

It is so exciting to see all the wonderful things that happen in the garden club world. From clubs celebrating their history, bringing gardening to seniors, honoring our military or beautifying of our communities, our members are making each corner of the Pacific Region a better place. I am energized when I read of these activities in newsletters or on Facebook pages. Keep up the good work and celebrate what you do.



In September, National Garden Clubs (NGC) had the 2023 Fall Board meeting by zoom. I was glad I could represent the Pacific Region with the other board members. Along with the usual business items, a Strategic Financial Planning Committee was created. The chairmen for President Brenda's projects introduced: PLANT AMERICA – Feed America, PLANT AMERICA – Plant for Pollinators, and PLANT AMERICA – Landscape for Wildlife. Consider participating in one or all these great projects. A report was also given by the Foundation Exploratory Committee, which is in the initial stages of gathering member feedback after having researched the idea.

The NGC 2024 convention will be in Denver, Colorado June 2nd to 5th and looks to be lots of fun with tours and seminars along with workshops. One of the tours is to the Betty Ford Alpine Garden in Vail. Hotel registration for members starts January 1st. Keep an eye on the NGC website for the convention registration form that will come out in the next couple of months: www.gardenclub.org/member-resources.

In August, the state presidents got together via zoom to discuss various items they either wanted to know more about or issues they wanted to get ideas on how other states had handled. Feedback I received indicated that this discussion was appreciated, and the next state presidents' meeting will be in January. If you have a question, you feel the state presidents should consider, please let me know by mid-December.

Information on the Director's Project can be found in this issue. As my theme is "Unleash the Wild, Bring Nature Home", I am encouraging everyone to register their garden on the Homegrown National Park website. The numbers of gardens registered in each state were recorded in April. There will be awards for increases in various categories. I hope you will consider being part of the project. I really feel that the loss of habitat is a big concern and am looking for ways we can all help. There is a lot of information on the Homegrown National Park website: www.homegrownnationalpark.org



Natalie Bloxham
Southern California Garden Club
Sepulveda Rose Garden
Project Manager
818-974-8519



PRESSER

By Natalie Bloxham

Southern California Garden Club has voted unanimously to undertake the restoration of the Sepulveda Garden Center public rose garden directly adjacent to the meeting hall. This is as a result of new SCGC member Natalie Bloxham, (also a 50-year member of Toluca Lake Garden Club with Life Memberships in CGCI, Pacific Region and National Garden Clubs), declaring she would like to head up the project.

On April 18, 2023, Natalie met with Cesar Lomeli, Acting Park Maintenance Supervisor to discuss the concrete borders surrounding two of the four rose beds that were broken and presented a safety hazard to the public. Resultant from that meeting was that Cesar opened a city work order.

A meeting was held August 11, 2023 between Mehmet Berker, Senior Field Deputy for Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Space, Brian Yamasaki, Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor for Council District 4, and Natalie Bloxham, to further discuss the borders in question.

Natalie, speaking candidly, told both city representatives that she understood that things take a long time to come to completion when the city is involved, but, nevertheless, her dream is to have the damaged concrete borders surrounding two of the beds redone prior to January 2024 when the transplanting of existing roses from bed two to bed three would be completed and sixty English shrub roses, bare-root, would then be planted in bed two.

Natalie was advised that the work order opened by Mr. Lomeli would now go forward and the city would request an evaluation of the scope of work required.

Updates will follow.



**PLANT AMERICA,
FEED AMERICA**



Are you participating in the NCC's President's Project helping to feed the less fortunate in America? Get involved TODAY in the Plant America, Feed America Project by donating any extra produce you're growing in your own garden or in a community garden to a local organization that helps to feed the hungry in your community.

If you participate, **fill out this short donation form** found on the NCC's website. You'll find more information about this project and a link to the donation form in a story about the Plant America, Feed America project on the NCC's HOME page.

Get involved today to Feed America!!

www.gardenclub.org





OREGON IS ON THE MOVE!

Fall is a busy time for all of us here in Oregon. Clubs are welcoming new members, finding interesting speakers and planning their programs for the coming year. We have some new clubs this year, too. It is working out to be quite an exciting time for us all.

I have been encouraging our elected state officers to attend the Fall District Meetings when they can. It is important that our members know their officers and are able to feel comfortable enough to ask for information and help from us when they need it. It is working out well. Several of the officers have attended District Meetings other than their own.

Sometimes it is hard to put into words what exactly District Directors (or others) need help with. At our recent Fall State Board Meeting, the District Directors were given a form with questions to fill out. All of them had the same form. All were given time at the meeting to share their responses. They were not timed (which was unusual), but were allowed to give their answers and discuss the results with their peers. There was a lot of good “sharing” that took place. I would recommend that approach.

Oregon prints up a new Directory every two years. Some of the new District Directors (and maybe the new Officers) are not familiar with how to use it. On a break from the meeting, we made a game out of where to find specific things in the Directory. Gift cards were given as prizes. Needless to say, members who participated have a much better understanding of how to find things in the Directory.

Best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season
From all of the Oregon Crew!

Carolyn Olley
OSFGC President
[**molley1755@comcast.net**](mailto:molley1755@comcast.net)





2024 Virtual Photo Contest.

The photo contest last year was a success! I sure had fun admiring all your beautiful pictures. I hope even more of our members will enter this year.

We changed a few things: You will be able to enter each category in color or black and white! They will be judged together. We changed the categories a bit and of course there is a new category for Pacific Region Director Carol Norquist! This year we have a little more time to enter since the Convention won't be until August. The entry form and rules will be on the website. I hope you'll enter as many pictures as you would like because it is a fundraiser!

The winner in each category will receive \$25 and the Best of Show wins \$100. We eliminated the \$100 for the Clubs with the most entries.

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 winning 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.



Sustainability

Gail Vanderhorst

I listened to a Webinar sponsored by NGC with Dr. Rachel Meidl, LP.D, CHMM from Rice University Baker's Institute in Houston, Texas in September. It was a very thought-provoking discussion.

Sustainability is not just recycling as I once thought it was, but it includes a circle of connections: Economics, Social Issues, and Environmental concerns.

Plastics today are made from hundreds of different ingredients, and it is literally impossible at this point in time to break down the chemical components to an end life for each type of plastics.

Plastic remains the number 1 problem in landfills. The United States uses the plastics that it can, recycles some of it and then ships the waste to China for their use which comes back to the United States in the form of toys, gadgets etc. for the American consumer. When China cannot use any more or break down the plastic composition, the waste is sent to other South Asian countries and the same thing happens again.

Even though we separate our trash, each state, city, and community has different rules and regulations for disposing of their recyclables, mainly plastics.

Economically we don't have the wherewithal to have end of life for plastics although plastics are a vital part of our everyday life and economically make sense in our daily uses whether medically, educationally, or how we grow our plants. Much plastic is used in our gardening supplies and tools.

The takeaway is that for plastic, try to use it more than once and pay attention to how often you use plastic. Be aware of your own city's regulations. We have a long way to go before we have a true end of life solution for plastics.



Conservation and Environment Awareness Chairman Report

Stan Chiotti

This report has a lot of statistics, so hope you like numbers. I will start with how things have changed in the USA between 1980 and 2022:

Gross Domestic Product increased 196%

Vehicle miles traveled increased 108%

USA population increased 47%

Energy consumption increased 29%

Total emissions of the principal air pollutants (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, etc.) **decreased 73%**

This last item is cause for your lungs to celebrate. Things will continue to get better, but it will still take some time.

Power generation in the USA for 2022 was 4,200,000 Megawatts. A breakdown by types:

Natural gas-	39%	1,600,000 MW
Coal-	20%	840,000 MW
Nuclear-	20%	840,000 MW
Wind-	10%	420,000 MW
Hydro-	6%	240,000 MW
Solar-	5%	210,000 MW



Wind and solar have a long way to go in order to replace the top two polluters. There are 70,800 wind turbines in use today. We need 300,000 more. That will be a huge loss of scenic beauty.

Solar needs 10 acres/megawatt. Right now, 2,000,000 acres of land is lost to solar panels.

Isn't it amazing how some things that sound great have some nasty consequences.

29% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from cars and trucks. There are 250,000,000 cars and trucks in the USA.

7,400,000 run on diesel

320,000 electric cars were sold in the first quarter of 2023, a 60% increase from 2022

As you can see by these numbers, it will be awhile before you no longer inhale engine exhaust.

The EPA can do only so much.

World population information:

Total population-	over 8,000,000,000
India-	1,425,775,000
China-	1,425,670,000
USA-	334,000,000
You-	1



You can make a difference. Do little things like turning the thermostat down a few degrees and wear a sweater. Do full loads of dishes or laundry. Combine errands to save gas. Turn lights off in unused rooms. Recycle, re-purpose, reuse.



Unleash The Wild: Bring Nature Home

2023-2025 Pacific Region Garden Clubs Project

Debbie Hinchey, Chairman DHgardens@outlook.com

Small gardening practices can make a difference. The gentle bumble bee queens need to find a place in the soil under leaf litter to overwinter - so add organic materials to the top of your soil as mulch. Insects that prey on garden pests also need to find safe places. Fresh water for insects, birds, bats, frogs, and other critters is a requirement for survival. Of course, places for birds to nest in trees and shrubs or nest boxes of the correct design are helpful to bring these future parents into the yard (to eat the thousands of insects that should be available) where pesticides are not used. Certain early blooming plants have nectar and or pollen available to feed the emerging bees and other insects. A series of different plants are needed to supply nectar, pollen, leaves, seeds, berries, or structure to support the circle of life. Each critter is dependent on others - and others dependent on it. In our yards, they are all dependent on our choices.

It has been shown that plants native to an area support the native critters. With climate warming some natives are blooming too early or arriving too late to synchronize their needs - especially for pollination and food. There are many sources of information to help you find out what will probably work in your yard. (Some resources listed on the other side of this page.)

The Basics:

1. Goal objectives: Educate ourselves, others, and do something to help the natural world.
2. Keep a tally of what we have been doing and what we have incorporated into our gardening.
 - a. If you have already incorporated techniques to help wildlife in your gardening, Great! Take a point for each thing you have done and send a list to Debbie.*1 You are a resource for others to learn about what works – and what didn't in your situation.
 - b. If you are incorporating new measures to entice nature into your yard, Great! Take a point for each thing you have done and send a list to Debbie.*1
 - c. Writing a brief (inspirational) bit for the newsletter equals another point!
([Mailed to Debbie for consolidating](#))
 - d. Sending photos with a brief description for newsletter or website wins more points. (Send to Debbie)
 - e. Club, district, and state projects get points for the number of participants. Send Debbie a brief description of the project and the number of both club members and non-club members that participated.
3. How to win a MONETARY Award:
 - a. BRING NATURE HOME Award to the garden club with the most points.
 - b. HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK Award - Peruse the information on the website (*2) and if you qualify, add your yard to the website map. This award is for an increase over the number of participants already on the map on April 19, 2023. This award will be based on the per capita in each state.

*1 DHgardens@outlook.com – Send your list with your name, garden club, town, state to collect points or ask questions.

*2 <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>



Community Beautification

Being active in your community is one of the fun aspects of belonging to a Garden Club. There are so many ways you can be involved and help beautify your community. I am sure you can tell me all kinds of great stories of your Club's involvement.

One way is for your Club to have a membership in your Chamber of Commerce. Not cheap, but worth it. It is exciting to be involved in what is happening with the businesses and plans in your town. Years ago I became a member of our Downtown Association, specifically because I wanted to promote hanging flower baskets. We had had them before, but they were discontinued because they were too expensive to maintain. Of course, right when I joined around 2008 the recession hit and I didn't dare talking about expensive hanging baskets. But after a couple of years things looked up and I showed the Downtown members pictures of hanging baskets in other cities and even in Holland. They all agreed they looked pretty, and research showed it was good for business.

The reason it is so expensive in Klamath Falls is because the weather is so dry here that baskets need to be watered twice a day! The baskets are back and beautiful. The Garden Club gives advice on what kind of plants to buy, and the Downtown businesses know about our Klamath District Garden Clubs.

We do more with the Downtown Association, but I'll leave that for another time.

Please send your success stories to:

Tanja Swanson
tanjandy@gmail.com





Parliamentary News

By Greg Pokorski, Pacific Region Parliamentarian

Remember that the Chair (presiding officer, president) of an organization is the leader, not the boss. The power of the Chair is in the office, not the person.

Parliamentary rules are tools, not the end objectives. No rules can take the place of tact or common sense.

Because parliamentary procedure is intended to protect the rights of members as well as helping to facilitate effective meetings, there are three motions (used during meetings) that members should understand, and presiding officers should know how to respond to them.

Parliamentary Inquiry

If a member wants to ask a question about the rules, as they relate to the business at hand, and how they apply to what is going on she may rise and say, “A parliamentary inquiry, please.” The chair responds, “The member will state the inquiry.” The member asks the question, for example, “Is a motion to recess in order?” The chair then answers the question.

Point of Order

Any member may call the attention of the chair to a violation of the rules because the chair has the duty to make sure that rules are followed. You may rise and interrupt the chair or speaker without waiting to be recognized, calling out, “Point of order!” The chair responds, “The member will state her point of order.” The member states how they think the rules are being broken. The chair then rules that the point of order is or is not well taken, explaining the reason for the ruling.

Appeal the Chair’s Ruling

The group (the assembly, the members) as a whole, not the chair, is the final authority in judging whether the rules have been violated. If a member disagrees with a ruling by the chair, she may stand, without waiting to be recognized, and say, “I appeal from the decision of the chair.” This requires a second and may be debated, but each member is allowed to speak only once. The chair may speak twice, the second time to close debate. The chair then asks, “Shall the decision of the chair be sustained?” A majority vote in the negative will overturn the chair’s ruling.

***See Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) Sections 23, 24 and 33 for more information.*

Poems by Lana Finegold

Pacific Region, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs,
East Lake Washington District, proud member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

GARDEN CLUB

*Garden Club has filled my life with knowledge of design
And how to plant a thing or two and grow it really fine.
I win blue ribbons now and then at flower shows I enter.
Yes Garden Club has helped me grow. I show up front and center.
My garden grows quite lovely now. I've learned a thing or two.
My garden keeps me occupied with many things to do.
The skills I learn at Garden Club have served me very well.
Like how to prune and when to prune—The stories I can tell..
I watch the birds that eat bird seed. The watching is such fun.
I nurture nature every day. My work is never done!*



FOCUS ON GOOD

*Each person's created to focus on good and I have been lucky to do as I should.
The ups and the downs of this very long ride have given me hope
and filled me with pride.
I always aim high with compassion respect.
I value each kindness and aim to protect:
Our world is quite fragile, democracy too.
So move on with courage in ALL that YOU DO.*



KINDNESS

*Kindness, Respect and compassion: Values to flavor our lives.
Kindness, respect and compassion, These are our needs and our drives.
Be kind with respect and compassion. Each person has so much to give.
Be kind with respect and compassion. Be generous as long as you live.*

WACONIAH

*Thank you for making the 79th PRGC Convention Fun and Fantastic.
I am filled with warm fuzzies or appreciation and gratitude.
Lana Finegold 2021-23 Director.*

WACONIAH

Pacific Region Newsletter-Winter publication *The Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs 90 years in service to our communities 1933-2023*



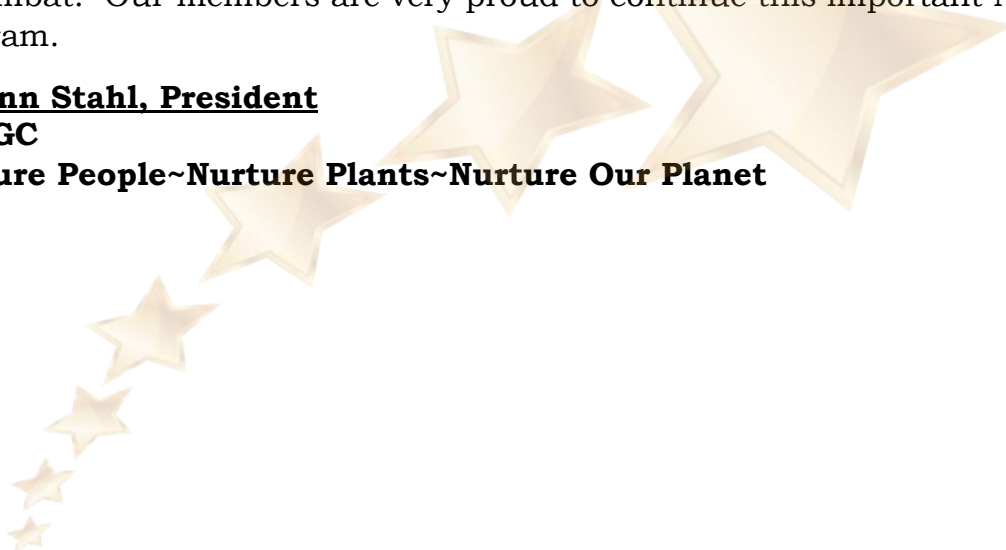
It's September 27th at this writing and WSFGC members are feeling tremendously grateful for the heavy rains we've had in the last week. It was a terribly warm dry summer so we're happy that fall has arrived. The weather, however, did not deter our members from enjoying their club activities and wonderful gardens.

In August, WSFGC held its Fall Board Meeting in Pasco, WA. The city lies in the rain shadow of the Cascade Range. As a result, the area is a beautiful windswept desert, receiving little precipitation throughout the year. Many thanks to Director Alice Ver Steeg and the members of Blue Mountain District who recruited very interesting speakers, provided plants and flowers for our dining tables, and beautiful floral arrangements, as well. Many Board members traveled across the mountains to participate!

This fall we're excited to be celebrating the dedication of two more Memorial Markers in our State. The Kelso Garden Club installed a Gold Star Memorial Marker in Tam O'Shanter Park and Port Angeles Garden Club is dedicating a Gold Star Memorial Marker at the Captain Joseph House. This is a facility dedicated to providing support to families affected by the death of a loved one in combat. Our members are very proud to continue this important NGC program.

Suzann Stahl, President
WSFGC

Nurture People~Nurture Plants~Nurture Our Planet





Pacific Region Gems (purchase \$15)

Don't forget to recognize your outstanding garden club member/s as a Gem in the next issue of Waconiah. Surprise that someone by thanking them and announcing their achievements, celebrate a birthday. See submission form on the web page and send to Chairman: Terry Critchlow.



Dear friends,

By the time our next issue comes out in February 2024, a whole season of holidays will have been celebrated happily with families and friends. I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving, A very Merry Christmas, and very Healthy and Happy New Year and Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanza. Wowzer! If I missed a holiday, please, forgive me. Or better yet email me to teach me a lesson.

*In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue and stay safe. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our November Newsletter. **The next deadline will be January 15, 2024** for the February issue.*

2024 WACONIAH issue dates

February 2024	articles due January 15, 2024
May 2024	due April 15
August 2024	due July 15
November 2024	September 15

Sincerely,

Myrna Cabanban
PrgcWaconiah@gmail.com
Editor

