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

Vol. 41 No. 2 The Director's Theme *"Expand Horizons - A Conservation Rainbow"*



Elaine Gunderson
2013 – 2015 Pacific Region Director

Director's Message

The Pacific Region states are poised to support the **NGC Conservation Pledge** to protect and conserve the natural resources of the plant earth and to promote education to become caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife. The Region is striving to procure 100% participation from all eight states. Without all states, the Region will be prevented from competing for the NGC #25 Award of Excellence.

Newsletters and yearbooks received from state, districts and local garden clubs have programs and projects planned to educate members about plants and their care, providing birding and bee field trips, organizing community plant sales, hypertufa and terrarium workshops, Gardening Study Schools, developing civic development projects to using "green hotels" that emphasize sustainability to hold state and Pacific Region conventions. Pacific Region is planting seeds for knowledge and education.

In June I attended the Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. State Convention in Moscow. It was a thrill to learn this state membership of 362 members had won First Place in NGC's #12 Publications: Newsletter for a Small State Garden Club, Idaho Horticulture Society was awarded First Place for NGC's Pacific Region Yearbook for Plant Society PLUS two other First Places in NGC Publications Awards. Do refer to the **Pacific Region Awards Rules** on the Pacific Region Website, PacificRegionGardenClubs.org, and apply as directed.

In September the NGC Fall Board meeting was held in St. Louis. As always, NGC provided information and guidelines to help regions, states and local garden clubs to learn and spread knowledge about all programs and projects offered by their national organization. The Pacific Region Executive Committee also met. Be sure to utilize and share NGC's **Keeping in Touch** with all members.

Secure your hotel registration today for the **Pacific Region 2014 Convention** in Coeur d'Alene, ID July 1-3, 2014. Registration

information will follow in the February issue. Chairman Sandy Ford has planned an exciting program with enticing presenters and enriching field trips.

With the holiday season near, I encourage members to note **NGC SAGE & ROSES Project** to send e-cards donating the money that would have been spent on cards and postage to a fund for Blue Star Memorial Markers. Each person who participates will have her/his state garden club's name entered for a drawing. The State winner receives a cash donation to help defray the cost of a Blue Star Memorial Marker and the individual secured another way to help save our forests! Choices Matter!

Joy and Peace to All,

Elaine

Nevada Garden Clubs
Vicki Yuen, President

Theme: "Growing in Nevada"



Due to our hot summer in southern Nevada, many of our clubs are dark for June-July-August. So we are just getting off to a new start. And it is an even bigger start for us, with our building re-opening after over a year's worth of construction in the park around us. Of course, there are lots of little details in getting operational again, but everyone is delighted with the return. Clubs can resume meeting in our familiar location. And the new landscaping around the building looks marvelous.

We did have some activity in August; Robin Pokorski came to give us an engaging leadership training seminar. About 25 people attended, and everyone who came found it very worthwhile. The hope is that newer people will be less intimidated about taking on leadership roles, when they know that there is help - that they will have some guidance, and won't have to figure everything out from scratch.

We are finishing up our planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration in October. Invitations have been sent out, and a few RSVPs have started coming in. I will have more to tell about it, next issue.

Sadly, we lost one of our former state presidents recently. Lee Heenan, who was a Master Consulting Rosarian, and a state president for two separate terms, passed away in July. She was a valuable resource to our members, and will be greatly missed.

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Rita Desilets, President

Theme: "Growing Together"



In May of 1999, a partnership was formed between National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Habitat for Humanity, emphasizing enhancement of the environment by landscaping Habitat for Humanity homes with hardy native trees, shrubs and plants that also attract butterflies.

Habitat for Humanity's mission to lift working families out of an endless cycle of poverty housing so they can build a brighter economic future aligned with CGCI's objectives of the betterment and beautification of the community.

The goal of the CGCI 2013-2015 President's Project "Habitat for Humanity Landscaping" is to encourage districts and garden clubs to become involved in the landscaping of Habitat for Humanity homes. A Grant Program was established to financially aid clubs and districts seeking funding of up to \$250 to complete a landscaping project. To this end a CGCI Restricted Fund – "Habitat for Humanity Landscaping" was established to hold donations until such time as grant applications are approved and the monies distributed.

All CGCI clubs and districts were asked to submit a description of their landscaping projects so a record can be maintained of the scope of CGCI's participation. Habitat for Humanity has 49 Affiliate offices located throughout California making finding a local office convenient for most of our 275 clubs.

Issue Deadlines

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

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



Even though I didn't really start my administration until June, I've been busy. I got my feet wet at the Pacific Region Convention in Santa Rosa, California in April. I saw some old friends and hopefully made some new ones. Our own Elaine Gunderson was installed as the Pacific Region Director and Carol Parrott was installed as Alternate Pacific Region Director. Elaine held a great meeting and outlined what she expected from the Pacific Region states. I was given a list of information that I was expected to send to different chairmen and the dates they were due. I look forward to working with Elaine and Carol.

I returned from the NGC Convention where I connected with other state presidents from the Pacific Region through Elaine. I learned that there were other small states having the same problems that we are facing and we hope to help each other through the process.

It was a wonderful convention and I would encourage everyone to attend one if they are able. Member Services had a table and brought items to sell. I bought my *Vision of Beauty* calendar and some other books. They have an NGC scarf in blue now, as well as in green. There were several vendors there and being a designer, I bought more than I should. They also had the Atlas Gloves vendor and a representative from Crown Bees.

One of my goals is to effectively communicate information from the Pacific Region and NGC to our District Directors and the clubs. I sent out a letter to all of our clubs outlining the benefits of belonging to AFGC, which automatically makes them a member of Pacific Region and NGC. I sent each club president the information on NGC, Pacific Region and AFGC for their yearbooks. The President's Projects for both were also sent to all the club presidents and district directors.

We will be finishing up our series of Flower Show Schools during my administration. We are also conducting a Symposium March 13-14, 2014. See you in the garden.

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

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

First, we can't forget the important things here - our **Alaska Weather Report!** You remember our last report - back in June it was 94 above and our little new plants (and ourselves) just couldn't take it! We just aren't used to that heat! Well! On September 20 we had that white fluffy stuff STICK (for you Southerners in California, Arizona, and Nevada, that's SNOW!)



Our planting beds are now put to rest, the lawnmowers are put away, those lounge chairs that we NEVER had time to sit in are in storage until next year. There's no need to worry about anything **outside** again for seven months (remember when you read this on November 1 this was almost six weeks ago)! Now it's time for us to think about other things! Thank you, **Linda** and **Elaine**, for your themes based on Education. **YOU HAVE INSPIRED ALASKA** to focus, as well, on education with our theme:

Let's Keep Our World A-Buzzing!
Our Minds A-Buzz learning new or confirming knowledge,
Our Communication Skills A-Buzz sharing that knowledge,
And Our Gardens A-Buzz with pollinators
Because we're learning how to keep our Environment clean and our gardens healthy!
Are You Ready to Buzz?

The State is indeed buzzing! We are digging deep and offering substantial educational grants to each of our clubs to assist in sponsoring NGC schools of their choice. Our clubs are so diverse and so far removed from each other that we want them to select what will meet their needs the best and have it close by so that EVERY MEMBER can attend! We've also formed a committee to assist each club in selecting the school that's right for them and to further assist in its organization. We're making an expensive commitment, but we know it will pay off in helping our members become more knowledgeable so they can become better stewards of our land, with that knowledge they will share the information they have learned with other members of their communities, and we will potentially attract new members.

We are listening to our members and working hard to implement programs that will benefit the individual members and clubs. One area of concern to our members is hosting State conventions! The last thing we want to do is lose a club because they don't want

to put on a convention! First, we've increased the monies that the host club will retain from conventions. With only five clubs in our State, and one too small to host a convention, the turnaround for each club is once every four years. That's just too much; therefore, we're going to try something new! In odd-numbered installation years we're going to have a regular club-hosted convention, but simplified as much as possible so it's less trouble for the host club. **This is supposed to be FUN!** In even numbered non-installation years we are going to have a non-club hosted annual meeting in a city in Alaska where an NGC affiliated club USED to be. Now the club turnaround for hosting a convention will be once in every eight years – and that's the minimum because we KNOW we're going to have new clubs that will take their turn. We'll be making contact with gardeners in these cities, hoping they will once again want to be a part of NGC. And, last, we current members will have an excuse to see more of the State. For instance, this coming year we're thinking about going to Homer, Alaska, for the annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival! That will be in early May, BEFORE it's time to work too hard in our own gardens and community projects, BEFORE the bulk of the tourists come, BEFORE the prices increase in honor of those tourists! And we get to see something new (Alaska is BIG – NOTHING is close to anything else)! Stay tuned – I'll report on how this worked after next May.

These are important times for service and educational organizations – keeping our existing members satisfied while jumping into the 21st century with the technology to attract new, energized members with completely different wants and needs! **EDUCATION IS INDEED THE KEY!** And food – don't forget – **GARDENERS ARE GREAT COOKS**, and, according to statistics, that's one of the biggest attractors to any meeting or get-together!

Have a wonderful Fall.

Thermal Receipts

By Jeanne Davis, Greenleaf Bulletin, Arizona



Have you recently been asked if you want a receipt? Have you been suspicious if you were asked "Would you like your receipt emailed to you?" These that were asking, do so because it's recently been discovered

that the paper receipts are printed upon, generally has had BPA. You may be thinking "I know BPA is not good but can't remember why"? BPA is an endocrine disruptor which mimics estrogen and can cause abnormal development. It may be helpful to ask the clerk if their cash register generated receipt is printed on paper containing BPA. If yes, ask that the store switch to BPA-free paper. If the clerk does not know, treat the receipt as if it does have BPA. Never let a

child hold a receipt. Wash your hands with soap after storing all machine generated receipts. Alcohol-based hand cleaners can increase BPA absorption. Do not recycle receipts to assure other recycled paper will not be contaminated.



You may already be aware that plastic containers like water bottles are most likely to have BPA contaminated contents if they have a recycle number of 3 or 7 in the triangle. Those which are not made with BPA plastics generally will say so. It has become a great cause of concern for plastic products for babies and children.

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

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



I would like to share with you a little about some of our districts and clubs and their community gardens. Running Y Garden Club in Klamath Falls got a plot of land donated by the developer, Northview Hotel Group. Plots were laid out plots, advertising sent out to the Running Y community and over 15 participated this year. More than 300 pounds of food was donated to the Klamath Food Bank as well as trading among the participants. We've had a lot of fun and learned a lot that will make next year's efforts ever better. We devoted a large plot to raising Kandy Corn and are having a "celebration of corn" party. All garden club members and plot owners are invited. We're looking forward to continuing our efforts next year.

On to the coast at Lincoln City, Ocean Spray Garden Club, where the city provided three beds to plant: lettuce, spinach, arugula, chard, radishes, onions, zucchini and beets. Water is provided by the city. Some garden club members plant cabbage and beans at home. All the vegetables are given to the Food Share.

To Portland, Arleta Garden Club with eight members, finds a family in need with a yard and teaches them how to plant a vegetable garden, prepare the ground, buy the plants or seeds, when and how to water, pull weeds and instructs the family how to cook the veggies.

Our NGC President Linda Nelson will be present on Veterans Day November 11, 2013 for our 73rd Blue Star Marker Dedication at the Willamette River viewpoint. Thanks to Clackamas District, West Linn Garden Club.

What do you call a stolen yam?

A hot potato.

By Karen Varty, Book of Recognition Chairman

or animal? If they are not in our backyard or threatening our personal welfare, we expect someone else to take action. Our NGC President's theme is 'Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter' so our choices can make a difference.

Presently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists approximately 1,950 plants and animals Threatened or Endangered in the United States. How many of these would we find in the Pacific Region? Listed: Washington - 38, Arizona - 56, California - 289, Oregon - 51, Nevada - 34, Idaho - 24, Alaska - 12, and Hawaii - 317. For a list for your state go online and search **List Endangered Species (your state name)**.

ENDANGERED SPECIES – Likely to become extinct in their range.

THREATENED – Likely to become endangered in the near future.

CRITICAL HABITAT – Vital to the survival of the above.

While recently working on centerpieces for a garden club luncheon, I realized I was using manzanita, some listed on the Endangered Species list for California. They had been purchased at a wholesale florist. The florist receives their supply from private growers

Manzanita listed at the present time in California alone are as follows:

- Artostaphylos confertiflora* - Santa Rosa Island - Endangered
- Artostaphylos glandulosa crassifolia* - Del Mar - Endangered
- Artostaphylos hookeri ravenii* - Presidio - Endangered
- Artostaphylos morroensis* - Morro - Threatened
- Artostaphylos myrtifolia* - lone - Threatened
- Artostaphylos pallida* - pallid - Threatened



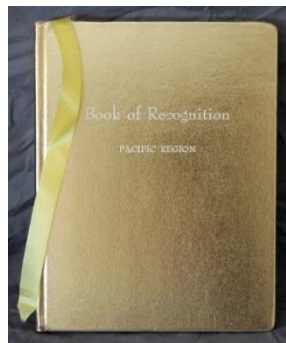
Manzanita is a floral designer's delight. When they are fresh the bark is red and there are many interesting lines for the designer to select. The branches are often

bleached by weather or man to produce a light beige or bone colored bark which lasts a long time. The bleached ones are more expensive to purchase. The wood is very hard.

The whole plant was widely used by Native Americans for food, fuel, decorations, and many other uses. Animals also found shelter and nourishment from these plants. We honor posted signs not to pick Threatened or Endangered plants.

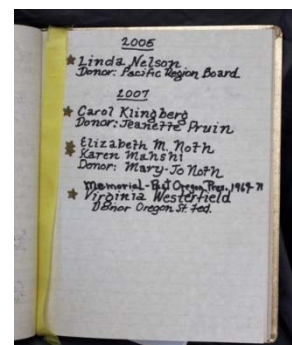
What happens if we ignore the future of this one plant in our environment? When it is **gone**, it is **gone forever!** When even one species is removed from the environment the whole ecosystem is altered, whether it is plant or animal. Every living thing is important and has a purpose to fulfill.

Entering someone's name into the golden Book of Recognition is a way to honor an individual for service



to their club, district, state, region or NGC. In looking through the book you will see short tributes starting out with the phrases, "to honor, to thank, and in memory of." Occasionally the donors have included a newspaper obituary or a funeral card.

Complete the application form on the Pacific Region website and send it to this chairman with your donation. Donations can be in any amount and go to support the scholarship fund. A special card will be mailed to the honoree.



Pacific Region Scholarship Winner

By Kristie Livreri, Scholarship Chairman



Didn't it feel super last year at our Pacific Region Convention when we awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Cami Lea Culbertson of Washington? Well, let's not miss out on feeling that way again in

Idaho. It is not too early to get the word out that we have money available for scholarships. The rules and the forms to complete are on the Pacific Region website. Applications for scholarships must be received by the state scholarship chairman with a postmark no later than January 31, 2014. Each state may choose one application to send on to the Pacific Region Chairman and that application **MUST** be received by the chairman no later than March 15, 2014.

Reach out with information to the rural communities of your state. Send it to local newspapers in those areas. Notify universities and colleges within your state that this money is available. Last year we only had three applications. Let's make it hard on the scholarship committee this year. Let's have one from each Pacific Region state in 2014. Please encourage applicants to also submit applications to the NGC Scholarship Chairman. The NGC scholarship is \$3500 to the school of choice.

Should you have questions about scholarships, check the website or call this chairman at (702) 274-8084.

Flower Show Schools – Plant Identification

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman



Plant Identification can be confusing! When judging at a flower show or point-scoring at a flower show school, the first thing on the point-score sheet is Plant Identification.

Judges check to see if the plant exhibit has been identified on the entry tag according to the schedule or *Handbook for Flower Shows*. Correct scientific names are encouraged for all horticulture specimens exhibited in a Standard Flower Show and are required for exhibits to win a NGC Top Exhibitor Award in Horticulture. Common names may be added, but not substituted for a scientific name.

NGC started allowing the use of a trademark or registered name to be used instead of a cultivar name in 2012. The three most important parts to remember when filling out your entry tag for horticulture and for judges to check are:

#1. The genus **MUST** be present and correct if your exhibit is considered for a NGC Top Exhibitor Award. If the specimen requires a species, it **MUST** be present and correct. If not, even if the specimen scores 95+ points, the exhibit cannot receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award.

#2. If the species isn't required, then the cultivar, trademark or registered name **MUST** be present. You cannot win an NGC Top Exhibitor Award with only the genus listed.

#3. Specimens do **NOT** absolutely need to have the genus and species underlined, nor the cultivar in single quotes as stated on page 96 in the handbook to win a NGC Top Exhibitor Award, however if two specimens score identical values and a decision needs to be made, then it becomes important to follow the handbook instruction exactly for handwritten entry tags.

Why take a chance on losing the big "ribbon" due to lack of proper plant identification!

The Numbers by State

State	# of clubs	# of members
Washington	106	2,846
Arizona	20	616 + 3 plant societies
California	324	21,480
Oregon	96	2,936
Nevada	10	170
Idaho	15	362
Alaska	5	203
Hawaii	2	35
TOTALS	578	28,648

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Brynn Tavasci, President



Theme: "Garden Club —
Outside the Box"

Many enthusiastic ladies and gentlemen of WSFGC donned their best dirndls or lederhosen, and headed for the charming town of Leavenworth for our fall board meeting. This town, a little slice of Bavaria, boasts it is "Always Christmas,"

and truly is one of our favorite destinations for meetings. Fortified by bratwurst mit sauerkraut, the first important question to come before the board was, "What's on tap?" Sorry, strike that. That question came later after all serious items of business were finished.

In order to build enthusiasm and interest in the national, regional, and state themes and projects board members were asked to bring photos of recycled, up-cycled and repurposed projects made by garden club members. They pinned their pictures to a low tech bulletin board to share how they put a "New Twist on Recycling." Creativity is alive and well in Washington State. Some members went the extra mile and participated in the display of recycled garden hats. "Can you Top That Hat," was an opportunity to exercise their humorous side by creating an awesome garden hat. Always ready to inspire "Outside the Box," thinking, I threw my hat in the ring. I glued an old jeans skirt to a discarded lamp-shade. This fusion enabled the wearer to carry pruning shears and sunglasses in the skirt pockets on their head. While this combination provided the perfect blending of high fashion, convenience, and recycling it also created a balance problem due to the weight of the pruning shears. Safety and aesthetics were at risk. Fortunately the other hat designers got it right using tuna cans, wire buckets, plastic food trays and other successful pairings of form and function.

Our state historian Lana Finegold brought a wonderful display celebrating our 80 years long history as a state garden club. State Butterfly Chairman, Mary Lou Paulson did her homework and spent time with butterfly expert, Idie Ulsh, to assist her in coming up with just the right choices for our butterfly vote. She made a colorful tri-fold display for board members to choose and vote for the butterfly that met the criteria for Pacific Region Butterfly. Our nomination is the Red Admiral. The *Vanessa atalanta* is in all the regional states. The host plant in our area is the nettle and it also has a host plant in Hawaii.

By Pat York, Penny Pines Chairman



In 1946, schoolchildren in the San Mateo area decided to help the Forest Service in California following a season of devastating forest fires, by collecting pennies to replant seedling trees in the forests devastated by fires.

Like a wildfire itself, this program spread throughout California Garden Clubs. In 2004 NGC adopted the program and ever since it has been a Continuing Project of NGC.

At meetings clubs take up collections, pennies but really dollars these days, and when they have \$68 they send a check to a forest of their choice to purchase a plantation (365 seedling trees) to be planted in a national forest.

Some members do this on their own "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a relative or special friend. The Forest Service has plaques in the forest where the names are inscribed in that forest. Family or friends can visit these sites by contacting the Forest Service in that area as to the location of the plantation.

Several years ago, a member in my club, lost a son and we were wondering how to honor him-then we thought of a plantation. We took up a collection & bought a plantation in his memory - the family goes up there even today, especially on birthdays, anniversary, or just for a visit and it is very rewarding to them.

Fires in our beautiful California forests continue each year and this program is a great way to help our Forest Service replant our beautiful, peaceful forests.

Above Sacramento in the Tahoe Basin forest there is a nursery, which I had the opportunity to visit a few years ago. I was surprised at the procedure where pine cones from various forests are brought in, kept separate for the forest they came from, so that they would be acclimated to that specific forest when the seedling was returned to the forest for reforestation.

So keep those pennies, dollars really, coming in to help keep the forests throughout our states, home to many animals, birds, and other wildlife, and especially a beautiful place for us humans to visit and enjoy.

States, regions, districts, clubs and/or individuals may participate in this program by donating in multiples of \$68. A \$68 donation may be made in honor or in memory of an individual, organization or theme i.e. National Garden Week, Arbor Day, Support Our Troops, Keep America Beautiful, etc.

Checks should be made payable to **NGC Penny Pines** and sent to: National Garden Clubs, Inc., 4401 Magnolia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

Complete information may be found on our NGC Website.



WSFGC members are really getting into sharing their recycling projects. Ideas and examples are coming in from all areas of the state and the great response is inspiring. The preservation of natural resources can be tackled in efforts great and small and all are worthwhile.

You Can't Win if You Aren't In

By Julie West, Awards Chairman



The Pacific Region Awards have been finalized by the September 27, 2013 Executive Committee meeting in St. Louis. The only change made was in the state award categories numbers 6, 7 and 8. The amended size categories are as follows:

Small State - 500 members and under

Medium State - 501 - 4,000 member

Large State - 4,001+ members

Several **January 1, 2014 deadlines** include Youth Essay Contest, High School Distinguished Service Award and Youth Poetry Contest. The Youth Recyclable Sculpture Contest deadline is **January 15, 2014**. Publicity Press Books and Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest deadlines are **February 1, 2014**. Note each of these entries are sent to specific Pacific Region Chairmen noted on Page 6 of the Pacific Region Award Rules for 2013-2015.

March 1, 2014 is the deadline for Pacific Region Award numbers 1 through 16 including Yearbooks to the PR Awards Chairman, Julie West. The Youth Activities PR Award #17 is also due **March 1, 2014** to PR Youth Awards Chairman, Debbie Skow.

Good luck and may all your ribbons be blue!

**Location, location, location
.... is also true for plants.**



By Greg Pokorski, NGC ESS, GSS, & LDS Schools Coordinator



At the NGC Board of Directors Meeting in Seattle in May, motions were passed to **eliminate (effective January 1, 2014) the requirement to collect *The National Gardener* labels** (proof of subscription) for all NGC schools. **This does not change** the requirement to subscribe to and read *The National Gardener*, the official source of news about our school programs – it just eliminates one piece of “red tape” in conducting a school and processing the associated paperwork. Proof of subscription is still required for schools and refreshers taking place in 2013.

A Restful yet Productive Summer

By Cheryl Christenson, Civic Development Chairman



No matter where you are in the Pacific Region (or beyond), summer brings with it its own unique opportunities and challenges. Were you involved with a community project to enhance already existing gardens or areas enjoyed by the general public? Such endeavors may have included replanting the gardens with native species needing less water and requiring less maintenance. Or, you may have gotten "down and dirty" by pulling and / or deadheading invasive, noxious weeds. Additionally, you may have spruced up (pun intended) planters with colorful annuals brightening outdoor spaces in and around your area.

Traveling through several areas of our diverse and beautiful country has increased an awareness of how involved and committed garden clubs are. And, yes, some of the clubs are not always federated members. Have you taken the opportunity to search out local garden clubs to express appreciation for their contributions? You will be richly rewarded when you can do so. You may even consider becoming an associate member and taking part in their activities and meetings. You will be warmly welcomed, and your ideas and contributions will be appreciated. I have had the good fortune to participate in just such a way these past few years when at our summer home. If you have also been able to do so, or, if your club has been up to some good things in your communities, I would love to hear about it! May we embrace the efforts of ALL garden clubs as they work to beautify and educate. Happy gardening!

By Lee Pearn, Blue Star Memorial Markers Chairman



Send a Greeting Electronically and Recognize Our Servicemen's Every Sacrifice

Send your NGC Board Member and other friends an email greeting at the holidays. Save the time and cost of the card and stamp. (Grandchildren are wonders at creating email greetings!)

Then make a donation to the SAGE & ROSES FUND in order for your state to be entered in a drawing.

Send your check, made payable to NGC, to NGC headquarters. For each donation of:

- a) \$10.00 to \$25.00 - your state receives one chance to win
- b) \$26.00 to \$50.00 - your state receives two chances to win
- c) each additional \$25 - your state receives another chance to win

1. Your state will be on your chance tickets
2. The winning ticket will be drawn by the NGC President at the NGC convention
3. The winning ticket holder state decides where the Blue Star Marker will be placed in the state
4. All monies collected will be spent in the same year for the installation and landscaping of markers

The Blue Star Memorial Marker program is the premier NGC project which advertises NGC's name from coast to coast.

Be a three way winner -

- * Remember your friends at the holidays
- * Remind the public that NGC is a nationwide organization
- * Remember those whose sacrifices give us our many freedoms

Previous Winners:
 2009 Rhode Island
 2010 Nevada and NCA (By-Way Markers)
 2011 Virginia
 2012 Pennsylvania

Pacific Region Life Membership – An Award for a Lifetime

By Garnet Ascher, Life Membership Chairman

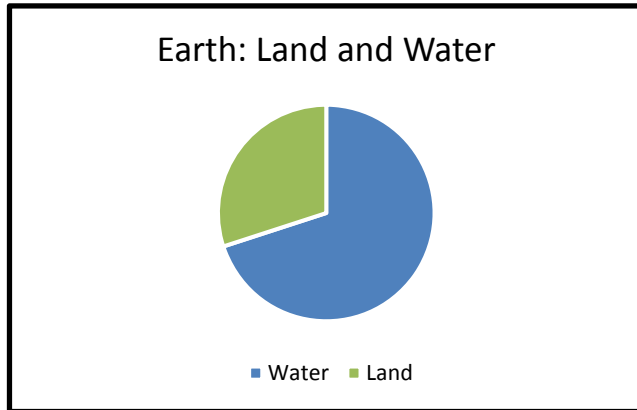
Remember when you are considering giving an award that Pacific Region Life Membership is available for \$40.00 and that includes a pin! Help us award a \$1,500.00 scholarship this coming year.

Contact: Garnet Ascher, Life Membership Chairman, garasch39@msn.com or 503-292-4460.

By Mary Sue Colvin, NGC **Water** Protection & Conservation Chairman

Water equals Life. And we need to take care of it. Some facts of note concerning the physical significance of water in our lives include:

- 75% of the human body is **water**
- 90% of human blood is **water**
- 70% of the earth's surface is **water**

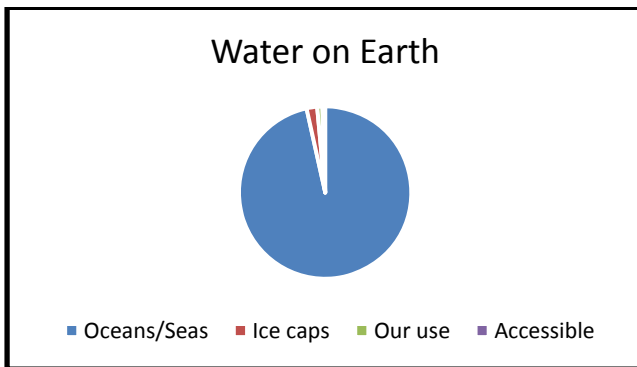


Water comprises 70% of the Earth's surface. Land comprises only 30% of the Earth's surface.

Of all the **water** on earth – 97% is contained in the oceans and seas. 2% is in ice caps.

1% of the earth's **water** is available for our use and only a small percentage of that 1% is accessible.

Of that small percentage of accessible **water** 98% is used for agriculture and industry.



The NGC President's Special Project for 2013 – 2015 is: **"Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter"**

As garden clubs and as individuals we should be aware of the issues facing our **water** supply – not just locally, but nationwide and worldwide – and taking steps to make a difference by making wise choices in the conservation and protection of our **water** resources – **blue** gold.



By Nan Jean Roller, Air Quality Chairman



Air quality in many of the states in the Pacific Region has been very poor this past summer due to the forest fires. Air Quality means the state of the air

around us. Good air quality means clean, clear, unpolluted air, or a measurement of the pollutants in the air, a description of healthiness and safety of the atmosphere.

Air quality has improved over the past decades according to many studies. The visible and noticeable air pollution (smoke, dust, smog) has decreased from many cities. Air quality affects people's health - especially people with lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from the presence of particles in the air. According to a leading study by author Arden Pope, the best news relative to air pollution research over the last few years is evidence that our reducing air pollution in the United States has resulted in measurable improvements in life expectancy and public health.

Many newspapers carry the air quality index everyday in the weather section, giving a good idea of how many pollutants are in the air. Many publications can be ordered from the Air Quality Index (AQI) – A guide to Air Quality and your Health.

Flickr - Photo Archiving

By Judy Swartz, Photo Archiving Chairman



Preserving digital images is a different process than storing in a filing cabinet or photo album.

It is so easy to use digital cameras, and to create digital images on the computer. Ten years ago we got the choice of 24 photos on a roll of film, now we easily have 200 photos to choose from. Hopefully, all are downloaded onto our computers and removable media such as memory cards or thumb drives.

When you download from your cameras, there are four things you need to do right away. The trick is to find the time and a way to easily *save the images, to identify the images, to organize the images* and lastly, *to find/retrieve the images* so you can decide which are important for your needs at that time.

There is software such as **Windows Live Photo Gallery** which helps you to do all of that. Regardless of whether you are Windows based or Mac/Apple based, this program will recognize and assist in organizing.

To address this issue these four factors are part of the thought process.

1. **Download the images and save** the photos in a jpeg format, in the highest resolution possible. Jpeg which has been around for 20 years will probably be used for another 20 years. Eventually we will move to different media so we need to save camera original at the highest resolution possible.
2. **Identify the images and give the photos description file names.** Tag photos with many different identifiers such as names of people and descriptive subjects such as purple flowers, abstract design, designer name, event photo taken, along with state of origin, flower shows, symposium, etc. Identify with many different tags so you can sort later. We all know this is time consuming; it needs to be done so you can search for them later.
3. **Organize the images.** This can come after the original download and when you need photos, such as the spring flower show in Washington...now which Washington?? Accessible and usable information details which are not always obvious. Tag so you can sort by colors, styles, types, seasons, etc.
4. **Find/retrieve the images** through the “tag” process. Regardless if this is done on a national, regional, district or local level, each group should be able to easily find the images needed. This is the filter tool needed to call up a photo. Flickr is one way to selectively share the photos, but sometimes photos are needed for other purposes, and the weakness of Flickr is the balance between private and public.

The ultimate goal of all is to search in a logical way and years later, when someone else is doing this, there is logic available.

This saved information and photos are worthless unless they are shared with one another. That is when the interesting part of this process comes in. Storing all of the information on one computer becomes cumbersome and impractical.

In order to access and refine, the safest way to share it is a private storage box in the “cloud.” These are online folders called *drop boxes* and can be accessed by those authorized and knowledgeable, along with those who need the data. The refinement can continue with those who know or are willing to learn how to manage them.

Drop boxes have substantial value in many other practical terms. Jpegs, word documents, posters, recruitment materials, forms and more can be accessed and downloaded onto personal computers to be locally used. The advantage of having a drop box is the idea of sharing the load. Several people contribute and all benefit by accessing it. There are free drop boxes for individual use, but organizations pay annual minimal fees for using them.

Pacific Region Executive Committee Meeting Held September 27 at the NGC FBM in St. Louis

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- As provided in our region’s Policy & Procedure Guidelines, and as usually happens at NGC Fall Board Meetings, the Executive Committee met at the Call of the Director, and all members of the region at the FBM were invited to attend. Thirteen EC members and at least 12 other members of the region were present.
- A motion was passed to allot \$50 to Char Mutschler for flowers to be provided at the 2014 NGC Convention in Norman, Oklahoma.
- A motion was passed to allow a \$50 honorarium to Oklahoma Wild Care Foundation for providing a speaker at the Pacific Region Breakfast at the 2014 NGC Convention in Norman, Oklahoma.
- A motion was passed to allot up to \$150 for audiovisual equipment at the Pacific Region Breakfast at the 2014 NGC Convention in Norman, Oklahoma.
- A motion was passed to allot up to \$200 for a table embosser and related supplies (to replace an old embosser – for use on Awards, Book of Recognition and Life Member certificates, and for Director’s Citations).
- A motion was passed to increase *WACONIAH* expense by \$200 in the budget (to provide for the additional pages, which members indicated that they liked)
- The 2013-2015 Awards Program was ratified as posted on the Pacific Region website.
- A motion was passed to change Awards 6, 7 and 8 (State Newsletters, Yearbooks and Other Publications) to have three, instead of four, categories.
- A motion was passed to adopt the revised (since convention) version of the Policy & Procedure Guidelines. Additional changes will be forthcoming as regions have to come into compliance with IRS requirements as discussed at this Fall Board Meeting.
- **State Presidents** presented brief reports on how their states are supporting the NGC Conservation Pledge and the Director’s Project, and **were asked to submit 100-word reports to the Director by November 1.**
- The Director will represent the region at the NGC Winter Executive Committee meeting in New Orleans, January 21-22, 2014.

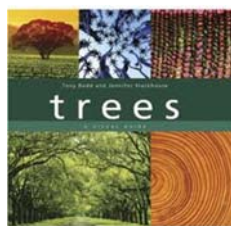
Gardener’s Tip

From Country Woman magazine



When repotting plants, put a coffee filter in the bottom of each new pot. It keeps dry soil from running out of the drain hole, and helps the soil stay in when you’re watering plants.

By Linda Larson, Book Review Chairman



Trees: A Visual Guide by Tony Rodd & Jennifer Stackhouse

Bookshelf space is precious ground for gardeners so I choose my volumes carefully. Trees, is a reference book supremely worth the full inch it

requires! Every photograph is worth framing and clearly connected to the interesting and informative text provided alongside. The book is divided into sections including: *Form & Function, Diversity and Design, Communities of Life, Trees and the Human World* and the *Indispensable Resource of Trees*.

Reading a reference book from cover to cover is not one's usual approach but this book pulls you in. The section of *Form & Function* moves you through structure, trunk, branches & twigs, wood, bark, roots and it keeps you reading as illustrations of the most amazing examples are given. The *Remarkable Trees of the World* section provide facts of habitat, height, family, with a tree shape silhouette in shadow and a color photo of its most unique identifying feature.

In *Trees and the Human World* it illustrates the art, architecture, tools, instruments, food, pharmaceuticals and more that trees provide us in our daily life. From Van Gogh to Viking ships, weapons, wheels and barrels, the uses of tree products seems limitless.

This is a story of trees and their connection to our lives. It leaves a reader changed, never looking at trees again in the same way.

Director Celebrates with Nevada Garden Clubs

Photo by Karen Galloway



L to R: Vicki Yuen - Nevada Garden Clubs President
Elaine Gunderson - Pacific Region Director
Marci Brown - Nevada Garden Clubs 1st VP

Congratulations Nevada Garden Clubs! On the weekend of October 12 - 13, 2013 it held its Fall Conference on Saturday and then Sunday celebrated its 50th Anniversary as a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

By Terry Critchlow, Circulation/Boosters

Your generosity helps support the many projects, scholarships and awards offered by the Pacific Region of NGC. Join the ranks of these supporters by subscribing to *WACONIAH* as a Booster or up-grade your current subscription for only \$15.

Contact Terry Critchlow, Circulation Chairman at tcritchlow@aol.com for a subscription form.

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		Brynn Tavasci	WA

In Memorium



Jeanne Lundell
1920 - 2013

Jeanne was a 60-year (and the last charter) member of the Golden Garden Club in Idaho. As an NGC accredited Flower Show Judge, she helped organize and judge many NW Region flower shows including the Western Idaho State Fair, Boise River Festival and flower shows in Oregon and Washington. Throughout the years Jeanne won numerous awards and bales of ribbons for her flower arrangements. Jeanne both led and attended workshops and seminars on floral judging and design.

By Judy Newman, NGC Environmental Studies Schools Chairman

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman



“Making a World of Difference – Choices Matter” is Linda Nelson’s theme. This theme is rooted in our NGC Conservation Pledge which states that we pledge to protect and conserve our natural resources and promise to promote education

about them so we may become better caretakers of them.

Environmental Studies School Courses and Symposiums offer resources/challenges/opportunities to become connected with environmental groups/organizations in your local community.

Encourage garden club members to become aware of environmental organizations in their communities with goals and activities which parallel or are similar to those of NGC. If possible join, attend their meetings, seminars, conferences becoming actively involved. Share your enthusiasm about being a member of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Invite them to attend our schools, attend local club meetings.

Consider co-sponsoring a series of Environmental Studies Schools with universities/community colleges with environmental programs/majors. Garden club members can become Environmental Consultants and/or receive refresher credits. College students and/or members of the community can possibly receive CEU's and/or college credit with an additional paper.

Updated copies of the Environmental Studies School Handbook are available from NGC Member Services. All the forms are interactive and available on the NGC website. A brochure with an overview of the subjects for each of the courses is available at the NGC Headquarters and on the NGC website. An additional brochure ESS Student and Consultant Guide is also available.

As NGC Environmental Studies School Chairman, I welcome questions and concerns state and local ESS Chairmen might have pertaining to planning schools, refreshers, obtaining instructors and more.

NGC Conservation Pledge

Adopted May 19, 1994



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.

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

January 6-8, Course IV, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Contact: Martha Hunt, (323) 856-8617
floramelrose@gmail.com

February 5-7, Course II, Livermore, CA
Contact: Victoria Lucido, (925) 838-9922
vlucido@comcast.net

March 4-6, Course I, Eugene, OR
Contact: Helen Ellis, (503) 661-1003
LnHELLis@proaxis.com

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIUM

March 13-14, 2014, Phoenix, AZ
Contact: Buff Harrington, (480) 419-6312,
buffharrington@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

- Nov 1 Hawaii Arbor Day – Plant a Tree – Make a Difference!
- April 30 – 2014 NGC Convention, Norman, Oklahoma
- May 3
- June 1-7 National Garden Week
- Jun 27 – Pacific Region Pre-Convention Fundraiser
- Jul 1 Tour – Northern Idaho & Glacier Nat’l Park
- July 1-3 2014 Pacific Region Convention, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho**
- April 20 - 22 2015 Pacific Region Convention, Eugene, Oregon

Director’s Travel Schedule

2014

- Jan 20 – 24 NGC Exec Com Meeting - New Orleans, LA
- Jan 30 Mililani GC - Honolulu, Hawaii
- Apr 30 – NGC Convention – Norman, OK
- May 4
- Jun 23 – 25 OSFGC Convention - Oregon
- Jun 30 – PR Convention – Coeur d’Alene, ID
- July 4
- Sep 24 - 28 NGC Fall Board Meeting – Des Moines, IA

2015

- January NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting – Las Vegas, Nevada
- January Instructors Symposium – Las Vegas, Nevada
- Jan 29 – 31 NGC Flower Show
- Apr 9 – 12 AFGC 80th Convention - Yuma, AZ
- Apr 20 – 22 PR Convention – Eugene, OR
- May 12 – 18 NGC Convention - Louisville, KY
- Jun 9 – 12 CGCI Convention - Reno, NV

If life deals you lemons, make lemonade. If it deals you tomatoes, make Bloody Marys.





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Your good deed is done for the day – you take your WACONIAH by email and save us \$\$\$\$

2014 Pacific Region Convention Pre-Convention Tour – Glacier National Park

A pre-convention tour will be offered for the 2014 Pacific Region Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho – to **Glacier National Park**. The tour will begin Friday, June 27. Friday night's lodging at the Wingate Wyndham, located at the Spokane Airport, is included in the tour. Those with automobiles can leave them parked at the hotel during the tour.



On Saturday our bus takes us through northern Idaho and Montana to Kalispell, just outside Glacier Park, stopping along the way for afternoon tea, at the North Idaho Native Plant Arboretum, and Ross Creek Cedar Grove.

On Sunday we will tour through **Glacier Park** on one of the Park's "Red Jammer" buses. On Monday we'll drive back to the Coeur d'Alene Resort (the site of our convention). Along the way we will drive around Flathead Lake in Montana, and tour the St. Ignatius Mission. We'll arrive at the Resort around 5:30 p.m. and the bus will continue back to our starting hotel at the Spokane Airport for those who need to retrieve their cars. The tour is \$579 per person. **Please let Sandy Ford, sandraford@cablone.net, know by January 1, 2014, if you are interested in this tour.** A \$100 refundable deposit is due May 1, with final payment payable by June 1, 2014. A minimum of 25 participants are needed for this tour.



See our Pacific Region website PacificRegionGardenClubs.org for full tour itinerary and information.

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I never met a pumpkin I didn't like. - Jack O. Lantern