have learned to place the turbines in areas naturally more turbulent.

Here then are the wind power pros and cons.

Pros

- * Clean energy, no fuel to drill, frack, mine, transport or burn
- * Renewable and sustainable
- * Costs are relatively low and continue to decrease

* Abundant domestic supply (16X current electric demand!)

* The power is essentially free once the infrastructure is paid for.

* Low life cycle carbon footprint. Breakeven in eight months.

* Can be used almost anywhere.

Cons

* As mentioned earlier, the wind is inconsistent, unsteady and unpredictable.

* Wind power is not cheap and like many energy sources, rely on government subsidies to remain competitive.

* Wind farms are generally located in rural areas that might be otherwise picturesque. They are considered by some people to be an eyesore.

* Some people complain of noise from the turbines.

* Wildlife impact. Not only birds, but bats have experienced fatalities.

* Localized impact on nighttime temperatures and weather.

Wind power really isn't a perfect solution. However, it is way better than just about anything else we have presently. It will be a good long-term transitional energy source over the next hundred years. Towers can always be taken down and thus allow nature to grow back.

Pacific Region Websites www.PacificRegionGardenClubs.org

- Washington: WAGardenClubs.com
Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com
California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.org
Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org
Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org
Idaho: GCII.org
Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org
NGC: GardenClub.org

Going GREEN

Too bad we can't harness the energy seen below in Fairbanks, Alaska of the aurora borealis (northern lights).



Gardening for Wildlife

By Becky Hassebroek, Backyard Wildlife Habitat Chairman

Earlier in my gardening endeavors, I planted an orchard in Florida with husband Marv and my brother and sister-in-law. Converting from my minimal Alaska gardening knowledge at the time to big-time Florida – and a citrus and fruit and nut orchard besides – was quite challenging to say the least. These little trees were our “babies” and we were extremely aware of our responsibility for keeping them healthy so they could grow into adult fruit-bearing trees. Every morning, for fun and relaxation, we would plan to take a walk around the orchard, but we’d only get a short way and we’d see a tree seemingly in distress - covered with a critter that we didn’t recognize! This discovery mandated that we run to the garden shed, where we stored a very expensive and very large Ortho book that we had been told to purchase to tell us exactly what we were supposed to do to that critter, and then bring out the sprays and take care of them. With that mass murder accomplished, we would retreat to the house for our morning coffee and plan out the rest of the day.

We would then try the morning walk the next day, only to encounter a whole new set of unknown critters. You can imagine this was not “fun and relaxing.” We indeed felt like killers and working with all of those chemicals certainly wasn’t a healthy atmosphere. In addition, we had feeders out for all of the birds and had planted special plants to lure in the butterflies with ponds for the fish and other wildlife – how were we impacting those beautiful creatures? After a short time, we threw up our hands and decided the trees would just have to fend for themselves – we were no longer going to use those chemicals.



An amazing transformation took hold – when we kept the trees healthy with the proper fertilization and water care, and NO chemicals, the good bugs decided they liked to live in our orchard and they took care of any bad bugs! The trees flourished, we were much the healthier, and we could feel good about all of the birds and other wildlife that ALSO loved our orchard. We learned how to garden for wildlife! Now, our

plants may not be the most beautiful plants in the world – sometimes it’s hard to find a leaf that hasn’t been gnawed on a little – and that makes finding that perfect specimen to enter in our flower show a bit difficult - but I know that our garden is healthy and I’m thankful for all of those little critters that have decided to cohabit right along with me.

Gardening for wildlife is easy – please join me!

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Garnet Ascher, President

Theme: “Just Imagine”



Oregon is busy planning Convention 2013, “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” scheduled June 17 - 19 at the Airport Shilo Inn. Our own soon-to-be NGC First Lady, Linda Nelson, will be the installing officer.

My term has been busy encouraging districts and clubs to participate in flower shows, schools, plant sales, nursery tours, joining in wildflower hikes for exercise of mind, body, and spirit, as well as photography and learning botanical names.

We have 2941 members, four judges councils, six affiliates, and 96 clubs. Our membership has dropped below 3,000; something I did not wish to happen, but as we age we must encourage newly retired and younger folks to join us. And that may mean that we “don’t do things the old way”. As leaders we should invite folks to join us, ask them to participate and then mentor. I let chairman do their jobs even if it isn’t just exactly the way one would prefer the job be done. And, it can be seen, that another’s way might be better than mine!

I have had a great time visiting districts, sharing information from NGC and Pacific Region as well as our state. Everyone knows by now that I am a great believer in sharing extra material that could be used by district directors, club presidents and others. Their files are always thick and available at the meetings to be picked up by District Directors.

It has been my wish to secure a new Gardening Study Schools Chairman; however, no one on the Westside and Central Valley seems to want to step up and start a new school. Yes, they are work, but it is such camaraderie and learning.

Thank you for believing in me and giving me these two years to lead OSFGC, Inc. Friendships will always be treasured.

School Days

By Elaine Gunderson, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

May 8-10, Course IV, Grants Pass, OR
Contact: Suzy Twist-Powell, 541-862-7090
sueann@banyanfinancial.com

August 12-14, Course III, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Contact: Martha Hunt, 323-856-8617

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

May 5-7, South San Francisco, CA
Contact Information: Rob & Laura Crenshaw
619-435-1631 or rock1221@sbcglobal.net
Registrar: Shane Looper, 650-871-0172
slooper@sbcglobal.net

July 16-17, Vancouver, WA
Contact Information: Billie Fitch
360-379-9242 or johnfitch90@msn.com
Registrar: Mary Lou Waitz, 360-928-3728
Marylou.94@hotmail.com

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

July 12-13, Course IV, Eureka, CA
Contact: Mary Lou Goodwin 707-442-1387
Mgoodwin@northcoast.com

July 27-29, Course I, Nevada City, CA
Contact: Myrtle Findley, 530-346-2450
Myrtle@exwire.com

August 24-25, Course II, Nevada City, CA
Contact: Myrtle Findley, 530-346-2450
Myrtle@exwire.com

TRI-REFRESHER

May 24-26, 2013; NGC Convention, Seattle WA
Event Chairman: Mary Dahlgren, 425-747-9335
mldahlgren@comcast.net

Pacific Region Life Membership

By Garnet Ascher, Life Memberships Chairman

Please think about giving a Pacific Life Membership (\$40 which includes a pin) to someone in your club. These monies provide a scholarship for someone from any one of these eight states. We want to provide at least one \$1,000 scholarship. Contact: Garnet Ascher, garasch39@msn.com. Make checks payable to "Pacific Region Garden Clubs" and send with the completed form which has been distributed to each Pacific Region state president.

Issue Deadlines

August 2013	deadline 6-25-13
November 2013	deadline 9-25-13
February 2014	deadline 12-25-13
May 2014	deadline 3-25-14

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.

Calendar of Events

Apr 22-24	2013 Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, California
May 20	Alaska Arbor Day – Plant a Sitka spruce!
May 24-26	2013 NGC Convention, Seattle, Washington
June 2-8	National Garden Week
July 1-3	2014 Pacific Region Convention, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

From Your Editor

After several years of service as Chairmen of Subscriptions/Circulation and Boosters, **Dave** and **Julie West** are retiring from the *WACONIAH* staff. They are not leaving the Pacific Region, just *WACONIAH*. This editor is most grateful for all the help and support they have given and are a part of the reason this publication can say: Award-winning! **Thank you, Dave and Julie!**

We welcome **Terry Critchlow** as our new *WACONIAH* Circulation Chairman who will handle Subscriptions and Boosters.



Return Address:
 WACONIAH Circulation
 48933 US Highway 12
 White Pass, WA 98937-9507

WACONIAH
 Vol. 40 No. 4
 May 2013

NGC Award
 Winning Newsletter



You're a good kid – thanks for taking WACONIAH by email and saving us \$\$\$\$

HOORAY!!!! The Pacific Region Celebrates our First Lady of NGC: Linda Nelson



Greetings to my many friends in the states of the Pacific Region. My theme, MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE – Choices Matter, is a theme that I believe resonates with the philosophy of gardeners here in the Pacific Region. I look forward to working with you these next two years as we all work to put into action our Conservation Pledge as we promote education that will enable us to make responsible choices to protect and conserve the broad and varied natural resources in our vast region.

I thank you for the support and encouragement you have given me and I will do my best to make you all proud of the confidence you have placed in me. You have made a world of difference in my life!

Linda Nelson – aka “Big Red”

The Pacific Region is proud to celebrate an NGC President from our region. Linda will be the fourth NGC President from the Pacific Region and joins the illustrative ranks of: **Elvenia Slosson** from California, 1949-1951; **Violet Gose** from Washington, 1963-1965; **Ellamae Fehr** from California, 1985-1987. **Best Wishes, Linda!!**

WACONIAH Staff

Editor	Robin Pokorski	RobinP@juno.com	818-361-7873
		512 Newton St, San Fernando CA	91340-2421
Ass't Editor	Greg Pokorski	GregPokorski@earthlink.net	
Circulation/ Boosters	Terry Critchlow	tcritchlow@aol.com	509-945-5465
		48933 US Highway 12, White Pass, WA	98937-9507