

WACONIAH



MAY
2024

Newsletter of the Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
Washington Arizona California Oregon Nevada Idaho Alaska Hawaii

From Carol Norquist's Desk

As we head into summer, it is wonderful to see the great things our members are doing. The Beacon Hill Garden Club in Washington holds a monthly Garden Share for the public. You can bring things and take things - great community publicity. The Scottsdale Garden Club in Arizona has a long tradition of Arbor Day plantings. Recently the Laguna Beach Garden Club in California completed the installation of the "For the Good of Hive" mural and garden for the enjoyment of the public.



Another California club, San Clemente, is getting ready for their annual beach cleanup. Cleanup of the Pioneer Cemetery is a project of the Lebanon Garden Club of Oregon. Nevada clubs plant flags for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the Garden of the Pioneer Woman near their headquarters. Spring cleaning and maintenance of the Pollinator Habitat at the library was completed by the Chinden Gardeners Club in Idaho.

Alaska's Greater Eagle River Garden Club works on many "Forgotten Gardens" including the area's welcome sign and their Blue Star Marker. It is so fun to see everything clubs and members accomplish in so many ways. I am so proud of all of us making our world a better place.

We had several excellent applications for PR scholarships and the Executive

committee voted to give out two this year. Contributions to the Book of Recognition program, and Life Membership program along with direct donations to the Scholarship program provide the money for these scholarships. I encourage people to help our youth with their education. Links to donate to these programs can be found on the website under the Forms/Docs tab.

The NGC Path to Success program has raised \$36,000 towards the NGC overall goal. This program will install a brick pathway along the edge of the property at headquarters and highlight each region, state, and their members. We have raised 29% of the cost for the Pacific Region larger brick. If you wish to help with this project, go to the home page of our website: www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org. Select Paver Brick from the dropdown menu on the donation link.

Alaska will be welcoming the Pacific Region to Anchorage in August for the 80th Pacific Region Convention. Besides the business that needs to happen, there will be great workshops (some hands on). Speakers will talk about biodiversity and Plant America, Feed America (what groups and programs are doing to build food security in Alaska). Various projects of the region will be highlighted and useful information for clubs will be provided. There are great gardens to visit and much more. The National Garden Clubs' President, Brenda Moore, will be there too. See you August 21-23rd.





It is time to celebrate the outstanding work our garden clubs have done to improve their communities! Applying for awards accomplishes two things: 1) it recognizes and rewards outstanding projects and 2) it serves as an inspiration to others to replicate the project or use the idea in a new way. Everything you need to know about our awards can be found on our Pacific Region Garden Clubs website under the tab for Awards (<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/awards>). Just a friendly reminder that Pacific Region Awards deadlines are on the horizon:

- Feb 1 Youth Poetry Awards
- Feb 1 Sculpture Contest
- Feb 24 Smokey Bear Poster Contest
- March 1 Pollinator Poster Contest

March 1 all other awards

Thanks so much for your participation.

Lynne Batchelor



Find our Pacific Region **GEMS** in this issue.



1) Honoree: *June Ann Hassebroek*

June Ann is a Gem because of her dedication and love. And for all the years she has devoted to the garden club in every facet makes her the most amazing GEM.

She has outshined in my life and others in so many ways.

Donor: Lenda Sundene

Environmental Awareness Chairman's Report, Spring 2024



Washington Arizona California Oregon Nevada Idaho Alaska Hawaii

The only significance of the order of the above States is to form a pronounceable word, WACONIAH. In the 1800's, the west coast was an undeveloped and mostly uninhabited wilderness. Then, about 1850, someone said "Go west, young man, go west", and, boy, howdy, did they ever.

California, with an area of 163,696 square miles, became a State on 9-9-1850
 Oregon, with an area of 98,466 square miles, became a State on 2-14-1859
 Nevada, with an area of 110,567 square miles, became a State on 10-31-1864
 Washington, with an area of 71,362 square miles, became a State on 11-11-1889
 Idaho, with an area of 83,642 square miles, became a State on 7-3-1890
 Arizona, with an area of 113,998 square miles, became a State on 2-14-1912
 Alaska, with an area of 663,267 square miles, became a State on 1-3-1959
 Hawaii, with an area of 10,931 square miles, became a State on 8-21-1959
 That is a total of approximately 1,316,000 square miles or 815,920,000 acres of land.

Some interesting statistics about these 8 States that might explain why we are having a hard time in protecting and conserving our natural resources today.

State population	1900	2000	2023
California	1,485,000	33,872,000	38,965,000
Oregon	414,000	3,421,000	4,233,000
Nevada	42,000	2,019,000	3,194,000
Washington	518,000	5,911,000	7,813,000
Idaho	163,000	1,299,000	1,965,000
Arizona	200,000	5,161,000	7,431,000
Alaska	64,000	628,000	733,000
Hawaii	154,000	1,214,000	1,435,000
Total	3,040,000	53,525,000	65,769,000

As shown above, from 1900 to 2000, the same size of land had to support over 50,000,000 more people. In the last 23 years, an additional 12,000,000 people have been added with no sign of slowing down. All these new people want and need electricity, food, housing, land,

roads, and water. They also want trees and forests. Land management and forestry management are critical issues today. Soon, one will have to be sacrificed for the other.

As of today, the following is the approximate percentage of forests that are left in the 8 States:

California	32%
Oregon	45%
Nevada	16%
Washington	50%
Idaho	40%
Arizona	25%
Alaska	35%
Hawaii	50%



All garden clubs should hold discussions on these issues and try to come up with workable solutions to conserve and protect our natural resources. Recycle, re-purpose, re-use is a start. Planting a tree won't hurt either.

Stan Chiotti, Chairman

From the Editor

I hope every mother & mother-figure had a wonderful Mother's Day celebration. Coming up will be for all of you fathers and father-figures, I wish you a great Father's Day as well. And since our next issue is in August (yes, already), I also wish you all a safe and fun **4th of July**. Lastly (for now at least), please, **submit your articles as close as you can to July 15th**, that way, it doesn't get lost among all the tons of emails that come my way. I think we all know how that is. Please, put **"Waconiah August 2024"** in the subject line. Thank you and I hope you enjoy this issue.

Myrna Cabanban

PrgcWaconiah@gmail.com





Venture “Into the Wild” August 21-24, 2024, for the Pacific Region Garden Clubs’ 80th Annual Convention in Anchorage, Alaska. The 49th State is known as ‘The Last Frontier’ and it’s famous for its vast wilderness, pristine nature, breathtaking landscapes, stunning glaciers, rich history, abundance of wildlife, gold, oil, and so much more! If Anchorage is the starting point of your adventure, your Marriott Residence Inn suite is just across the street from the BP Energy Center, site of the convention. A full complimentary breakfast will be waiting for you every morning of your stay. We have a room block at the hotel

(optional). Alaska is known for its beautiful flowers and HUGE vegetables – and you will have the opportunity to visit the Alaska State Fair in Palmer. We hope you will come “Into the Wild” in Alaska in 2024.

There are several workshop opportunities. See the convention page on the website. Also, there will be two options for day tours on Friday *afternoon*. Each tour is by small carpools with each car deciding on the timing. The first is a tour to the state fair to see the giant vegetables. There is a variety of fabulous gardens to visit, and the head gardener always puts together wonderful containers and a special garden (usually topiary) of whimsy. And of course, there are the usual state fair activities.



The other tour option is to the Wildlife Conservation Center where you can see many of Alaska’s wildlife up close. After a drive along the inlet, you can see muskox, bears, eagles, wolves, caribou, lynx, moose and more. The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) is a sanctuary dedicated to preserving Alaska’s wildlife through conservation, education, research, and quality animal care. AWCC takes in injured and orphaned animals year-round and provides them with spacious enclosures and quality animal care. Most of the animals that arrive at the AWCC become permanent residents and will always have a home here.

Convention Information can be found at www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2024

We look forward to seeing all our garden club friends - Carol Norquist



INTO THE WILD



**Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.
80th Annual Convention
August 21st – 23rd, 2024**



Registration Form – One Name Per Form, Please

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____
 Voting Status _____ PRGC Board of Directors _____ Official Delegate (authorized by State Pres.)

Badge Information (Please check all that apply)
 PRGC Director PRGC Officer PRGC Chairman (Committee _____)
 PRGC State President PRGC Former Director PRGC Life Member
 NGC President NGC Board (Committee _____) NGC Life Member
 Guest/Spouse First Time Attendee
 Garden Club Member Garden Club Name _____

Full-Time Package Plan: Includes registration, 2 dinners (8/21 & 8/22), 2 lunches (8/22 & 8/23)

Full Time Pacific Region	\$150.00	\$ _____
Full Time Alaska Members	\$135.00	\$ _____
Wednesday Optional Lunch 8/21	\$15.00	\$ _____
After 8/01/24, please add late fee	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Total Full-Time Package Plan - No Refunds after 8/01/24		\$ _____

Part-Time, Spouses, Guests Only:

Part Time Registration (meals not included)	\$50.00	\$ _____
Alaska Members Part Time Registration (meals not included)	\$35.00	\$ _____
8/21 Wednesday Lunch (Optional) 8/21	\$15.00	\$ _____
8/21 Wednesday Dinner	\$35.00	\$ _____
8/22 Thursday Lunch	\$25.00	\$ _____
8/22 Thursday Dinner	\$35.00	\$ _____
8/23 Friday Lunch	\$25.00	\$ _____
Total Part-Time, Spouses, Guests Only		\$ _____

Optional Tour to Alaska State Fair & Gardens in Palmer 8/23	\$75	\$ _____
Optional Tour to Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center 8/23	\$95	\$ _____
TOTAL PAID		\$ _____

Diet Restrictions
 Free Workshops with Registration – * Hands On -Please check those you wish to attend
 * Pallet Strap Baskets * Aluminum Leaf Art Running An Efficient Meeting Making Concrete Garden Items
 8/21 8/21 8/22 8/22

Please Make Check Payable to **PRGC Convention** and mail with this form to Registrar Becky Hassebroek, 518 Slater Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99701 or register & pay online at www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2024

Questions? Contact Becky Hassebroek, 907-456-3066, beckyhasse@aol.com or Carol Norquist, 907-248-9563, pacreggardenclubs@gmail.com for more information.

Residence Inn by Marriott (907) 563-9844 Group Rate Link can be found at www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2024
 Staying at this hotel is optional. It is directly across the street from the convention venue.

*Into the Wild design created by Ashley Robison with into the Wild Custom Graphics and Design
 By registering for this convention you give the Pacific Region permission to use the images, photos and/or videos to promote PR in the future..



**Anchorage Alaska
August 21-23rd**



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. 80th Annual Convention
 BP Energy Center 1014 Energy Court, Anchorage AK
 August 21 – 23, 2024
 "Into the Wild"
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday 8/21
 8:45 am – 12:00 pm Setup – Exhibits, Registration, Sales Room, etc.
 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm Registration open
 12:00 pm – Optional lunch available to those who requested
 9:00 am - 10:00 am Finance Committee meeting – **Aspen**
 10:00 am – 11:30 am Organization Study Committee meeting – **Aspen**
 12:00 pm – 5:30 pm Sales room open - **Aspen**
 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Executive Committee meeting – **Birch**
 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm State Presidents meeting – **Birch**
 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm Workshop #1- Pallet Strap Baskets - **Birch**
 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm Workshop #2 - Aluminum Leaf Art - **Birch**
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner – Speaker NGC President Brenda Moore – **Birch**
 8:00 pm Building Closes

Thursday 8/22
 8:45 am – 5:30 pm Registration open – Sales room open - **Aspen**
 8:45 am – 9:45 am Board of Directors meeting – **Birch**
 10:00 am – 10:15 am Convention Opening – **Birch**
 10:30 am – 11:45 am Convention Business Meeting #1 – **Birch**
 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch & Speaker – **Birch**
 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm Workshop #3 – Running an Efficient Meeting – **Birch**
 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm Workshop #4 – Making Concrete Garden Items – **Birch**
 5:30 pm – Sales room closes
 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner & Speaker – Awards – **Birch**
 8:00 pm Building Closes

Friday 8/23
 8:45 am – 10:45 am Convention Business Meeting #2 – **Birch**
 11:15 am -12:45 pm Lunch & Speaker – **Birch**
 1:00 pm - Post Convention Tours meet in parking lot
 1:15 pm - Post Convention Tours depart (return time determined by those in each car)

Promise Trees Update



After the devastating fires of the Fall of 2020 Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. started a project that we called Promise Trees. We wanted to help the many victims who lost their homes. It was decided to give \$50 tree or shrub vouchers to homeowners who rebuild their homes after the fires. For this we needed to fundraise and over the years we have raised about \$40,000. We had to find contacts all over the state to distribute the vouchers. We also had to get nurseries on board to honor those vouchers. It is 2024 now and a group of us are still meeting monthly. Not everyone from the 2020 fires was interested in the vouchers. So last June at our OSFGC Convention it was decided to allow victims from later fires to apply and to extend the deadline to December 31, 2026. We have had quite a few requests from victims of last year's fires, and we are so happy that we can help these people with a little gesture of empathy. The hardest part is getting the word out, but working with government officials, fire stations and disaster recovery groups has been helpful. We appreciate the many Garden Clubs, individuals and State Garden Clubs who have donated money. Also, the generous help from the National Garden Clubs Disaster Fund and from Keep Oregon Green. We couldn't have done it without you!
THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

Tanja Swanson
Promise Trees Chair
tanjandy@gmail.com



2) *Honoree: Jeanette Pruin*

Jeanette is a Gem, a super star because of her invaluable advice, encouragement, recognition, and continued involvement at all levels in our organization. She is an inspiration and mentor to all.

Donor: Anonymous



Pacific Region Youth Sculpture Contest Results 2024



Lynn Chiotti, Chairman Pacific Region Garden Clubs

For the first year of this Chairmanship, I need to say that I am disappointed in the number of entries received – **only 8 total from all eight states**. I have sent information to all State Presidents and State Youth Contest people. I heard from only Oregon and California. I know that we have had entries in the past from several Pacific Region States. Three entries have advanced to NGC. So, I am issuing a challenge to all Eight States:

1. Make sure you have a Youth Sculpture Chairman for your State. State Chairmen, please inform your Districts of the Contest and then have the districts contact the schools. This is a great opportunity to encourage students in Grades 4-8 to become more aware of the importance of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in their communities in a creative way.
2. Make sure that all entries conform to the directions on the Application from NGC.
3. When Districts and States do your judging, please do not make any marks on the applications.
4. If possible, please electronically put the photos on the back of the application. Stapled or taped photos can come off too easily and make it difficult to send the winners to the next level.
5. Follow all deadlines.
6. Send only one first place from each grade level.

This can be a fun and exciting project for all five grade levels. And I look forward to the 2025 Contest. Work with your schools now to practice creating sculpture projects. Remember, practice makes perfect. When the contest is announced for next year, be ready. Let's see winners from each of the eight Pacific Region states submitted in the contest.



Merion Sibylla Merian butterfly
Karen Bowen, PR Butterfly Chairman

A New Butterfly is Named

Since 1981, a black butterfly with two rows of white dots lining its outer wings sat in a drawer at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. It rested among other butterflies belonging to the Pieridae family. By chance, a University of Florida graduate student, Pablo Sebastian, discovered the butterfly and tried to identify it. After searching through various butterfly books and finding none that looked like the butterfly, Sebastian realized it might be a new species.

Shinichi Nakahara, lepidopterist at the Florida Museum of Natural History, was the go-to-guy when scientists had a butterfly question. Sebastian sent Nakahara photos of the unidentified butterfly and asked if he knew its name.

Again, the butterfly did not match any of the known Pieridae butterflies, and Nakahara asked for a tiny portion of a leg to test its DNA. The DNA showed it was, indeed, a new species.

By luck, around the same time, a butterfly that looked like the Smithsonian butterfly was caught in Panama by John MacDonald, a Mississippi State University entomologist. MacDonald couldn't identify his newly captured specimen and sent photos to Nakahara for identification. The live butterfly had identical coloring to the Smithsonian butterfly. What a coincidence! Comparing the DNA of both butterflies, Nakahara announced a new butterfly species had, indeed, been found. The world of entomology was excited!

Now came the difficult task of naming this new species. Various names in the world of entomology were discussed, and one was chosen. It was Maria Sibylla Merian, an amateur entomologist who spent much of her life illustrating the life cycle of various butterflies and other wildlife in the late 1600s. The butterfly was christened *Catasticta sibyllae*, in honor of Merian.

Born in 1647, at a time when women stayed home and raised children, Merian was entranced with butterflies and their journey from egg to caterpillar, to adult. Most people at that time thought butterflies just magically emerged from beneath piles of leaves or underbrush. They had no idea about metamorphosis. Merian knew otherwise and loved finding new caterpillars to draw, and watch turn into butterflies.

After having two daughters and becoming divorced, she traveled to Suriname, a Dutch colony. Suriname is in South America and teems with tropical insects and unusual wildlife. Merian spent five years observing and drawing the wildlife. Later, she published a book of her illustrations.

About 100 of her detailed illustrations were used by Carl Linnaeus when he introduced his modern system of scientific classification of living animals.

Maria Sibylla Merian was ahead of her time, both as a woman and as an entomologist. Her love of nature and drawing became her life-long passion and career. Her illustrations are still seen in books today, and a new book, *The Girl Who Drew Butterflies* by Joyce Sidman, is the latest to document her interesting life.

At a time when we think all wildlife, including butterflies, has been discovered and named, the *Catasticta sibyllae* butterfly reminds us that we never know when a new and unusual living creature will be discovered.



Photo: K. Grace FL Museum

#1 This butterfly was identified as a new species and named *Catasticta sibyllae* in honor of the amateur entomologist, Maria Sibylla Merian.

Photo: Wikipedia

#2 A butterfly that was part of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum's collection was identified as a new species in 2018.

Photo: Wikipedia

#3 Maria Sibylla Merian lived in the late 17th century and was self-taught naturalist and artist who enjoyed illustrating plants and animals.

[Come to the Convention](#)

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

The Call to the Pacific Region Convention is included in this issue and posted on our website (<https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/convention-2024>). PRGC Board members (officers, state presidents, former directors and committee chairmen) are expected to attend. Our standing rules state that committee chairmen attend the annual convention and report as requested, and if unable to attend, request permission to be excused from the Region Director and prepare written reports as requested.

Convention includes committee meetings limited to members of those specific committees, the Board of Directors meeting (all are welcome, but only board members have a vote) and general convention sessions open to all (Board members and official delegates of the member states have a vote). Each of our *eight*-member state garden clubs is entitled to *two to twelve* official delegates, depending on its membership numbers as stated in our standing rules. Be sure your state is represented! Convention is not only when the business and administration of the organization is carried out on behalf of the membership, but is also an opportunity for networking, education, celebration of garden club accomplishments, and planning for the year ahead. There are also workshops, informative speakers at meals, presentation of awards, recognition of accomplishments and tours.

Board members and convention delegates should know which meetings they are to attend and be familiar with the issues that are to be voted upon. If in doubt, ask the Parliamentarian or the Director. Come to convention in **Alaska in August** and be a part of parliamentary procedure in action. And come to convention to have fun, learn, and get information to share with your clubs, districts and state organizations.

[Pacific Region Governing Documents](#)



By Greg Pokorski, Organization Study Committee Chairman

Governing Documents for Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc. are the Bylaws, the Standing Rules and the Convention Procedures. These are posted on our website. Board members (including officers, state presidents, former region directors and all chairmen) should be familiar with all of these. Suggestions for changes (which are enacted at our annual conventions) may be sent to this chairman for consideration by the Organization Study Committee. GregPokorski@earthlink.net

PRGC 2024 Virtual Photo Fundraising Contest

Digital photos can be JPG or TIFF format and should not be enhanced by any computer program. Minimum Resolution requirement is **800 pixels or 1200 pixels** wide and maximum file size not to exceed **10Mb**.

The photos can be in **color** or **black and white**.
Enter as many as you would like to - it is a fundraiser!



The categories are as follows:

1. Landscapes/Gardens
2. Birds/Animals
3. Insects
4. Floral
5. Director's Choice - "Down the Primrose Path", a photo incorporating primrose(s).

Complete an Entry Form for each entry and mail it with the \$5 entry fee (or 5 entries for \$20), to:

Tanja Swanson,
227 Ewauna St,
Klamath Falls, OR 97601-3131

Checks made payable to PRGC

Deadline for receipt of entry forms and digital files is July 1, 2024
Photos must have been taken by a current Pacific Region Garden Clubs member in good standing.

Pacific Region will display the photos entered in each category on the Pacific Region website. All rights to the photo entry will remain with the photographer. The entry form release will allow Pacific Region to display the photo entries as per the release. Questions, please contact:

Tanja Swanson, Photo Chairperson
541-883-8119 or tanjandy@gmail.com.

Information and entry form can be found on the website at the bottom of the Leadership page: <https://pacificregiongardenclubs.org/photo-contest>

Tanja Swanson





OREGON IS ON THE MOVE

We are busy in Oregon this Spring. Of course, we are all taking advantage of good weather whenever we get it. I am sure you will agree, there is so much to do! It is great to get our hands in the dirt again, and I cannot wait to plant some of the new plant varieties I have seen in the nurseries. Their pictures look stunning, and I understand that breeders are bringing back fragrances. I wonder how the new ones will do in my yard.

It is not only planting time, but it is also time to learn something new. We have had some informative speakers from nurseries and plant societies already, and we have several more scheduled in our districts. If you have an especially good program, be sure to share the speaker's contact information with other clubs or districts if you can.

Oregon will have a Zoom Convention this year. We have invited NGC President Brenda Moore to speak. Our members are looking forward to that. That day's speakers will be rounded out by our own Carol Norquist, our Pacific Region Director.

If you are interested, you can find more information on our website: <https://oregongardenclubs.org>. It will be posted around May 5th. The Convention starts on June 17 and runs through June 19.

Best wishes for a wonderful rest of your Spring from all of the Oregon Crew!

Carolyn Olley
OSFGC President



3) *Honoree: Carol Norquist*

Carol is a GEM for stepping up to become the PRGC Director. She is always on top of her game, ready with an answer and solution. Thank you, Madame Director.

Donor: Terry Critchlow

Environmental & Climate Concern

by Lori Robinson

March 24, 2014, Oso Landslide. Forty-three people perished in this tragic event.

This started at 10:37 AM in Snohomish County near Oso, WA. @ Highway 530. A State Patrolman crying at the scene reporting the highway is gone, piles of trees blocking, the homes destroyed.

It was imperative to get additional resources; helicopter and Fire Department responding.

A logger came and rescued a mother and a 6-month-old baby; they were covered with mud and under a couch and tree over the baby. He was resuscitated after being critically injured with brain surgeries, loss of vision, and seizures.

1,700 people responded to this horrific crisis with helicopters. The mud, trees and rocks covering homes, Highway 530 completely covered, cut off transportations to the towns. The whole community on Steal Head Drive was wiped out. Six homes were destroyed out of 30 impacted. Two women on the roof top being rescued by helicopter. The rescuer took an Indian Painting of one of those rescued and gave it to her. She was very grateful; her whole home was destroyed. They searched for 43 days for the missing people. Only 2 were not found. The houses were like pancakes and bodies were crushed. There was no time for them to escape; it was impossible with the mud slides. This also complicated the rescue. They had to make a 2-mile detour, which meant air-lifting supplies to Oso.

It had rained 15 inches the week prior which had saturated the ground. Then another rainstorm hit to create the perfect storm. In 2006 they had shored up the hillside with logs. There was a lawsuit in which the victims' families got \$65 million dollars.

There is a Memorial for the 43 that perished, and it was dedicated on March 24, 2024.

Climate Change? YES! Yes, we also need to contribute to "*Plant Trees for America*". The club I belong to, *Tri-Area Garden Club* participates, and I am delighted to say we also contribute. This helps to prevent erosion with rapid run off like what happened in Oso.

Credit: NBC News



PRGC Bird Article

A Memorable Bird Sighting

What an exciting moment when you see a bird you haven't seen before! You get out your binoculars to try and identify the bird up close. Then you start searching in your Bird book. It is so rewarding when you find the bird's photo and read about the bird's description, voice, habitat, nesting and range. It is rewarding to find interesting information about the special bird you have discovered. A memorable sighting occurred in Surprise, Arizona in November. A flock of green parrot-looking birds came to our backyard and were eating the blossoms of the Yellow Trumpet shrub (*Tecoma stans*). I located the binoculars and was surprised to find six beautiful birds in the shrub. The bird had a bright green body, rosy-red head, brilliant blue rump and light-colored bill. I could not locate this bird in any of my bird books so checked Google. This bird is the Rosey-faced lovebird (*Agapornis A.roseicollis*). The bird is native to the arid regions of Western Africa!

The bird is small (6.7-7.1 inches). They are very social and congregate in

small groups in the wild. Plumage is identical in males and females (Monomorphic). The birds form extremely strong bonds and can be observed feeding and pruning each other. They mate for life.

The birds are sold as pets. In the 1980's, in the Phoenix, Arizona area, birds escaped their aviary. There are now about 2,000 Rosey-faced lovebirds in the greater Phoenix area. The birds are now being seen in the suburbs, in parks and backyards. They have adapted to the desert of Arizona which has the similar arid region as their native southwestern Africa. The birds are dependent on water sources and gather around pools or fountains to drink. The Rosey-faced lovebirds have also been observed in the wild on Maui and the Big Island in Hawaii. The Rosey-faced lovebirds came to the Surprise backyard on two separate occasions to eat the bright yellow blossoms. What an exciting memorable sighting!

**Ann Kronenwetter, PRGC Bird
Chairman**

