



WACONIAH

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

Vol. 40 No. 2 The Director's Theme "Looking In and Reaching Out"



Debbie Hinchey
2011 – 2013 Pacific Region Director

2013 Convention

Read the first highlights of the 2013 Pacific Region Convention in Santa Rosa, California. CGCI Members are ready and eager to welcome everyone to our part of the region. We're in Sonoma County, wine country – remember Napa makes auto parts; Sonoma makes wine!

Director's Message

The preconvention tour planned by **Becky Hassebroek** and **Robin Pokorski** was fantastic! The enthusiasm the tour group had continued on through the convention for an upbeat event. It was also nice to see garden club friends and have so many first time attendees from around the region.

Many thanks go to **Carol Norquist** for the many hours of planning and negotiations. **Sheila Parcel**, Vice-Chairman also worked to make the Anchorage convention run and fun. Alaska Garden Clubs hosted the convention with most of the work done by the Anchorage Garden Club with helpful assistance by the Wildflower and Ketchikan Garden Clubs.

At one of the lunches a questionnaire asking about Pacific Region (PR) and National Garden Clubs (NGC) was discussed in a round table discussion. Each person was asked to complete the form with their experiences, perceptions, and suggestions. Some of the ideas should be easy to implement while others will take more discussion. (See the questionnaire summary later in this newsletter.)

Everyone is always welcome to send me their thoughts about this organization, especially with the suggestions on how we can improve to support you and your club. I only have a short time left to speak on your behalf, so do not wait too long with your ideas.

The 2013-2015 administrations (both PR and NGC) have been making plans to be ready to go when they are installed next spring. If you are interested in serving as a PR committee chairman (or in another capacity) you should send in an application and/or contact the incoming PR Director, **Elaine Gunderson** (of Arizona) and the incoming NGC President **Linda Nelson** (of Oregon.) The applications that have been used in the past are downloadable on the PR and NGC websites.

So happy to be working with you, "Looking In and Reaching Out" to make a positive difference.

Debbie

Theme: "Alaskans Giving...Caring"



If you'll remember last issue I advised that one of our Alaskan members in Fairbanks was trying an experiment with corn. He heard that to grow corn you needed a soil temperature of 85-90 degrees and, of course, that's unheard of in Alaska. So....he buried heat mats, like you use for germinating seeds, about a foot under the

soil of a raised bed garden, ran electricity to them, protected the electronics in sealed plastic, and....he harvested a bumper crop of the sweetest Fairbanks corn on the cob you can imagine! A little ingenuity certainly brings results!

What an **exciting, memorable, special** time we had sharing our wonderful Alaska this summer with our Pacific Region friends. About twenty signed on for the very first Mid-Summer Moose Madness Tour prior to our Pacific Region Convention in Anchorage. Robin provided us with monthly newsletters containing interesting Alaska info and schedule updates leading up to the trip! The participants flew into Fairbanks and here's part of what they enjoyed:

- Shopping in North Pole at **Santa Claus' house** (I heard some of the young at heart even sat on Santa's lap and shared their wishes with him while others fed his reindeer outside);
- A **Sternwheeler Riverboat ride** to an Athabaskan Village on the Chena River, meeting Iditarod sled dogs and racers, learning about the different furs and what they're used for;
- A riverfront wiener roast complete with **s'mores** (and there were those who had NEVER had a s'more before);



- A narrow gauge train ride to tour a Gold Dredge complete with **real gold panning** and a "poke of gold" to take home;
- An early morning search for **wildlife** (with a few grumbles until they started seeing moose – one after the other until they lost count);
- A picnic at the Hot Springs complete with a tour of the award-winning geothermal operation, the greenhouse where they grow year-round vegetables for their restaurant patrons (yes, even with 24 hours of darkness and 50 below zero temperatures), and a trip inside the year-round ice museum complete with an **appletini at the ice bar in an ice glass**



– lots of memories!

- Then there were garden tours, a barbecue at a private home with fresh-caught salmon, and a photosymphony of the **Northern Lights** by a world-famous photographer.
- A domed-car train ride to **Denali Park** with another early morning wildlife nature tour where we all enjoyed viewing moose, caribou, sheep, goats, birds of all kinds, grizzly bears – the mountain was hiding but we didn't care! – a dinner theatre with family style "vittles" and good back-country singing, dancing and fun! And then the domed car rail trip from Denali Park to Anchorage through some of the wildest and prettiest country there is!

But, do you know what was more special than all of the above? Our Pacific Region Friends! I have never had the pleasure of spending time with a more delightful, flexible, fun-loving, caring group of individuals! If you ever run into one of them, be sure and ask them to share with you their now-famous **Moose Dance!**



The sun was shining and the air was warm in Anchorage for our **Pacific Region Convention** hosted by all of the Alaska Garden Clubs! Our National President, **Shirley Nicolai**, added to that warmth by gracing us with her presence! We stayed at a lovely hotel within walking distance to all of the downtown attractions. During meetings, the hotel was kind enough to provide **mandatory exercise breaks** by setting off the fire alarm on multiple occasions! We were all happy to get outside and stretch and enjoy the day! We had a bit of business, great silent auction items, a delightful program by Kathy Zins on how to make **Ice Art** to decorate our tables and exteriors during the winter, a tour of a backyard wildlife habitat, a little bit more business, a tour of our Regional Director **Debbie Hinchey's** lovely garden, a little more business, a great tour of **Portage Glacier's Welcome Center**, the **Alyeska Ski Resort** hotel and gardens with an extra-special wildflower identification walk with our very own wildflower specialist and author Verna Pratt, a tour of a **wildlife rescue farm** where we were able to get up close to lots of different Alaskan wildlife, a little more business, a cocktail party at the Walsh's **Water Fall Garden**, City-wide garden tour of home gardens, some great food, lovely **designs** from our Judges' Council commemorating our National President, our Alaska Garden Clubs President, and the eight Pacific Region states, and lots of time spent sharing and learning from our fellow gardening friends. We hope everyone left tired and content and full of wonderful memories and, of course, looking forward to the next Pacific Region Convention in Northern California!



Shirley attended our Alaska Garden Clubs Convention, as well, and flew home to the D.C. area only to join her family and all fly back to our Great State a week later for a vacation! She just couldn't get enough of us!

Alaskans have experienced our first killing frosts and it's time to put away our gardens for the winter! It's not a sad time for us – now it's time to focus on meetings and indoor projects and other things in our lives and look forward with great anticipation to our plantings of next year!

Everyone has many reasons for joining a garden club – and we reap many rewards – but we know that the very best of all are the lifelong friendships we make and enjoy with not only those from our own areas, but from all over the country! I am thankful every day for all of you that have become such an important part of my life! Can't wait to see you again soon!

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
Judith Juno, President

Theme: "Nurture Natives — and each other"



Along with board members and state presidents, I attended the **Pacific Region Convention** in Anchorage AK which was capably and enthusiastically led by PR Director Debbie Hinchey and AK State President Becky Hassebroek and their board members. The tours were highlights

of the area. I also attended the informative NGC Fall Board Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas with a fascinating tour to television personality P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain Farm.

We continue to provide **educational opportunities** for our members. **Gardening Study School II** is to be scheduled later in Pasco, WA, presented by Blue Mountain District. **Flower Show School II** will be in April in Tacoma, presented by Capitol District Judges Council. Check our webpage for ongoing details: wagardenclubs.com (NOT .org).

Our Advanced-Standard Flower **Holiday Show "Celebrate"** in November will be a success, entertaining a host of members at the Everett Holiday Inn. Chairmen Betty Arnold, Rhonda Permenter and Bea Randall led many committee members in this extravagant production.

Remember, you are invited to the **2013 NGC 84th Convention "RainShine"** to be held at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel in Seattle on May 24-26. Chairman Jeanette Pruin with Vice Chairmen Sally Priebe and Carolyn Erickson are busy guiding all the committee chairmen in preparations for this fabulous convention. Districts are making the centerpieces.

I am very proud of the **teamwork** of our members. **Together** we accomplish the goals we set.

Enjoy the Holidays and be sure to come to NGC Convention 2013 in Seattle.

Nurture Natives — and each other!

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

By Debbie Hinchey, Director 2011-13



Planning for the Future

The first steps toward ensuring a secure future for California Garden Clubs, Inc. was taken when two CGCI Endowment Funds were established at the 2010 annual convention: CGCI Scholarship Endowment Fund and CGCI Endowment Fund. The CGCI Scholarship Endowment was funded with \$62,005 from the

Restricted Scholarship Fund and the CGCI Endowment was funded with \$30,000 when a CD renewed.

To encourage donations, June 2010 through May 2012 was designated as the Charter Years for both endowment funds. Contributors during this inaugural time period are forever designated as Charter Donations and the donors are listed in the 2012-2013 CGCI *Yearbook, Manual & Roster*. Nineteen donations to the Scholarship Endowment Fund totaled \$9,050 and nine donations to the CGCI Endowment Fund totaled \$4,400 by Charter Endowment Members.

The second step toward ensuring a secure future was taken when CGCI established the *Golden Legacy Society* at the 2012 annual convention which will consist of those who have included CGCI in their estate plans. Those who have a profound love of CGCI will be able to provide for the organization long into the future through estate planning. Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy! It does not need to be a big gift to make a difference. Gifts large and small are important. To acknowledge the contributions of these thoughtful individuals, CGCI established the Golden Legacy Society which will consist of those who have included CGCI in their estate plans.

Charitable bequests can help protect and maintain your organization for generations to come - and ensure that you leave a legacy along with your footprint in the organization. Estate gifts can be used to continue to inspire people to pursue and achieve the objectives of your organization.

Participation not only allows the organization to personally acknowledge and express thanks for your gift (while you are still here to thank in person), but it also will serve as a philanthropic example for others. When you step forward, others are encouraged to do the same. Stay tuned as details are being developed and will be announced when finalized in both *Golden Gardens* and *Golden Gardens eNews*.

The questionnaire that was handed out for discussion at the 2012 Pacific Region Convention in Anchorage this past July seemed to be a good chance for members in attendance to give their thoughts and experiences in Pacific Region (PR) and National Garden Clubs (NGC.)

I will summarize the first four questions (that were about communications) now. After I return home from NGC Fall Board Meeting and a week vacation in Arkansas, I can compile a list of all the comments for distribution.

Question #1: "*The National Gardener (TNG), Keeping in Touch (KIT), and WACONIAH are publications of NGC and PR (of NGC.)*" The attendees were asked if they had heard of each of these publications, do they get a copy, and if so, do they read them.

Not surprising when sampling attendees at a PR convention that almost everyone had heard of, received, and read these publications. KIT had the least recognition of the three. Since KIT is now delivered as an e-mail attachment (like *WACONIAH*) it is much easier to send along to more members. Now that we know we have not distributed KIT as far as we thought we can make an effort to pass it along further.

Another part of this question asked why people did or did not read the publications. According to the survey, everyone that received copies read them and found them to be interesting, informative, and contained the most up-to-date information available.

Question #2: "NGC and PR have websites. Did you know that?" YES, answered 32 people, and NO answered 2 people. "Have you visited the websites?" NEVER - 8 people, ONCE - 2 people, OFF & ON - 13 people, and OFTEN - 15 people. Several people commented that they did not know that both had websites.

Question #3: "What do you think about the NGC website? (Please give suggestions of how it can be better.)" The comments went across the spectrum from easy to use and/or informative to difficult and frustrating to use and/or some of the information is inaccurate or not enough is there. More details will have to be looked at later when all comments are recorded for distribution.)

Question #4: "What do you think about the PR website? (Please give suggestions of how it can be better - now and later by e-mail.)" Many people mentioned that they had not visited it much and/or had difficulty with passwords, found it confusing, and unattractive while others found it useful and acknowledged it was a work in progress that was getting better all the time.

By Debbie Skow, Youth Chairman



With Google searches at our fingertips, we have a tremendous opportunity to locate and reach out not

only to schoolchildren but also to other youth groups in our areas such as Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Campfire USA, 4-H, FFA, churches, "after school" programs and more!

Oftentimes school curriculums are too jam-packed to adopt garden club projects or participate in garden club youth contests while these other youth groups oftentimes welcome our involvement and suggestions. We can get all of these youth groups involved in some way be it by inviting Boy Scouts to enter their Eagle Scout projects in NGC's High School Distinguished Service Project Award contest; Girls Scouts' Silver and Gold Projects qualify, too. We can help Girls Scouts earn NGC's Native Plants Patch. Visit www.gardenclub.org for details. Annually Boy Scouts adopt a Good Turn for America Project. Why not suggest they adopt one of NGC's projects? You can also teach youth groups floral design then give those designs to Veterans or seniors as part of your club's passive garden therapy project. Next, you can invite these same youth to enter designs in your flower shows. Ideas abound! Finally, invite youth contest winners to your awards ceremony and attend their annual awards ceremonies, too, thereby increasing your garden club's visibility in your community. It's a win-win for all!

During Debbie Hinchey's term, we'd like to compile a list of youth projects from all of your clubs and continue to add to this list in the future. Already numerous youth projects can be found on Pacific Region's website thanks to Carol Norquist uploading a beast of a file from Sandy Ford's term. Please send your youth projects with details as to how they were accomplished to me at d.sk.1159@gmail.com. Be sure to check out NGC's Youth Garden Club Handbook for additional ideas.

Let's Share Ideas

By Debbie Skow, Horticulture Therapy Chairman

As with several youth projects already posted on Pacific Region's website, we would like to share your Horticulture Therapy projects with members as well. Members can also find great ideas in NGC's Horticulture Therapy Handbook. Please send your horticulture therapy projects to me at d.sk.1159@gmail.com so they can be posted on Pacific Region's website. Please consider including youth in your therapy projects, too.

Both questions #3 and #4 may reflect when the websites were visited. The NGC website is in the process of making major changes and have hired new professionals to clear up (hopefully all of) the difficulties. The PR website is constantly being updated with information provided by the (volunteer) PR members and chairmen. This winter there will be another push to get more onto the site. Please, keep the suggestions coming.

Another good suggestion made by several people was the need to have a workshop at conventions on how to use the websites – from how to use passwords to showing what and where information could be found. Ideally, they suggested a computer lab so that everyone could "actually do it," rather than just watching someone else do it. This may be a possible club program that is arranged at a library or school computer lab in their area.

Pictures of YOUR Garden Needed on Flickr

By Robin Pokorski, NGC Flickr Chair, NGC President's Project



This Old House magazine will be featuring garden club members' gardens next spring. Submit pictures of YOUR garden for possible

inclusion. Send pictures to RobinP@juno.com for posting on the NGC Flickr site! Include your name, location, garden club and state garden club. Let's show 'em what lovely gardens we have in the Pacific Region! For more information, see the NGC website.

Highlights of the Business of Convention

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- Total registration: 52. Voting strength: 41.
- Meetings were held by the Pacific Region Executive Committee and the Pacific Region Board of Directors in Anchorage in July, prior to convention sessions.
- The 2012-2013 region budget and 2013 region convention budget were adopted.
- **Immediate WACONIAH subscription rate changes were adopted by the convention body:**
 - 2-year subscription increase from \$10 to \$15
 - 2-year Booster increase from \$20 to \$30
- Per our Policy and Procedure, Arizona was designated to elect the 2013-15 Director and Alternate Director. It was announced that Elaine Gunderson will serve as Director and Carol Parrott will serve as Alternate Director.
- The convention ratified Oregon's Sherry Cossey and Garnet Ascher and Alaska's Carol Norquist and Debbie Hinchey as 2013-15 NGC Nominating Committee members and alternates.
- The convention body approved a motion to purchase 50 Life Member pins at \$5.25 each.

By Dave West, 2013 Convention Chairman

"Celebrating Nature's Beauty & Bounty"



California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) is looking forward to hosting the Pacific Region Convention April 22-24, 2013. It will be held at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country Hotel at Fountain Grove overlooking Santa Rosa. The hotel room rate is only \$105. Come early, stay late as the convention rate is available three days before and after. For reservations, call 800-445-8667 or 707-523-7555 and mention Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs.

Direct air transportation is provided by Horizon Airlines (served by Alaska Air) into the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport (STS) from Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles and San Diego. You may also fly into San Francisco (SFO) and take the Sonoma County Airport Express (www.airportexpressinc.com/) with scheduled airport bus service to Santa Rosa. The Hilton offers complimentary shuttle service to/from the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport when making your hotel reservation.

Convention Highlights:

Monday, April 22



Pre-Convention tour including box lunch to Richards Grove and Saralee's Vineyard – the bus actually drives through the avenues of the vineyards - what a view! This will be followed by a visit to Ferrari Carano Vineyards & Winery's spectacular five-acres of beautiful gardens. Over 10,000 tulips and daffodils take center stage in the spring as visitors

leisurely stroll the meandering path and foot bridges.

Enjoy the evening design program by talented and entertaining Wil Gonzales, AIFD extraordinaire from Ukiah.



Tuesday, April 23



Lunch program by Bill McNamara, Executive Director from Quarryhill Botanical Gardens (see above). Founded in 1987, Quarryhill is one of the pre-eminent Asian botanical gardens globally, featuring one of the largest collections of documented, wild-collected Asian plants in the world. Lunch is followed by an optional afternoon tour of Quarryhill itself, or stay at the hotel for garden design or herb workshops.

The evening's design banquet features Nancy Colvin, one of the Bay Area's premier creative floral designers. You may recognize her name since her designs have been featured the past ten years in NGC's *Vision of Beauty* calendar.



Wednesday, April 24

The lunch program features Luther Burbank Home & Garden to hear some great history about the famous horticulturist, Luther Burbank. In the afternoon will be a fast-moving informative leadership seminar by Becky Lunder from TeamWorks or an optional tour to visit Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.



The evening banquet is the installation of Pacific Region officers for 2013-2015 where **Elaine**

Gunderson from Arizona will be installed as Pacific Region Director.

By Elaine Gunderson, Schools Chairman

CGCI is looking forward to being your host. Contact 2013 Convention Chairman, Dave West by email at JDavidWest@aol.com or telephone 707-829-9342 for additional information. Full details will be in the next issue of *WACONIAH*. We hope you plan to join us for the fun "**Celebrating Nature's Beauty & Bounty!**"

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

October 30-November 1, Course II, Phoenix, AZ
Contact: Marcie Brooks, 623-322-2606
marciebrooks@hotmail.com

January 7-9, Course II, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Contact: Martha Hunt, 323-856-8617
floramelrose@gmail.com

March 21-23, Course III, Phoenix, AZ
Contact: Marcie Brooks, 623-322-2606
marciebrooks@hotmail.com

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOLS

January 4-5, Course II, Eureka, CA
Contact: Mary Lou Goodwin 707-442-1387
Mgoodwin@northcoast.com

January 30-31, Course III, Encino, CA
Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873
RobinP@juno.com

March 28-29, Course IV, Encino, CA
Contact: Robin Pokorski 818-361-7873
RobinP@juno.com

Tally-HO – "The Tally Project"

By Gale Baullinger, Director's Project Chairman



The Pacific Region Director's Project is ending on October 30, 2012. In the next *WACONIAH* we will learn just how many hours and how much money is given by garden club members for civic, humanitarian and community projects.

Undoubtedly, it will be a large number but the prediction is that it will be a surprisingly large number. Of course, that all depends on each of you turning in your hours to your club presidents. You can forward them to me either by calling 425 643 2722, emailing gale5904@aol.com or by snail mail. The address is in the Directory.

Parliamentary Tip

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



NGC Parliamentarian Joan Corbisiero presented a workshop, "The Chair Needs a Plan!" at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in September.

Having an order of business or agenda is an important part of that plan. The agenda specifies the sequence in which classes of business are permitted to be introduced. Without an adopted agenda, any member who obtains the floor can introduce any legitimate matter at any time where no business is before the assembly for consideration, and the presiding officer can lose control of the meeting.

Going GREEN



Steep a used tea bag in a quart of room-temperature water. Add 1 teaspoon of liquid dish soap and ½ teaspoon of ammonia, and pour the mix into a mist sprayer. Then give your plants a good once-over. Spray the

whole plant – leaves and stalk – and the soil. Don't rinse.

The tannic acid in the tea helps plants manufacture more sugar and starch. The soap opens leaf pores, which get clogged with dirt and dust, so the plants breathe better. The ammonia is a quick nitrogen boost.



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

Calendar of Events

- Nov 2 2012 Hawaii Arbor Day
- Apr 22-24 2013 Pacific Region Convention, Santa Rosa, California
- May 24-26 2013 NGC Convention, Seattle, Washington
- July 1-3 2014 Pacific Region Convention, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Issue Deadlines

- February 2013** deadline 12-25-2012
- May 2013 deadline 3-25-2013



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**NGC Award
 Winning Newsletter**

*Aren't you just the one -
 taking **WACONIAH** by email
 and saving us money
 Thank you!*

Make Plans to Go to Seattle for RainShine!



"RainShine"

May 24 – 26, 2013 is the time to be in Seattle for "RainShine," National Garden Clubs' 84th Convention. The convention rate at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Seattle is \$149 per night. There will be tours to many exciting locations including Victoria, B.C./Butchart Gardens, Bloedel Reserve, Bellevue Botanic Garden and many others. Our design speaker is Rene

van Rems from San Diego. Graham Kerr will speak at the Life Member Banquet. A Tri-Refresher has been approved. Our own **Linda Nelson** will be installed as NGC President on Sunday evening. Mark your calendars and plan to attend and help welcome NGC to Pacific Region. Convention information will be on the NGC website and in the winter issue of *The National Gardener*.

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