



WACONIAH

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

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

Vol. 42 No. 2

The Director's Theme "Expand Horizons - A Conservation Rainbow"



2013 – 2015
Pacific Region
Director
Elaine
Gunderson in
Shenandoah
National Park in
Virginia.

The leaves are just changing.
The bear says hello to the moose!

Director's Message

When this issue arrives **Halloween** will be just around the corner with **Thanksgiving** on its heels.

Garden clubs are back in full swing welcoming new members. This is a perfect time to give them the opportunity to participate. Small task assignments are the stepping stones to greater participation. Involved people have a commitment to their garden club. The stronger the bonding between members, the more likely they will serve. This is one of the reasons NGC has national projects so members will grow with a common purpose throughout the country.

NGC Award of Excellence #25 Regional Award:
If all eight states participate in the **Pacific Region Project**, "It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility!"

Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship," it embraces our NGC President's Award, "Choices Matter." Make it happen by submitting your state's application to PR Director's Project Chairman, Sandra Ford, sandraford@cablone.net, no later than November 1, 2014. If one state does not submit, then Pacific Region will not be able to apply for the NGC Award of Excellence #25 Regional Award. Monetary awards await the winners. For details see our website, pacificregiongardenclubs.org.

New NGC Partnership - "Garden Tools 4 Garden Projects": NGC has formed a partnership with AMES Companies, Inc. Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. Over the coming year, AMES will grant tools up to a total of \$5,000 (retail) for all approved state or club landscaping projects/programs. A written application is to be submitted no later than one month in advance of the project. If approved, photos are to be taken with a short project description submitted for NGC publicity and promotion purposes. Information about this new partnership and an application form are found on NGC and Pacific Region websites. The October issue of *The National Gardener* also featured an article. Avail your state or local garden club of this partnership! It is there to help successfully accomplish your project/program.

PR Scholarship: Each year a \$1,000 Pacific Region Scholarship is awarded to a deserving college student. In today's world, college expenses severely challenge students. In 2014 submit your winning state scholarship entry to Pacific Region. If the student qualifies for the NGC Scholarship program, he/she also is eligible to apply for the Pacific Region Scholarship. Don't let your student

miss this opportunity. See the Pacific Region website for further details.

PR Rainbow Fundraiser will continue through April 1, 2015. Looking for a special holiday gift? Match these garden and nature themed rainbow colored T-shirts, caps and/or mugs to your personality. Please contact Chairman Maxine Smolowitz via 208-523-0373 or msmolowitz@yahoo.com. The T-shirts/caps will again be worn at the 2015 Pacific Region Convention in Eugene, Oregon.

Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs is in full swing planning our **72nd Pacific Region Annual Convention, April 20-22, 2015**. Put the date on your calendar and secure your hotel registration today. Convention information will be featured in the February *WACONIAH* issue.

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

Peace and Joy to All,
Elaine

Pacific Region's 2014 NGC Scholarship Recipients

By Elaine Gunderson, NGC Scholarship Committee

Congratulations to the following 2014 NGC Scholarship Recipients from Pacific Region who received named \$4,500 scholarships.

Washington

Brian Bentler - *Eleanor L. Yates Scholarship*

California

Christopher Hewes - *Ellamae Fehrer Scholarship*

David Jaeckel - *Cordelia Gray Brumley Scholarship*

Arizona

Kristina A. Solheim - *June P. Wood Scholarship*

Hawaii

Zena N. Grecni - *Robert Rucker Scholarship*

Idaho

Lindsay Eliason - *Violet Gose Scholarship*

Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. Janet Petersen, President

Theme: "We All Live Downstream, Choices Matter"



Exciting news! Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. has a new garden club! Chinden Gardeners officially became a federated garden club in August. They started out writing and receiving a grant for \$1200 to plant the planters at their library. They did a beautiful job. Congratulations!

Garden Clubs of Idaho has had a very busy summer. Several Garden Clubs have participated in youth education, educating young people on growing flowers, plants and vegetables and making floral arrangements. Long Valley Gardeners in the central Idaho mountains created a lasagna bed in Kerby Park. It is a great idea using the no-dig no-till organic garden method by adding layers of organic materials resulting in rich fluffy soil. Moscow Garden Club took glassware and plates to make beautiful recycled yard art. Garden Clubs throughout our state have enhanced city planters and parks by plantings and maintaining flower beds. We have visited Iris Gardens, Lavender Gardens, and our own members' gardens. We have had pot luck and tomato tastings parties. What a great summer!

Alaska Garden Clubs Becky Hassebroek, President

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

On a popular corner in a town in Alaska was a clump of heritage roses that bloomed early, bloomed long, and had a delightful aroma. They had existed there for as long as any of us could remember. No one ever cared for them – they were not located anywhere else that we knew of – and they were incredibly hardy. We noticed that the buildings along that side of the street were boarded up last Fall, and we heard that the Department of Transportation was going to widen the road – those roses would be destroyed.

The local garden club knew that there wasn't time before the winter to go through a lot of red tape with DOT trying to get permission to dig up these roses. They hoped that the local police would not arrest a group of garden club ladies trying to save a little rose, and they all got together one morning and dug up those lovely plants.

After doing a bit of sleuthing, they found that one of the city's pioneer gardeners brought this rose, the "Pierre Bugnet", from Eastern Canada in the 1950's. As far as they could find, it hasn't been carried by any commercial nurseries in the US or Canada for over 40

years. The roses were overwintered by members of the garden club and cuttings were successfully rooted. The club has planted 19 plants thus far in a prominent place along the downtown riverwalk and will display a sign with its history. The local botanical garden wanted and has been given plants. The Rose Society in Anchorage has included it in their garden. More will be planted as soon as they are available! It seems that this little club has saved a very important, albeit small, part of their City's history. It all started with their vision to acknowledge a problem, their choice to do something about it, and their sharing of the knowledge – and, of course, the little rose. It indeed shows how a small club can make “A World of Difference” without a huge outlay of effort or money! But, that's not the end of the story.

A local newspaper columnist heard about the project and wrote about it in her column. The Associated Press picked up on it. The garden club has been contacted by a representative of The Smithsonian Institute who is highlighting the project on their website “Community of Gardens.” Who would have imagined?!



And of course I can't complete this article without our Alaskan weather update! We had a late Spring, we were plagued with the wettest summer in recorded history, and we had an early frost – but our Alaskan gardeners, forever the optimists, enjoyed more time with shut-ins and are looking forward to winter – it can't be any worse than their summer!

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
Brynn Tavasci, President

Theme: "Garden Club — Outside the Box"

Can you believe it? The holiday season is fast approaching. I am one of those unusual people (plenty of evidence) who does not mind the early decorations in stores, early Christmas songs in malls and early **pumpkin** lattes. Bring on the WSFGC's Annual Holiday Show, sensibly scheduled for November 5th and 6th at the Everett Holiday Inn. Get in touch with your inner jingle at “**Holiday Jewels**,” our advanced standard flower show-**ho ho ho**. Those coming to the post-holiday show dinner remember your sweater for the “Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest.” Prizes will be awarded

by category for “Excellence in Ugliness.” Creative recycling is encouraged.

A jolly time was had at our fall board meeting in Spokane. An informative educational put together “by committee,” offered information picked up from an awesome educational at the Pacific Region Convention in Idaho, and supplemented with additional information about Linda Nelson's project and Elaine Gunderson's project. Our dinner speaker spoke about “Companion Plantings for Roses.” Table centerpieces were recycled paper roll tubes paper mached and painted to look like small garden baskets.

Fran Cissell from the Hill & Dale District created a wonderful educational for the Pierce County Fair titled “Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse.” Her inspirational



message also doubled as a threat to her future purchases. “If you live at my house and don't work for what you were bought for, you will get *planted*.” She has made good on this promise many times over and with beautiful and natural-resource saving results. Get a load of all of these *repurposed pre-purchased* objects that she has planted. Two barbeques, a #2 washtub, a chicken feeder, a sifter, and a malfunctioning water fountain. You have been warned. Keep busy at Fran's house or you may end up with marigolds growing out of your ears. But at least you won't be sent to the dump.

I love my fellow creative recyclers. The bond of glue and paint is strong.



**California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Rita Desilets, President**

Theme: "Growing Together"

Since 2005 CGCI has recognized members who have given extraordinary length of service with membership in the exclusive Circle of Poppies. Nominees to the Circle must be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at any meeting. Membership confers a permanent position on the Board of Directors. Membership does not preclude holding a chairmanship.

At the recent CGCI Fall Board Meeting held in Redding, California, we had the pleasure of installing Anne Capes from Cascade District as the ninth member of the Circle of Poppies.



Photo right: CGCI President Rita Desilets presents Anne Capes with a certificate designating membership in the Circle of Poppies.

**Nevada Garden Clubs
Vicki Yuen, President**

Theme: "Growing in Nevada"

Nevada Garden Clubs are getting back to business after another **hot** summer. One of our biggest projects is planning for the 2016 Pacific Region Convention. Our chair, Nancy Lee Loesch, is working hard to make this a memorable event. It will be held at the **Green** Valley Ranch, a lovely venue which we are sure you will all enjoy.

PLEASE NOTE: due to popular demand, the dates are changed to April 5-6-7, 2016, rather than the June dates previously announced. (The June dates we were considering conflict with too many other events.)

We continue to work on getting a new club started in Boulder City, and have high hopes that this time we will succeed.

Our Fall Conference will celebrate 150 Years of Statehood for Nevada. Our program will address some interesting features of Nevada history.

Looking forward to a productive Garden Club year!

**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Carol Mossholder, President**

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



Our first year on the AFGC Board of Directors has passed. It has been a busy year and we've accomplished a lot. We've dedicated two new Blue Star Memorials and finished up our Flower Show School series. We've helped the fight against Buffelgrass and encouraged recycling.

I've been to all the District Meetings and am proud that they have put on programs to go along with the Pacific Region and NGC President's Projects. I've attended a couple of Flower Shows, a Fund Raiser and a Garden Tour. I've enjoyed going to the Pacific Region and NGC Conventions. I'm working with Josephine Vincze to put out the new AFGC Directory/Yearbook.

Since the Blue Star Memorial Restoration Fund is well funded, I have changed the State President's Project to the Flower Show School Fund. It is getting more and more expensive to put these schools on. We need to support these schools to educate our members and the public. I encourage each of our 20 clubs and 3 societies to make a donation to the fund. If each club and society would donate just \$25, we would have enough money to put on one Flower Show School or help subsidize a series of Flower Show Schools. This would keep the cost down, so that more people could attend.

I look forward to working with you again this year.

Gavel Guidance

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



At the NGC Fall Board Meeting NGC Parliamentarian Joan Corbisiero reported that she gets inquiries about parliamentary issues from garden club members and presidents. She would prefer to be contacted by the state parliamentarians. State presidents and state parliamentarians are asked to communicate this message to their clubs.

Joan reported that she will present a workshop, "Count Me In," about voting at the NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in May.

There are many online educational opportunities at the website of the National Association of Parliamentarians.



McMinnville Garden Club, located in Yamhill County and a member of Pioneer District, is one of the older garden clubs in Oregon. Fourteen years ago they developed an annual fund-raising event that provides the resources for them to "make a difference" in their community by awarding multiple \$1,000 college scholarships to high school

seniors and by completing numerous downtown beautification projects.

Their event is a simple idea, but it takes the full participation of club members to make it happen. On the Sunday following Father's Day, the club combines its love of visiting local homeowner gardens with its love of shopping for special plants and garden-themed art, clothing and other accessories. These two activities come together nicely in its annual Garden Tour and Garden Faire. The Garden Tour is a ticketed event (\$10) that encourages folks to visit five local gardens that were carefully selected at the end of the prior summer. The advance garden selection allows participating homeowners ample time to add finishing touches to their landscape and to get ready for the eager visitors that will descend on them filled with lots of "how did you do that" or "where did you get that" type questions. The club picks a theme for the year and the gardens are selected to show a variety of ideas that will appeal to both new and experienced gardeners.

The companion event to the Garden Tour is a "free to the public" Garden Faire that is a combination plant sale and farmer's market with experienced/professional vendors selling their wares. The club charges a modest booth fee for the up to 50 vendors who participate, but they do not sell items of their own. They concentrate their efforts, instead, on being great hosts, helping their vendors be successful and by answering questions about other club activities.

The Annual Garden Tour and Garden Faire has become a "signature event" for the McMinnville community and it provides the club ample funds to do all they desire to do without needing to do other fund-raising events. More specific information about this event, and perhaps even getting them to share a few "trade secrets," is available to other clubs by calling Judy Eggers, Club President (503-434-1435) or by visiting a club meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month at Hillside Manor, 900 NW Hillside Parkway, McMinnville, Oregon (9:30 a.m. to noon).

We all know by now that gardening for wildlife involves our implementing the very best techniques known to keep our gardens and environment healthy. But, how far are we willing to go? We're now allowing our vegetables to cohabitate with our flowers, and vice versa. Our grandmothers would be mortified! But, we know they're beautiful together and the flowers bring the pollinators to our fruits and vegetables for better yields. We're getting smarter!

With multiple houseguests this summer (as is the norm in Alaskan summers – and our guests don't just stay one or two days, they stay for two weeks or more!) and all our rain (see the Alaska President's Report), we didn't keep up with our garden duties and some of our **broccoli** went to flower! Oh, my! Can you imagine?! Thanks to our NGC President, Pacific Region Director, Debbie Skow, and Crown Bees, we are **all** excited about seeing a diverse number of pollinators in our gardens. So, I excused myself, because you should have seen the pollinators buzzing around that **broccoli**. It was truly unbelievable – every kind imaginable! I saw ones I didn't even recognize!

One of our flower show design classes called for "Harvest Time – Flowers and Vegetables Arranged in a Basket." I arranged my squash, **carrots**, cauliflower, **tomatoes**, corn (yes, Marvin's heating our soil again!) and **cucumbers** in the basket, and made a floral design with Swiss chard (with those beautiful **red** stems), **broccoli** with florets, **dill**, **lettuce**, and **green beans**. It won the show's Award of Design Excellence!

We even have a resident beaver who looks forward to us throwing the remainder of the **broccoli** plants over the fence for him to enjoy!

We **HAVE** come a long way. Our gardens and yes, even our flower shows, are all the better for it! I'll let at least one **broccoli** plant flower in my future gardens. Now, what's in your garden?



Pacific Region 2015 Convention

By Sherry Cossey, Convention Chairman



*"From the mountains,
to the valleys,
to the waters..."*

Oregon garden club members are looking forward to hosting our 2015 Pacific Region Convention at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Eugene next April 20-22. We are fortunate to be staying in a "green" hotel where they practice many sustainability practices such as we consider very important in our lives! Besides our business meetings Monday afternoon, and Tuesday-Wednesday mornings, we have a variety of experiences available for attendees.

Monday: Tea at the historic Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House, one block from the hotel. (Our local Eugene Garden Club works on their gardens). Benjamin Franklin's sister, Jane Franklin Mecombe, visiting us after dinner (Kay Huston of Eugene).

Tuesday: David Droppers of Washington speaking about Pacific Region Butterflies. Local florist, Scott Sunderland, giving us ideas about new things in the commercial florist world. Local nurseryman, Mark Bloom, sharing his expertise about what to do in our gardens after significant weather events. A floral design program with Oregon Instructor Char Mutschler.

Wednesday: Nationally-known nurseryman Harold Greer talking about our wonderful rhododendrons that will be blooming in full force in April in the Willamette Valley. Choices of trips away from the hotel – visiting a few acres of rhodies near UO campus; Cascade Raptor Center; UO Jordan Schnitzer Art Museum; or the Museum of Natural History there as well as the wonderful array of **trees** and **shrubs** planted on campus along with interesting architecture in many buildings there, or Village **Green** Gardens & Covered Bridges in nearby Cottage Grove. Our NGC President-Elect Sandy Robinson installing our next PR Director, Nevada's Kristie Livreri. The evening will be topped off with a short concert by the Eugene New Horizons Band – even playing the Nevada State Song especially for Kristie (and arranged for concert band by Sherry's sister Sheila's husband Jim Parcel!)

A Pre-Convention Tour will take place Saturday through Monday noon and will include visits to

wonderful gardens—The Oregon Garden in Silverton, the Chinese Garden, the Japanese Gardens, and the Grotto in or near Portland. Multnomah Falls and Crown Point and Vista House on the Columbia River and the Aviation Museum (where Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose lives) complete the special visits. (Our \$99 hotel room rate goes from the Friday before Convention until Thursday after.)

Look for our registration materials in a couple of months online, and then in the next issue of the *WACONIAH*. We look forward to sharing some wonderful parts of the Willamette Valley with many of you. (Local city bus transportation is free with convention badge too.)

Pacific Region Boosters

By Terry Critchlow, Booster Chairman

WASHINGTON

Esther Banholzer
Betty Burkhart
Terry Critchlow
Lana Finegold
Judith Juno
Ginger Knutsen
Shirley Lins
Dorothy Munroe
Marva Lee Peterschick
Sally Priebe
Jeanette Pruin
Debbie Skow
Brynn Tavasci
Robyn Tsuji

ARIZONA

Evie Campbell
Val Colvin
Elaine Gunderson
Millie Hisey
Carol Parrott

CALIFORNIA

Lois Brayton
Rita Desilets
Edris Edgar
Rebecca Ferguson
Shane Looper
Angela Michaels
Greg Pokorski
Robin Pokorski
Judy Powers
Alexis Slafer
Heide Stack
Carolyn Villi
Julie West

OREGON

Garnet Ascher
Karen Brown
Vivian Chelstad
Sherry Cossey
Nancy Ebsen
Eva Lou Greiner
Jan Iseli
Yvette Iseli
Bertha Keith
Linda Nelson
Karon Yaden

NEVADA

Joan Craig
Kristie Livreri
Beverly Noyer
Jackie Pucci
Vicki Yuen

IDAHO

Allen Deitz
Sandy Ford
Karen Mallon
Robyn McCarthy
Inez Thompson

ALASKA

Della Barry
Martha Black
Becky Hassebroek
Debbie Hinchey
Marie Olson
Sheila Parcel
Lee Skidmore

Go to the Pacific Region website for the Booster form!

*Thank you for your support of the
Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.*

Know the Difference: Rain Gardens Bio-Swales

By Lynn Chiotti, Rain Gardens Chairman

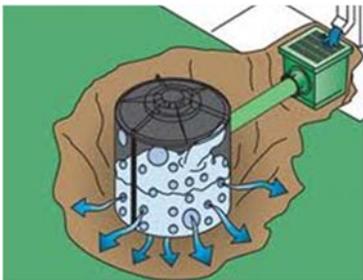


Residing in one of the rainiest states by reputation, I have always been intrigued about finding a way to capture and use all that rain constantly falling on my landscape and then

running off to parts unknown. I could install rain barrels on all the downspouts, but that can be so unattractive. I thought about using rain chains instead of downspouts.

We are fortunate to have one of the largest lots in our city, and thought that was such a blessing. We were able to start the yard from scratch before the house was built, on land that used to be rich pasture land near a creek. When they had to blast the storm sewer in, we should have realized that the property was going to have its challenges. Once we moved in and had lived there through winter, the first problems arose when the back yard sat in water and we had water under the house.

We attempted to dig 36" deep to install a catch basin and sump pump. At 34" we hit the infamous basalt rock known as the Goble Rock Series. We installed the pump at that depth and pumped the water with drain tile to the street. We then proceeded to raise the back part of the yard by having a wall built around a 45' by 90' section and bringing in drainage rock and 21 truckloads of soil.



That worked for several years and then we had an addition put on the back of the house, only to discover that there was an underground stream that ran under the house when it rained

heavily. So another sump pump was added and we had the other sump reconfigure to connect and drain to the street at the other end of the property. Problem solved and we had all the downspout connected to the pipe running to the front.

Then came the Flood of 1996. The water in the creek across the street rose so high that the water in the storm drain backed up through the drain pipes and flooded the back yard. And the underground stream really flowed. Fortunately, the creek didn't overflow the sand bags and the water went down slowly.

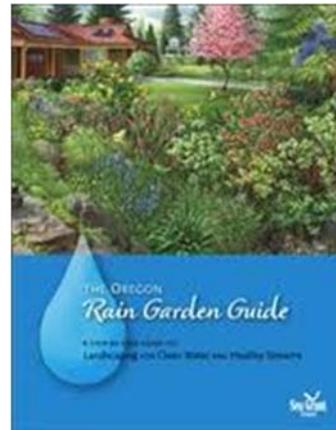
A few years after the flooding, people began to talk about bio-swales and using run-off from roofs. I

thought that might just be a real workable solution for us, but there were no guidelines of where to begin. The Oregon State University through the extension office and Sea Grant program wrote a comprehensive guide to Rain Gardens. Did more reading and got excited and felt we had the perfect location for one. There were no City Codes that would prohibit installing a rain garden. Did an infiltration test where we wanted to install the garden. Got really excited when it met the suggested rate of infiltration. Then I took a class on creating a Rain Garden from the Soil and Water Conservation Service who had several installed at their office in town.

Then the disappointment came. We discovered that the place we wanted to have one would not work. Why? You see, that crazy underground stream I mentioned earlier also was a perfect track for a grove of scrub oak to grow and the grove was one reason we selected the site for our home. It shaded all the bedrooms in the summer and when the leaves fell, allowed the sun to keep the same rooms warm. We never have had to use air-conditioning and our heating bills were not very high.

The problem – The trees also had quite a root system. To build the rain garden, we would have had to destroy the root system by digging an average of 18" deep and the desired width we wanted to create the place for the natural pond for the plants needed to absorb the rainwater. This would kill the trees.

So we looked at the other side of the house in the sun. Then we remembered, not only the rock series, but the fact that they had cut down two oak trees to make the driveway. The root network for the former and the still existing trees was still there.



So for now, my dreams of harvesting the wonderful Oregon rain are on hold. But I encourage all homeowners to look into installing one if possible. First check your local City Codes and Ordinances. Then download one of the many guides to rain gardens and do the infiltration test first.

The guides tell you how to do it. Also realize that the terms *bio-swale* and *rain garden* are not interchangeable. Know the difference! Here is a link to the OSU Sea Grant publication: <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgps/onlinepubs/h10001.pdf> **The Oregon Rain Garden Guide**. This is an excellent guide to use. For those in areas who are experiencing a drought, don't give up on the rain. Capture what you can and use it wisely.

Bumblebees in our Pacific Region

By Josephine Goodenow, Bee Chairman

Bumblebees are vitally important pollinators of both wild and propagated flowering plants. There are 30 species of bumblebees found in the contiguous United States west of the Rocky Mountains.

The Artic bumblebee, *Bombus polaris*, is found in Alaska where it is drawn to the monkshood flowers. The monkshood can't thrive without the bumblebees, its flower having evolved into the animal's very size and shape.



Hawaii has a carpenter bee, *Xylocopa sonorina*, that many people call a bumblebee on steroids!

Here, in the western United States, the common Foxglove has evolved to lure bumblebees. That's why foxglove is **purple**, the favorite flower color of bumblebees. The classic **purple** foxglove attracts bumblebees better than less appealing white or pink flowered varieties.

The sturdy, broad, tubular flowers make it easy for these plump bees to land on each spotted bloom. The flower mouths are perfectly tailored to attract and accommodate bumblebees. The mouth is constructed to help bumblebees close their wings as they enter. From there, the flower narrows, which forces the bees to squeeze in to reach the nectar while also getting dusted with pollen.

The goal with all bee gardens is to provide flowers that bees pollinate. Colorful bee flowers like foxgloves tend to be rich in sweet nectar while providing quality, fragrant, sticky pollen. Many bee flowers also tend to be old-fashioned cottage garden flowers that our grandmothers grew and loved.

Once foxgloves stop flowering, augment with salvias, petunias, asters, sweet peas, sunflowers, geraniums, penstemon, spirea and other bee-friendly flowers. If you have a pasture be sure to plant some clover, which is another bee favorite and your horses and chickens will appreciate it too.

We can encourage pollinators in our gardens by letting some of our vegetables and herbs flower and seed. Bumblebees of several types love oregano and cilantro flowers as do honey bees, small bee varieties, butterflies and moths. The reward for letting herbs and veggie plants flower includes both free seed and lots of bees and pollinators. It's an easy thing to do and I encourage everyone to give it a try.

There's no greater reward than to discover a host of bumblebees, honeybees, and other pollinators visiting your flowers. Just remember to avoid frilly hybrids and stick with the classic garden plants your grandmother grew.

Easy-to-grow cottage garden flowers come true from seed and many varieties self-seed so they multiply and return year after year with very little care from the gardener. This fact also helps you stay within your plant budget! And best of all, they have offered a timeless allure to bees.

Feeling the Influence

By Cheryl Christenson, Civic Development

Gardeners just can't leave well enough alone--especially Pacific Region gardeners. Because of your energetic and creative efforts, your impact is being felt in numerous positive ways. Let's celebrate these projects, knowing that many are feeling the influence of your meaningful work.



While all the individual clubs and projects are too numerous to mention, here are just a few. A brochure detailing wildfire preparedness including information on defensible spaces has been created and is being distributed by Alta Vista Garden Club of Prescott, Arizona. Sedona Area Garden Club has reissued its interactive booklet for children "On the Trail of Trees, Tracks and Tails." They have also been involved in maintaining plantings in gardens in the oncology area of the local medical center. The list goes on and on. Many are involved in projects at senior living centers, or working with children getting them involved in Arbor Day activities, or creating Gold Star Memorials to honor those who have served in the military. It is difficult to think of a group that has not been affected by all that you are doing. What a ripple effect!

From youngsters to those not so young, from Hawaii to Washington to Arizona, Pacific Region gardeners are indeed making a difference and are always "expanding horizons."

By Elaine Gunderson, NGC AMES Chairman



NEW PARTNERSHIP

The AMES Companies, Inc.
AMES + NGC = Gardening

NGC has formed a new partnership with The AMES Companies, Inc. Founded in 1774, AMES is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of gardening tools. Over the coming year, AMES will grant tools up to a total of \$5,000 (retail) for all approved state or club landscaping projects/programs. The total amount available for all grants is \$5,000. Clubs can apply for portions of the \$5,000, as this amount is available to share. This partnership commences October 2014 for one year.

To submit a project/program, please email Elaine Gunderson, cgleg@gmail.com, the what, when, why and where of the event - what the project is; what is the garden club involvement in the project; why the tools are needed; what tools are requested; when the project will take place; where (location) including address tools are to be sent.

The AMES Companies, Inc.'s tools can be found on their website: www.ames.com. Additional information about AMES' tools can be found on their brands' Facebook Pages:

www.facebook.com/TrueTemperTools

www.facebook.com/AmesTools1774

www.facebook.com/RazorBackProfessionalTools

To allow time to approve the project and for The AMES Companies, Inc. to mail the tools, this information needs to be received a month before the event.

If project is approved, photos are to be taken at the event and a short article written for possible promotion/publicity on NGC's Website, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch* plus your own state and our region newsletters editors. The chairman of each would need to be contacted to obtain the guidelines for submission.

The photos and short article are also to be sent to NGC President Linda Nelson, LindaNelson4439@msn.com, AMES Director of Brand Marketing Karen Richwine, karen.richwine@ames.com, and AMES Assistant Brand Manager Prema William, prema.william@ames.com.

The AMES Tools Project Submission Form is posted on the NGC Website: www.gardenclub.org.

Please go to the Member Section and complete the form, save it and then email it directly to me.

I am looking forward to receiving information about your project.

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

There seems to be a trend in flower shows that if horticulture entries have the genus name on them, they have the correct botanical name needed to pass classification and have their horticulture entries become exhibits in the flower show. AND, if their exhibit scores 95 or above, and considered for an NGC Top Exhibitor Award (TEA); the genus name on the entry card would suffice for winning a NGC TEA.

WRONG----our handbook for judging and exhibiting states "It is important for the schedule to contain as much of the plant's scientific name as possible to educate the public and exhibitors.

On page 93 in our handbooks, it tells us most plants are identified by their **binomial name**. It consists of two terms, denoting genus and species in that order. Some plants, however, cannot be named binomially; therefore, schedules should state "A plant must be identified by its binomial name or its currently accepted scientific identification to be eligible for a Top Exhibitor Award." Horticulture needs at least a two part name, either genus and species, or genus and cultivar or genus and trademark name, or if possible, genus, species, and cultivar.

What about common names on the entry tag? Common names can be added but can't replace the scientific names.

Whose responsibility is it to see that the horticulture exhibits considered for NGC Top Exhibitor Awards are named correctly? It starts with the exhibitor who grew the horticulture plus the Classification Chairman, all horticulture entries must have botanical names. Horticulture Placement and Clerks chairmen are important observers also. It ends with the judging panel when they select the NGC Top Exhibitor Award. Even if it is another judging panel that awards an NGC TEA to an exhibit with just the genus, another panel or judge has the right to correct that error before the show opens to the public. The judging panel making the error will need to re-evaluate their specimens in contention for the NGC Top Exhibitor Award.

It is important to hold high the NGC standards and to remember the number one purpose of a Standard Flower Show.

Pacific Region States' Websites

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

Pacific Region Photo Archiving

By Judy Swartz, Photo Archiving Chairman

Most of us are victims of the digital age by taking too many photos and then what?? I mean what do you do with them? How do you store them? How do you organize them? I take photos with cameras and phones! I have done a lot research since I am a "victim" of my own vice!



I also have many photos that are slides and old photos. What do I do with them? The answer is to scan them and save them before they start to deteriorate. Most of us have scanners and we can do that! It takes only time, not money. If you do not want to do that, there are services that will scan it for you. It is worth it. How many photo albums are in closets or how many boxes of photos do you have? How often do you think they are fading, not organized...How often are you looking at them?

A year ago we thought we needed to keep them on the hard drives of our computers. Now we know better! My references are professional photographers (my own son is one), professional magazines along with advice from computer experts. These computer experts are people who advise on digital equipment.

Do not store photos on CDs.

The longest period of time that they are reliable is five (5) years. After that they start to degrade. You pop it in the reader and it doesn't work. You read a message that the CD isn't readable. Many of these may have personal photos, birthday parties, weddings, other precious memories. Do not let that happen!



You can store on the hard drive of your computer but what happens when you get a new computer?

External Hard Drive Keep digital photos on an external hard drive. An external hard drive is not connected to your computer but is a device onto which you can store a large quantity of files. Think of it as a large virtually unbreakable CD. They are inexpensive, costing between \$100-\$150 and are very large storage capacities. The reason you want one is because the photos then do not take up space on your computer.

Digital photos "In the Cloud" (Store online) There are two ways to do this. This is the safest way by far, costs between \$25-50 a year for unlimited uploads. There are servers like Google. Sites like Flickr and Shutterfly let you upload photos to a secure server which you can access from any online site. These can

be private unless you choose to share them with others.

Your Own Cloud With the advent of taking photos using photo/phones the need to download is greater than ever. You can now buy equipment which is an external hard drive and is accessed using mobile applications (apps). The Apple iPhone has a similar service but if you

are using an android digital phone you can now organize not only your photos but also access and share with the free mobile apps. This is



about the same price as an external drive but for those of us who are using a "smart" phone this is a fantastic option. The one I am using is called WD My Cloud. It is a personal cloud storage solution. I bought it at Costco and is also an external hard drive.

You can upload from mobile devices, stream to your TV, access it from anywhere with mobile phone apps, back up files from all of your computers and access with a laptop from somewhere else. This is the newest way to digitally store your information, your photos, your files, and more.

There are so many inexpensive digital photo options out there that there is no need to not only risk losing it by storing on a CD, but no reason to stay home and work. Take all of it with you in the cloud!

Pacific Region Life Members

By Garnet Ascher, Life Membership Chairman

The following are the states and names of individuals who have received Pacific Region Life Memberships since 2012. All members, clubs, and chairmen are encouraged to give a Pacific Region Life Membership! \$40.00 includes a pin and the money raised provides a Pacific Region Scholarship.

It is a win-win situation.

ALASKA

Shelly Childers

ARIZONA

Christina (Tina) Box
Georgia Brown
Jane Buck
Elinor Egender
Beth Kirkpatrick
Linda Larson
Mary Mills
Barbara Minarik
Dorothy Weidner

CALIFORNIA

Sue Bennett
Emily Chase Bueermann
Maggie Crane
Myrna Hines
Sherry Molinari
Linda Nielsen
Doris Tinius

IDAHO

Robyn McCarthy
Janet Petersen

OREGON

Lucy Chambers
 Barbara Cushman
 Cece Delfs
 Carolyn Elsten
 Joan Foley
 Mary "Lee" Haynes
 Carol Newgard
 Carolyn Olley
 Sue Owen
 Peggy Schiller
 Linda Shamp
 Donnalee Smith
 Tanja Swanson
 Fran Tierce
 Suzy Twist-Powell

WASHINGTON

Myrtle Jones
 Joyce Lounsberry
 Ann McMenamin
 Linda L. Oberloh
 Debbie Skow
 Brynn Tavasci

Calendar of Events

Jan 26 – 28 NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting – Las Vegas, NV
 Jan 29 – 30 NGC FS Symposium – Las Vegas, NV
 Apr 18 – 20 Pre-Convention Tour, Eugene, OR
 Apr 20 – 22 2015 PR Convention, Eugene, OR
 May 12 – 18 NGC 86th Convention – Louisville, KY

School Days

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SYMPOSIA

January 23-25, Bakersfield, CA
 Contact: Mary Arakelian, 916-632-0220
arranger1mka@yahoo.com

Director's Travel Schedule

2015

Jan 26 – 28 NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting – Las Vegas, NV
 Jan 29 – 30 NGC FS Symposium – Las Vegas, NV
 Apr 9 -12 AFGC 80th Convention – Yuma, AZ
 Apr 18-20 Pacific Region Pre-Convention Fundraiser Tour
 Apr 20-22 Pacific Region 72nd Convention – Eugene, OR
 May 12 -18 NGC 86th Convention – Louisville, KY
 June 9 – 12 CGCI 83rd Convention – Reno, NV

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.

NGC Fall Board Meeting

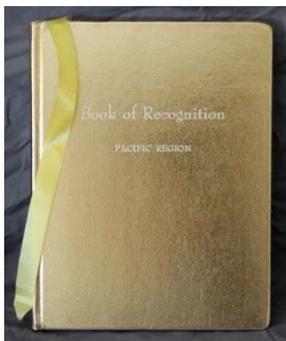
By Robin Pokorski, NGC Corresponding Secretary

The NGC Fall Board Meeting was held in Des Moines, Iowa in September with a voting strength of 223. Action or information of note:

- Proposed amendment to the NGC bylaws **increasing the dues** by \$.50 from \$.50 to \$1.00 per capita, effective June 1, 2016.
- Availability of a new educational booklet, "ecology WARRIORS" for use in classrooms;
- Adoption of the concept to commission a new text for the Landscape Design Schools (to be available in hard copy and electronic versions).
- Election of Nancy Voyles and Pat Cargnoni as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the NGC 2015-17 Nominating Committee
- There are nearly 2,200 **Blue Star Memorial Markers** across the country.

Book of Recognition

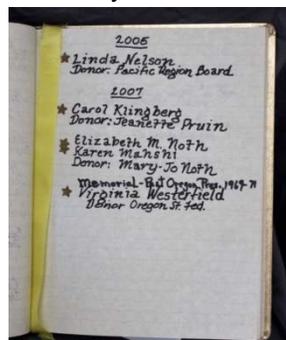
By Karen Varty, Book of Recognition Chairman



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.



Awards Reminders

By Robin Pokorski, Awards Co-Chairman

- State Awards Chairmen: submit only 1st place entries to Pacific Region Awards Chairman
- Websites and publicity flyers are not considered "Any other publication"
- Answer all 6 questions on the PR application (only exception is yearbooks)
- Send Youth Poetry entries to: Susan M. Smith
 4546 E. La Mirada Way, Phoenix, AZ 85044
 H: 480-598-9740 C: 602-791-5650
 (Not to Jan Iseli – a change from last year)



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NGC Award-
 Winning Newsletter



Did you find anything interesting
 in this issue? If so, share it with
 someone in your club or district.

"Why in our 81st anniversary year are we having our 70th convention????"

By Jeanette Pruin, Historian

Last fall, Sandy Ford asked if I would find the answer to this question. "Why in our 81st anniversary year are we having our 70th convention????"

For the answer I went to *We Were There - 1933-1973*. It's a history of Pacific Region compiled by Mrs. Philip Bardon in 1973. As I researched the subject I found many, perhaps little known, bits of Pacific Region trivia. So the answer to the question will wait to the end.

We were formed in 1933 as Pacific Coast Region. Mrs. Leonard Slosson from California was the first, what was then, Regional Vice President. The office was changed to Regional Director in 1943. Alternate Directors were added in 1979. In 1947 our name was changed to Pacific Region.

From 1933 to 1952 the region was composed of four states: Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. Idaho joined in 1952, Alaska in 1959, Nevada in 1964 and in 1974 Hawaii became a member.

Not all the "bios" in the book list travel but one I found striking was from 1939-1941 for Mrs. Killian Weiler. She attended National Council conventions in Newcastle, New Hampshire and Asheville, North Carolina. She lived in Tacoma and a 5-hour flight out of Sea-Tac was not an option. To me that is a real commitment of time and energy.
The thrilling conclusion will appear in the next issue!

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What would we have if all the automobiles in the USA were red? A Red-Car-Nation. Get it? A Red-Car-Nation!