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

Vol. 44 No. 2 Director's Theme: "Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"



Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri with Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc. President Janet Petersen.

Director's Message

As I left the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Portland, Maine, I must say that I did not come away with the usual enthusiasm I felt in the past. I felt sort of melancholy and somewhat sad. Then as I looked down from the airplane and saw the beautiful fall colors starting to emerge, I was reminded that even in a fall, good things can come about. I reminded myself that we must have an attitude of gratitude and look forward to the months ahead knowing that spring will come again. Hope springs eternal. So this is what we hope for the Pacific Region. We hope that we can move forward now with renewed conviction to make our Region better. We hope that we can support one another as garden club members in our states, and as states within the Region. We hope we can find a way to accept one another's differences and realize that, although we

disagree from time to time, the Region's future depends on unity and loyalty from all of its members within the states. We are all important pieces of this puzzle. We all fit. We need everyone to make the puzzle complete.

We must ask ourselves questions "How can we make our Region Stronger?"; "How can we give more to get more?"

I truly believe that communication is the key. We must spend time with one another and communicate our concerns, our ideas and our solutions. Let's look forward to the annual Pacific Region Convention in Seattle, Washington, next April, 2017, with hope for a bright future for the Pacific Region. At that time, we must pledge our support and loyalty to the new administration.

It's been a rough six months. Seems longer. But we have come through it. Perhaps a little battle worn. But we are still standing and we can march into the future stronger together.

Thanks to all who voiced their concerns over the past few months. We must put into place safeguards so as not to repeat our mistakes. We can become more educational, more charitable and more environmentally concerned citizens of our Pacific Region. The history of this Region proves that we can do it, and we must as we stand upon the shoulders of those who went before. I look forward to seeing all of you in Seattle in the Spring. But for now, I will be enjoying the Fall colors and the wonderful season with gratitude for all of you.

Kristie

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.

**Garden Clubs of Idaho, Inc.
Janet Petersen, President**

Theme: "We All Live Downstream. Choices Matter"



After a sunny summer we are falling into autumn and The Moscow (Idaho) Garden Club donated funds to the Logos School Senior Sneak because a number of their seniors helped us set up and take down tables for our annual plant sale in May. This is the second year they have helped us.

Also, we donated funds to the Moscow HS Ecological Club because a number of their members helped us pot plants from members' yards for our annual plant sale. These kids really enjoyed learning how to take a plant from the ground and put it in a pot so it would continue to grow. Some even learned to differentiate a root from a stem. We Idaho gardeners have been quite busy during the summer months. During fair time in July and August Idaho gardeners have entered and Flower Show Judges have judged and awarded ribbons to many GCII members. We are fortunate to have many young people enter both floral designs and horticulture. It is rewarding to see their expressions when they are awarded a ribbon.

Throughout Idaho our GCII members have diligently worked to develop pollinator gardens. This summer I was in the hinterlands of Idaho at a Forest Service Ranger Station and was pleasantly treated to a beautiful pollinator garden, where bees, butterflies and hummingbirds were busily enjoying the NGC awarded pollinator garden Valley Garden Club of Kooskia designed and planted. Oh yes, and I did catch a few trout in the nearby river! Other pollinator gardens in the state deserve mentioning. Nampa Garden Club in conjunction with By Trowel and Error Garden Club has included in the city community garden a youth pollinator garden. Merry Tillers Garden Club has an NGC award winning pollinator garden designed and supervised by Laurie Du Rocher at the Idaho Human Rights Memorial. Chinden Gardeners have been busy developing a pollinator garden along the Green Belt in Garden City. It will be a work of art and an educational tool for their city.

Idaho is presently fighting the largest forest fire in the lower 48 states. It is over 288 square miles at this time and growing. Forecasters are saying only winter and snow will abate it. It is interesting to note national forests occupy 40% of Idaho's land, equaling over 20 million acres. We are fortunate to have four million acres of our state to have been designated wilderness areas. Because of the many catastrophic wildfires we have had in our state over the past few years GCII has been actively encouraging clubs throughout the state to participate in the Penny Pines program. Hopefully all our Pacific Region clubs are participating in this endeavor as well.

GCII has spent the past 12 months studying and rewriting our state bylaws. They have been recently sent to all clubs for reading and comments. We are looking forward to their approval in the next few months. Hooray!!!

This letter is being written in the White Mountains of New Hampshire as the fall colors begin to emerge as I prepare for the NGC Fall Board meeting in Portland, Maine.

**California Garden Clubs, Inc.
Sue Bennett, President**

Theme: "Growing Minds, Planting Seeds"



Gardeners become Technical!?

At the CGCI Fall Board meeting, Jane McKee, CGCI Communications Director, presented to the Board of Directors a wonderful synopsis on Internet Security. With Jane's permission, here it is.

Internet Security: There are three basic types of scams or possible intrusions to email accounts, websites or other online systems. Everyone should learn to recognize these suspicious and potentially dangerous attempts to obtain personal or sensitive information or disseminate malicious software.

On the "low" or least sophisticated end of the spectrum is what's commonly known as the Nigerian scam:

- The name came about because the first wave of them came from Nigeria and it is now one of the most common.
- The scam typically involves promising the victim a significant share of a large sum of money, in return for a small up-front payment, which the fraudster requires in order to obtain the large sum. If a victim makes the payment, the fraudster either invents a

series of further fees for the victim, or simply disappears.

- This may involve offering a share in a large sum of money on the condition you help them transfer it out of their country. They tell an elaborate fake story about large amounts of money 'trapped' in central banks during civil wars or coups, often in countries currently in the news. Or they may tell you about a large inheritance that is 'difficult to access' because of government restrictions or taxes in their country. They may ask for your bank account details to 'help them transfer the money' and use this information to later steal your funds. Or they may ask you to pay fees, charges or taxes to 'help release or transfer the money out of the country' through your bank.
- You will never see the money that was promised.

At the other end are the "hackers" who are skilled at literally breaking into email, websites or servers:

- A hacker is someone who seeks and exploits weaknesses in a computer system or computer network. They may be motivated by profit, protest, challenge, enjoyment, or to evaluate those weaknesses to assist in removing them. The subculture that has evolved around hackers is often referred to as the computer underground.
- Hackers have programs that systematically test millions of possible passwords. They go to sleep and wake up in the morning, and the program is still going, testing one password combination after another.
- Hackers are after the "big score" ...retailers (Macy's, Target); US Government (Military, OPM); Politics (Dem National Committee and more). They look to steal: Credit card numbers, pin numbers; SSNs, personnel files; emails, sensitive files, strategic information, etc.
- You may never know they were in your system until they leak or sell the data.

Somewhere in the middle are those who conduct "Spoofing":

- Spoofing is the forgery of an email header so that the message appears to have originated from someone or somewhere other than the actual source. Distributors of spam often use spoofing in an attempt to get recipients to open, and possibly even respond to, their solicitations. Spoofing can be used legitimately. However, spoofing anyone other than yourself is illegal in most jurisdictions." If you look at the complete "from" email address you will find that vdsserver.net is a known malicious software producer. Clicking on the "verification" link may install malware or a virus on your computer. In other instances, the "verification" link may take you to a form that requests personal and financial information that can be used to access your bank accounts.

How can I protect myself?

- General scams and "spoofing"
 - Learn to recognize the various suspicious emails that may appear.
 - If you do not know the sender, delete without opening.
 - If the sender appears to be someone you know but the message looks suspicious (asking you to send money when it isn't appropriate), simply pick up the phone and call the supposed sender.
 - If you open the email, don't reply to or click on any links in the message.
- Hacking
 - Change your passwords regularly (at least quarterly), especially for online financial accounts

Copyright Infringement -- Be Careful What You Print

By Nancy Hargroves, NGC President-Elect



A particular piece of clip art on a state website's horticulture page was viewed by a firm which represents owners of copyrighted materials. The state received a cease and desist letter from legal counsel for the owner of this clip art. In an effort to avoid having the owner file a costly claim against the state for the unauthorized use of the clip art, they entered into a monetary settlement agreement.

This experience is important because it reinforces for NGC and other states and clubs the importance of using images that are free, that belong to the author of the written work or that written permission has been secured to use images for:

- All articles and reports by chairmen
- Websites
- Yearbooks
- Flyers about any event including flower shows
- Newsletters
- PowerPoint presentations
- Flower show schedules
- Ames Tools Grants reports.

Once any of these printed materials is put on a website, the public can view it. This state president also feared that this company would begin to look at other garden club websites since they found an infraction on theirs.

States and clubs may use or adapt the NGC Release for Publication and Website Form found on the NGC website on the ABOUT US tab and then select Press Room.

Theme: "Nurture Nature -- Nurture Friendships"



Oregon has had several notable events over the summer:

- ✿ We honored 1985-87 State President Betty Stanaland with remembrance donations at the State, Region and NGC levels. (See page 18)
- ✿ Our Executive Committee participated in the Celebration of Life for Linda Nelson Bentson's husband, Cliff, and honored her with a beautiful planter.
- ✿ Two clubs celebrated 90 year birthdays: Grants Pass and Medford with a tea and style show with members modeling the attire of each decade. Delightful!
- ✿ We rededicated a **Blue Star Memorial Byway Marker** in Bandon in the Rogue District, and dedicated a new **Blue Star Memorial Marker** by the Central Point Garden Club's collection of funds from that city's population. (What a concept!)
- ✿ Congratulations are in order for the collaborative efforts of four of our districts for the new Veterans Clinic in Fairview to be the home for a **Blue Star Memorial Marker**. The local newspaper printed an article which is also documented by a slide show on their website.
- ✿ Oregon sponsored a Symposium and NGC's "Leap into Leadership" workshop with Robin Pokorski!!!
- ✿ We will continue the President's Projects: "Share the Bounty – Tip the Scale" and "Fill the Cup – Fulfill a Dream." Each of our Board Members as well as the District Directors and their clubs will plant **Red Twig Dogwoods** to assist our bird population.
- ✿ Because we "Nurture Friendships," each District will select one member to be awarded "Member of Distinction." The honoree will have been a garden club member for 20 years. The District will donate a minimum of \$20.00 to our Claire Hanley Scholarship Fund in the name of their "Member of Distinction." The honoree will receive a certificate and a pin.

We have great leaders who are planning for a wonderful year with many events to report – one of which will be the installation of two former Oregon Presidents to serve as Pacific Region's Director and Alternate Director.

Theme: "People, Plants and Projects"



As I write this article, I am in Portland, Maine for the NGC Fall Board Meeting. I am very much enjoying the hospitality of the Garden Club Federation of Maine as well as the cool weather and gorgeous views. It is really good to reconnect with other NGC Board members who I

have become acquainted with over the past eighteen months. A few of us took a 90-minute boat tour of Casco Bay and viewed many of the islands that are scattered throughout this busy waterway which is an inlet to the Portland area. The whole area including this lovely city itself abounds with history and beauty. City Arborist/Forestry and Horticulture Manager, Jeff Tarling, was our guide on a 90-minute bus tour of city parks, including a waterfront park with an outstanding view of Casco Bay. We also visited two community gardens that are supported by the city, as well as an active Youth Garden across from a local school.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Arizona at NGC Fall Board meetings and at NGC Conventions that I have attended in Louisville, Kentucky and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The ability to learn more about our great organization and to share it with the members of my state is only made better by the wonderful places I was able to visit.

After a very warm summer, the cooler weather will encourage Arizona gardeners to spruce up their gardens, amending their soil and planting newly purchased annuals, perennials and trees, some to replace those lost in our very active monsoon season. I will be attending our District meetings this fall and attending the Landscape Design School Course I here in Phoenix in mid-November. Also in November, High Desert Designers will dedicate a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** in Sedona. Before you know it, the holidays will be here after which 2016 will be but a memory. I hope all of you will have wonderful memories of the year 2016 both in and out of garden club.



Lee Pearns is a Pacific Region Gem.
As the **Blue Star Memorial** Chairman
she inspires and motivates others. She is my
mentor and my friend.

~Kristie Livreri

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

Terry Critchlow, President

Theme: "Back to the Future – One Leap at a Time"



It's true, when you're having fun your two-year term does fly by....

The NGC projects and promotions I have been supporting as I visit our membership have been well received. I have had the good fortune to have lived my entire adult life surrounded by the national forest, national park, and

wilderness areas in central Washington. It was easy for me to get behind our NGC President's special projects involving our environment as I have seen the changes in our wildlife in these natural forest areas. Areas which we considered protected and secluded from urban development and destruction we have learned are more vulnerable than previously thought.

NGC Wildlife Chairman Becky Hassebroek from Alaska has done an exceptional job facilitating partnerships with wildlife associations and promoting gardening for wildlife, both plant and animal life. Her continuing communications offering opportunities and suggestions have been more than helpful and inspiring. I have seen this interest and issue beginning to take hold within our membership. Not only in our youth clubs and programs but also in our membership's gardens and presentations. As responsible caretakers of our environment we continue to make changes and eliminate many outdated and harmful practices of our past. We have begun to look beyond the birds, bees, and butterflies in our own landscapes and realize the crucial need to protect and restore the public lands surrounding us.

Our members had the opportunity to participate in a *Leap into Leadership!* workshop presented by the Chairman of the NGC President's Leap into Leadership committee Robin Pokorski from California. This was a huge success with more than double the number expected to attend. The workshop was very well received with many positive comments on the content and presentation. Those in leadership positions or considering leadership positions benefitted from this workshop.

We are fortunate to have both these dedicated ladies in the Pacific Region. This brings the issues and possible solutions home to our area. Issues and solutions that are of interest, pertinent and have consequences to our locations.

On another note, WSFGC has an aggressive school schedule ahead of us this next couple years. This fall begins a second flower show school series with the first

beginning last spring offering course II. Environmental Studies and Gardening Study Schools are also scheduled to begin this fall. Next spring, 2017, begins a Landscape Design School series. Those wishing to refresh or become four-star members have the opportunity to do so in just a few years. I for one will be clearing the cobwebs and dusting off the books.

Nevada Garden Clubs

Nancy Lee Loesch, President

Theme: "Digging, Planting, Cultivating: GROWING MEMBERSHIP"



Digging – to learn or discover by careful investigation

We need to prepare ourselves with information on the benefits of belonging to a garden club, NGCI and NGC. We then need to determine those in our community that would benefit from belonging to a garden club. Digging prepares us to plant the seeds of garden club membership.

Planting – to implant an idea or the like in the mind, introduce and establish firmly

Knowing what to plant and where to plant it are important if we expect our seeds of Garden Club Membership to grow.

Cultivating – nurturing, encouraging, supporting, helping, improving, enriching

Once the seeds of garden club membership are planted, we need to follow through and cultivate until new members are produced.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP

Growing Membership is important for any organization. More important than organization growth are the benefits that Garden Club Membership bring to each new member and to our communities.

Nevada is a large state with a small population centered in two areas (Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada) approximately 450 miles apart. All of our clubs are located in the Las Vegas area of Southern Nevada. NGCI clubs represent very diverse interests including Cactus and Succulent Society, Ikebana, Bonsai Society, Chrysanthemum Society, Floral Arrangers, Iris Society, Rose Society and several basic Garden Clubs. In my term as President of NGCI I will be reporting on the objectives and activities of each of our clubs. I will be having a busy Fall Season with our NGCI Fall Conference, a tour of a Cactus garden of one of our Cactus and Succulent Society members that has over 800 plants, the Sunset Garden Club Yard and Plant Sale, and the NGCI Fall Flower Show for the Community.

Executive Committee Meeting Recap

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



The following recaps the business from the Executive Committee Meeting held September 23 at the NGC FBM in Portland, Maine. As provided in our region's Policy & Procedure Guidelines, and as often happens at NGC Fall Board Meetings, the Executive Committee (EC) met at the Call of the Director, and all members of the region at the FBM were invited to attend. Twelve EC members and at least ten other members were present.

- The resignation of Art Loesch as Natural Disasters Chairman was accepted with regret.
- The appointments of Linda Nelson Benton as Fundraising Co-Chairman, Nancy Lee Loesch as Awards Chairman (with Dorlene Waite as Co-Chairman), Jeanette Pruin and Peggy Olin as Budget Committee Members, and Jeanette Pruin, Robin Pokorski, Carol Norquist, Judy Tolbert, Gaye Stewart, Vicki Yuen, Janet Petersen and Ann Swider to the Special Committee to research the region moving forward were approved.
- Director's Project Chairman Sandra Ford reminded that reports (as short as possible) are due to her by November 1. The project is funded and a prize will be awarded.
- Previously circulated (to the EC) proposed bylaws to continue the region were approved.
- The motion to continue moving forward to obtain 501(c)3 status as Pacific Region Garden Clubs was approved.

SPOTLIGHT STATE: Idaho



YOUTH: Hill & Valley Garden Club helped students plant pink flowers in flower boxes at the Lathah Library. They also assisted with the FFA Club, Project Community Mandate Services, and also with junior high students doing edging, weeding, and planting bulbs. Every third Saturday members help children make flower arrangements that they can take home. This fun activity happens at the local park by the swimming pool

and is called, "Fun with Flowers." Polly Taylor said, "The kids love it – they call it their pot luck of flowers."

Owyhee Gardeners members helped the Marsing High School botany class with planting flower plugs in over a hundred baskets and planter boxes for their annual fundraiser. K – 3rd graders benefited from the club's attention by receiving help in planting a sunflower to take home. Tours of the Marsing school greenhouse showed the types of plants that were being grown. Owyhee donated and helped plant a syringa 'Philadelphus lewisii' bush with 8th graders' assistance at Homedale Middle School and another was planted by 3rd graders. Many students will be able to watch the shrubs grow and remember the club's generous guidance.

Chinden Gardeners Garden Club taught students about native plants and assisted in planting pots of plants that were later transplanted in the new pollinator garden in Garden City. They also put up bat houses made by the Boy Scouts and two bee houses. Judy Snow and Claudia Hambacker have been instrumental in the club's establishment and maintenance of the Pollinator Garden, and the youth's help has been appreciated. Moscow Garden Club sponsored a plant sale in which they paid seventeen students from the Moscow High School Environmental Science Club to help divide and propagate plants. They spent over fifty hours over a six-week period. Students from Logos High School helped also.

Merry Tillers Garden Club held a six-week course for 4th graders during their school lunch break. Activities included planting pots, planting and harvesting in raised beds on campus, identifying insects, and other gardening related activities. All members helped and Maggie Williamson was the coordinator. This is truly an inspiring story of dedication. By Trowel and Error Garden Club, a new club, assisted boy and girl scout troops in garden maintenance at three different community gardens. Members also presented a program at Davis Park on rainwater and the filtration system and how it works with the irrigation canals. Students at Columbia High School also benefited from the club's help in their horticulture department.

Ada Gardeners of Boise held a plant sale where they raised over \$1,500 and then donated the money to the Bugs of Boise Urban Garden School. This is a group that teaches about insects, gardening and healthy eating habits. The money was used as a scholarship fund for students. This excellent youth program was coordinated by Erin Guerricabeitia. Nampa Garden Club youth chairman, Bonnie Winters, did an inspired presentation at Homedale Elementary School on how seeds are pollinated. She dressed six students up in bee and butterfly costumes to demonstrate how they pollinate flowers. Work sheets, treats, music and poetry were also utilized. The club sponsored and helped plant a large pollinator garden in a new community garden. Boy

Scouts and a church youth group helped in clearing the grounds.

Idaho impresses with its many varied youth activities showing creativity and a willingness to get in and work the soil, educating and sowing the seeds for future gardeners. Many clubs also mentioned participating in the **Woodsy Owl** and **Smokey Bear** programs as well as distributing **The Frightened Frog** book.

Brynn Tavasci, Youth Coordinator

HABITAT: Idahoans ~ In all of her wisdom, our *WACONIAH* editor has asked us chairmen to focus on a particular State for each issue. And, as you have surmised, this edition we are focusing on you. In my research, I have come upon an absolutely incredible document published by your Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Please take a look at: <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/nongame/leafletBackyardWildlife.pdf>

Seeing this has made my heart happy! Thank you, Idaho! And, it's good for everyone – so please – Washington, Arizona, California, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii residents – take a look, as well. Great information is included!

A quote from the site: "What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."

– unknown

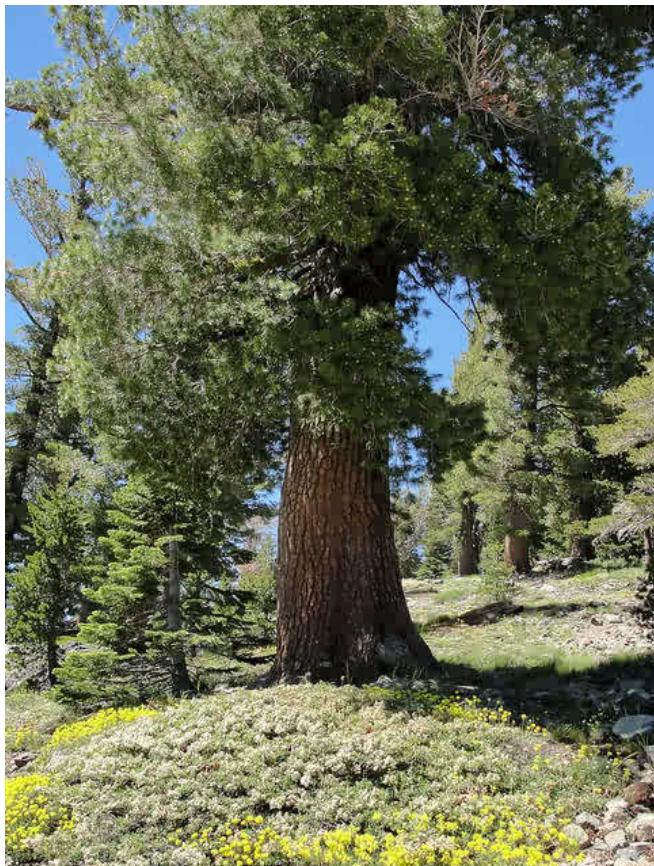
Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

TREES: The majestic **western white pine** (*Pinus Monticola pinaceae*) was designated the official state tree of Idaho in 1935. The largest western white pine forests can be found in northern Idaho in the Coeur d'Alene and Bitterroot Mountains. The tall and slender western white pine tree is native to the forests of the Pacific Northwest in the Sierra Nevada, the Cascade Range, the Coast Range, and the northern Rocky Mountains, extending down to sea level in many areas.

Until about 50 years ago, it was the most abundant forest type in those regions. This species rarely predominates except in the wettest sites because of its susceptibility to fire. Today, the amount of western



white pine is 93 percent less than 40 years ago. This is due to outbreaks of the mountain pine beetle, fire and harvesting. The primary cause, however, is the white pine blister rust. This fungal disease was introduced into British Columbia about 1910. By the 1940s, it was epidemic in Idaho. Today, blister rust, mountain pine beetle and harvesting have nearly eliminated mature



western white pine stands. The rust continues to kill naturally regenerating trees and rust and bark beetles continue to kill the remaining mature trees. Rust resistant strains have been bred from wild white pines, which have shown some genetic resistance. These have been planted since 1970. So far the numbers of plantings have not been enough to offset the mortality rate; however, reforestation projects are underway throughout the tree's historic range.

Economically, the large conifer is the most valuable of timber species because it produces greater bio-mass than other species when it matures to 100 or more years. It is used to make everything from houses to wooden matches. This large tree can grow from 90 to 200 feet tall at maturity. The largest western white pine in the world stands 219 feet tall near Elk River, Idaho.

Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman



BEES: The northwestern states, especially Idaho, eastern Oregon, and eastern Washington dominate the vegetable seed production market. Seed production of most vegetables require flower pollination by insect pollinators and the majority of this pollination is performed by bees, both honey and native varieties. The majority of seeds that are sold in the U.S. are grown in these states simply because they have good soil, the climate is dry with many non-cloudy days per year, and they have control over the water supply which allows for better control of weeds which, in turn, reduces weed seed contamination of the seed produced. Alfalfa, mint, cherries, and sunflowers are some of the crops also raised in these states that rely on bees for pollination.

Thankfully there are numerous bee species found in Idaho including:



The **Tri-Colored bumble bee** goes by several common names, but its color contrast is a curiosity. This bee has a bright orange stripe around its body, sometimes called "orange-belted" for obvious reasons. They are considered to be superior pollinators because they will collect pollen even in cold or wet weather.

The industrious **Golden Northern bumble bee** is a fuzzy, buzzing, picture-perfect pollinator. They vary in size; drones grow to about 1/2 inch, female workers grow up to 3/4 inch and a queen bee may be almost an inch long! The face and head is mostly black and there is a black band between the wings. The abdomen (back body section) is black and yellow. The yellow and black American Bumble Bee is similar to the Golden Northern Bumble Bee but larger.

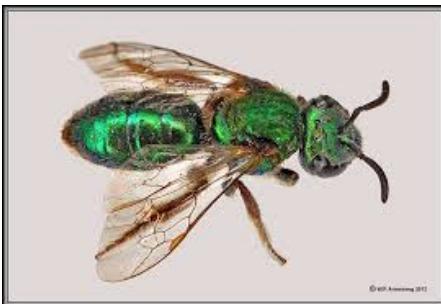


The **Common Eastern bumble bee** is a busy pollinator that helps gardens and crops flourish in cooler weather as they can fly higher and in cooler weather than most bees. These bees are so good at pollinating that they have been introduced in the western U.S to help in crop harvests. The success of these programs is still being determined.

The **Long-horned bee** has exceptionally long antennae, or "horns," on males that help differentiate them from other bees. These bees love sunflowers but are known to pollinate pumpkins as well!

The metallic **Small Carpenter bee** works as a pollinator and builds nests in wooded areas. Various

colorations of them are found. Although small in size, Small Carpenter bees have relatively long tongues and can access flower nectar on both open, simple flower forms and complex flowers where nectar is more difficult to reach. They do not chew wood as the Large Carpenter bee is known to do.



Sweat bees and the Bicolored Sweat bee are attracted to human sweat and lap up the salty moisture while not harming us.

They are just looking for the salt contained in our perspiration! The Bicolored Sweat bee has a two-in-one appearance: the shimmering front half looks nothing like its more recognizable backside. These bees forage on a wide variety of flowers but are particularly attracted to alfalfa and pollinate it very efficiently. Commercial alfalfa seed growers use this bee for pollination.

The **honey bee** is a mainstay in the world of agriculture and an icon of efficiency for many businesses. Honey bees pollinate many plant species that are not native to their natural habitat but are often inefficient plant pollinators; if they are visiting ten different species of flower, only a tenth of the pollen they carry may be the right species. Other bees tend to favor one species at a time, therefore do most of the actual pollination.

As a plus, I have read that **Africanized honey bees** are not found in Idaho as they cannot survive the winter temperatures!

Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman

BIRDS: It is interesting that the **Mountain Bluebird** is the Idaho State bird and the Nevada State bird as well. How did that happen?



They are common here in the Pacific Region. And as a child I would love to watch the beautiful bright birds spread their wings as they glide and swoop through the wheat fields looking for bugs to feed to their young.

The female Mountain **bluebird** is not as bright and clear a blue as her male counterpart, but in their society, it's the beauty of the male that attracts the female, and not the other way around. Their wings are bright blue on both sides.

That bright sky blue coloring is what the female is looking for, and she will invite him on over when she has finished her nest box with grasses and moss. She will lay her eggs in a bird house on your property if you place it far enough away from disturbances. A fence post in your pasture is quiet enough and she will thank you not to get too close to her part of the world.

These birds come down to the lowlands of Idaho to mate and raise their young. When the farmers turn their fields over to get ready for next year's harvest and planting, they will flock to the potato fields and wheat fields to find food. Their wings allow them to hover low over the ground hunting for insects.

Orvalta Hopkins, Birds Chairman

More on the Mountain Bluebird

From Wikipedia in honor of Orvalta Hopkins, Bird Chairman

The mountain **bluebird** (*Sialia currucoides*) is a medium-sized bird weighing about 1.1 oz with a length from 6.3–7.9 in. They have light underbellies and black eyes. Adult males have thin bills and are bright **turquoise-blue** and somewhat lighter underneath. Adult females have duller **blue** wings and tail, grey breast, grey crown, throat and back. In fresh fall plumage, the female's throat and breast are tinged with **red-orange, brownish** near the flank contrasting with white tail underparts. Their call is a thin 'few'; while their song is warbled high 'chur chur'. It is the state bird of Idaho and Nevada. It is an omnivore and it can live 6 to 10 years in the wild. It eats spiders, grasshoppers, flies and other insects, and small fruits. The mountain **bluebird** is a relative of the eastern and western **bluebirds**.

These birds hover over the ground and fly down to catch insects, also flying from a perch to catch them. They mainly eat insects and berries. They may forage in flocks in winter, when they mainly eat grasshoppers. Mountain **bluebirds** will come to a platform feeder with live meal worms, berries, or peanuts.

Their breeding habitat is open country across western North America, including mountainous areas, as far north as Alaska. They nest in pre-existing cavities or in nest boxes. In remote areas, these birds are less

affected by competition for natural nesting locations than other **bluebirds**. Mountain **bluebirds** are a monogamous breed. The male can be seen singing from bare branches. The singing takes place right at dawn, just when the sun rises. Females usually build the nests themselves. Eggs are pale **blue** and unmarked, sometimes white. The clutch size is four or five eggs. Young are naked and helpless at hatching and may have some down. Incubation normally lasts 14 days and the young will take about 21 days before they leave the nest. Both males and females fiercely protect the nest.



Mountain **bluebirds** are cavity nesters and can become very partial to a nest box, especially if they have successfully raised a clutch. They may even reuse the same nest, though not always. Mountain

bluebirds will not abandon a nest if human activity is detected close by or at the nest. Because of this, they can be easily banded while they are still in the nest.

Mountain **bluebirds** are fairly common, but populations declined by about 26% between 1966 and 2014, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Partners in Flight estimates the global breeding population of 4.6 million, with 80% spending some part of the year in the U.S., 20% breeding in Canada, and 31% wintering in Mexico. These **bluebirds** benefited from the westward spread of logging and grazing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when the clearing of forest created open habitat for foraging. The subsequent waning of these industries, coupled with the deliberate suppression of wildfires, led to a dwindling of open acreage in the West and the decline of the species. More recently, as land-use practices have stabilized, so



have mountain **bluebird** populations. Construction of nest boxes in suitable habitat has also provided a population boost. Populations are declining in areas where trees are too small to provide natural nesting cavities, and where forest and agricultural management practices have reduced the availability of suitable nest sites. Among birds that nest in cavities but can't excavate them on their own, competition is high for

nest sites. Mountain, Western, and more recently Eastern **bluebirds** compete for nest boxes where their ranges overlap. House Sparrows, European Starlings, and House Wrens also compete fiercely with **bluebirds** for nest cavities.

Your Editor heard that Orvalita was in the hospital and your Editor thought, "Surely Orvalita won't be able to submit her quarterly Bird article." So your Editor gleaned this info from the internet in honor of Orvalita but then our busy little Bird Chairman came home from the hospital and set to work on her article. By then the subject was so interesting you got a double dose this issue!

Go GREEN

By Robin Pokorski, Contributor

November 15 is America Recycles Day. The national recycling rate has increased over the past 30 years. The recycling rate is 34%. One day to educate. One day to motivate. One day to make recycling bigger and better 365 days a year. Get involved! Take the #BeRecycled Pledge:

Learn

I will find out what materials are collected for recycling in my community.

Act

I will reduce my personal waste by recycling. Within the next month, I will recycle more and I will buy products made with recycled content.

Share

In the next month, I will encourage one family member or one friend to take the #BeRecycled pledge.

Gardening Tip



For more snap beans, plant seeds or seedlings next to sweet peas or morning glories, which will attract pollinating insects.

—1001 Hints & Tips for the Garden Reader's Digest

Pacific Region States' Websites

Washington: WAGardenClubs.com

Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com

California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.com

Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org

Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org

Idaho: GCII.org

Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org

Pacific Region Life Membership: Can You Find Your "Big Hat"?

By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman



The Pacific Region's **Life Membership Derby** – also known as our "**run for the roses**" is approaching the finish line. The excitement of the running of our race continues to build with new Life Members joining the competition. We are in the clubhouse turn, the backstretch looms ahead, and there is still time for you and your state to join this thrilling race.

A derby is a horserace named after the *Derby Stakes* run at *Epsom Downs Racecourse* in England; named for the 12th Earl of Derby. We are more familiar with the Kentucky Derby. Each of these races has the added interest of *haute couture*...with special attention given to the derby hats. Can't you visualize the amazing Derby scene in *My Fair Lady*?



The excitement builds as the winner of our "**run for the roses**" will receive a **\$180 donation to a special state project**... and you won't even need to wear a "Derby Hat." Experience the excitement and pageantry of the *Victory Lap* at the 2017 Convention in Seattle, Washington by the state with the largest percentage increase of Pacific Region Life Members.

A Life Membership honors members who have worked so hard -- and celebrates their guidance and commitment to strengthening your club, state organization, and/or our region, while supporting our scholarship program.



Grow our life members' cadre by honoring those who have gone that extra mile or furlong. **Your fully tax-deductible \$40 donation** purchases a Pacific Region Life Membership. Don't you want to see your state's winning "Thoroughbreds" entered in our derby? You can add their name to the

field by purchasing a life membership **or** individuals may purchase their own.

The application forms are available on the region website: www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms. Let's get those applications in and watch our scholarship program grow while honoring our deserving members.

Increase your state's odds of winning this "*run for the roses*." The finish line is just ahead down the homestretch!



What's in it for YOU!?

By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Habitat Chairman

Bee a Wildlife Action Hero and Garden for Wildlife? Why Should **YOU Bother?**

You all know by now what it takes to garden for our wildlife (all plants, fungi and other organisms that grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans). You need to provide food, water, shelter, and a place for our wildlife to raise their young. And, yes, if you thought something was missing, you were right – you need to also incorporate sustainable gardening practices so that even our smallest pollinator friends are protected. Gardening sustainably eliminates the impact of pesticides on pollinators, conserves water, and provides an overall healthy habitat for pollinators and people.

Is it worth the visible imperfections that this brings to your garden?

You bet it is! Thank goodness, attitudes have changed. No longer is it popular to have a sterile garden environment where your plants don't have a bite out of their leaves and it is perfectly quiet and still.

The perfect garden now is a place teeming with activity from wildlife of all kinds – where all of our creatures – that includes us - are safe from harm from our uneducated decisions and practices of the past.

What's in it for you?

YOU are protecting your children and grandchildren, your pets, and the birds and other wildlife in your garden from the incredibly harmful effects of the chemicals you used to use!

YOU are preventing contamination of our groundwater and watersheds from runoff.

YOU are increasing the native habitats for our wildlife that are decreasing at an alarming rate by adding native

plants for food and cover. One yard or garden at a time will truly make a difference!

YOU are setting an example and showing your friends, neighbors, children and grandchildren that you care about our land and care enough **for THEM** to show them how to be good stewards to protect it.

MOST OF ALL, YOU are able to go out into your garden and **interact with LIFE!** LIFE of all kinds!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU, YOU ASK?! EVERYTHING!

THANK YOU for proudly Beecoming a Wildlife Action Hero TO US ALL!



If I can ever help...Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman,
beckyhasse@aol.com,
907-456-3066.



Linda Nelson Benton is a Pacific Region Gem for volunteering to fund the Pacific Region Garden Clubs incorporation and 501(c)3 status. Thank you, Linda, for your dedication to the Pacific Region.
~Kristie Livreri

The Buzz: Leafcutter Bees

By Josie Goodenow, Bees Chairman



There are more than 140 species of leafcutter bees native to North America and several more species have been imported both intentionally and accidentally.

Leafcutter bees are solitary bees meaning that each female lays eggs and provisions her own nest. Although

the bee lives alone and provisions its own nest, it is also gregarious preferring to live close to its own kind. The fact that this bee is gregarious and will live in man-made shelters is why this insect can be reared and managed as a crop pollinator. They nest in ready-made wooden cavities, in hollow plant stems, and in paper tubes in nesting blocks. The females cut pieces of leaves to line their nests. They can be rather particular about the leaves they use. One species, *Megachile umatillensis*, a bee native to the western U.S., cuts leaves only from an evening primrose. Leafcutter bees in my area of California seem to only use my rose leaves!

Leafcutter bees prefer legume blossoms, but they pollinate other crops like carrots and canola as well as blueberries. They are most active in midsummer, when the temperature rises above 70°F. Leafcutters are efficient; 150 leafcutters can do the work of 3,000 honeybees. They are gentle and ideal for greenhouse work as well.

The alfalfa leafcutter bee, *Megachile rotundata*, is widely used for alfalfa pollination in California, Idaho, Washington, and western Canada. Native to southwestern Asia and southeastern Europe, they were introduced to North America in the 1930's to increase pollination of Alfalfa crops. Crop production is said to have increased by nearly 60% in some areas of North America.



While on another website, I read that the alfalfa leafcutter bee is one of the few insects that can be considered domesticated. The bee was accidentally introduced into the U.S. from Eurasia on numerous occasions. The bee was probably widely distributed during and after World War II through movement of nests in crated war materials and developed large populations under the favorable conditions in the western U.S. When its potential as a pollinator was discovered, a new pollinator industry was developed. The bee is now used to produce alfalfa seed in western U.S., Canada, New Zealand and in South American and European countries.

Alfalfa nectar is obtained by prying open the keel of plants and the bee inserting their tongue to suck up the

nectar. Most other bees are unable to pry open the flower of alfalfa and so the crop is very dependent on a few species of pollinators.

Although not a native bee, they pollinate alfalfa better than any other insect and are therefore very important to farmers raising alfalfa seed. These bees are raised commercially in several U.S. states as well as in Canada.

Money, Fame, Glory – It Can be all Yours

By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Habitat Chairman



MONETARY PRIZES? RECOGNITION? ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Bee a Wildlife Action Hero - Commit to Garden for Wildlife! Why, you say? Not only for doing your part to protect our wildlife, our pollinators, and our environment, but your club can also easily win **BIG BUCKS!** \$500 for the club with the largest participation by its members, \$250 for the club committing the largest percentage of public places, and \$250 to the junior garden club with the largest participation by its members at their homes and schools. **AND**, each participant also receives a special Certificate of Appreciation from our President, Sandy Robinson! It's a **WIN-WIN!** Download the forms from gardenclub.org, projects, President's Project, Service in Action, Section 5 for the Commitment Forms, and Section 4 for the Award Application. And, while you're at it, look at the rest of the President's Projects Awards that are available! The deadline is March 15th!

**YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY?
YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T ENTER!**

Any questions, contact Becky Hassebroek, your Habitat Chairman, at beckyhasse@aol.com or 907-456-3066.



Ate salad for dinner! Mostly croutons and tomatoes....really just one big, round crouton covered in tomato sauce. And cheese. FINE! It was a pizza! I ate a pizza!

By Judy Swortz, Flickr Chairman

flickr

Almost everyone now has a phone with a camera. It might be an I-phone or an Android operating system. It has become the most convenient way to take photographs! Some devices have very good cameras. With that in mind, remember that these photos taken by we snap-happy photographers need to find a place to be stored besides on your phone! How do we do that conveniently so that we can retrieve and use them?

The vocabulary involved with this innovative equipment is new to most of us. When the word "app" was first used in conversation, most of us were a little lost since this was a term we had not heard. We are not *digital natives* like our grandchildren who appear to intuitively know these things! We need to keep at this *constantly changing way of life* and adjust to it with our new equipment and ideas! **Do not be afraid** to go onto Facebook or Flickr. They are a great way to store and share your photos! If we do not, we alienate our families, and our friends, and the resistance to new things labels us as... (Gasp!) Old Fogies.

The first place to start is to access Google. They have your back! You can go to the Google app store on your phone and find the Google cloud, which is free storage. All you have to do is find it and make sure that your phone saves to it. You can also download to your computer via a cable from your phone to the computer. With this in mind, be sure to name your photos and catalog by date which is helpful. Then you can access your photos from your computer or anyone else's as well!

Of course, you know that you cannot save forever on your phone or your computer. The alternatives are safe and at your fingertips. The security of the external hard drive frees up space on your computer. Think of external hard drives as a very big reliable CD.



You can get your own version of the cloud, which allows you to access from any place with Wi-Fi, or store on a photo site such as **Flickr**. The photo sites have some restrictions, but you can share your photos with others that way, which is what NGC encourages with their

Flickr site. **Flickr** is a very good online photo sharing

application to the world. Show off your favorite photos and videos.

To access the NGC photos, just type [Flickr NGC](#) into a web search and take a look. Carol Norquist manages that site. Another good way used by many clubs and districts is to use Facebook for sharing and storing photos. If you do that, Carol can access these photos very easily and put them on the Flickr site!

Another almost sneaky way of storing is to send photos to your Facebook site. You can create photo albums on your own Facebook account. This is another way to store and to share your photos with others. There are grandparents out there with no paper copies of their grandchildren. They have to look at the photos on Facebook.



The most obvious way to save is to make sure that you are saving by date. But you can also save in another identifying way, such as "Flower Show May 2015" and/or by type such as purple flowers, or even by location. With your phone location identifier (GPS) you can also save geographically. This is great if you are in Philadelphia for the flower show, or in San Francisco for the OFAD events!

In the past few years, the opportunities to save digital photos has given us many options, but what do we do about hard copies of photos? Scanners are a great way to copy photos. They can be then stored on a hard drive or sent to Flickr, Facebook or other storage areas.

The biggest task with regard to archiving and saving photos is to be diligent. As with many other activities we do, discipline and persistence is the path to success!

Pacific Region 74th Annual Convention April 18 – 20, 2017

By Brynn Tavasci, Convention Chair, and Diane Franchini, Vice-Chair

"BEST OF THE NORTHWEST, THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES"

Convention hotel: The Embassy Suites, 15920 W Valley Hwy, Seattle WA 98188

Embassy Suites provides a made-to-order complimentary breakfast and two complimentary beverages and snacks for its nightly Atrium Cocktail Party.

**We will have exciting horticulture speakers –
read all about it here!**

Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken, owners of **Far Reaches Nursery**, have travelled the world to bring back specimens to enhance their collection of rare plant species. Plant preservation and propagation are important to Kelly and Sue and it is evident in the quality of their botanical treasures and their extensive knowledge that they are happy to share with us. Please come and enjoy the stories of their expeditions and the work that they do in their nursery. Stay for the workshop so that you can purchase plants for your own collection.



Helonias bullata

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. – Kelly and Sue are our lunch speakers.

Plant sale and in depth discussion of plants continues with Kelly and Sue at the **2:00 p.m. workshop**.

Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center's mission is to inspire people to eat healthy, sustainably grown food and to steward our natural resources for future generations. Oxbow is situated on 230 acres of land bordering Western Washington's Snoqualmie River. We feel fortunate to have three key people from their staff as speakers at our convention. **Jessica Price, Oxbow Executive Director**, who after two plus decades working in the field of global health made a career change. After completing a certificate program in agroecology she came to Oxbow where she could work on environmental impacts from modern agriculture. **Bridget McNassar, Oxbow Native Plant Nursery Manager** heads a small nursery operations team and provides technical leadership in Oxbow's restoration and conservation research and practice. Currently the native plant inventory has 52,000 plants representing 120 different species. **Adam McCurdy, Oxbow Farm Manager**, has over 17 years farming experience in the Willamette, Methow, and Snoqualmie valleys. Adam manages a 20-person team that grows 30 acres of mixed vegetable crops and supplies product throughout the region to the CSA, local grocery and restaurant businesses, and to hunger relief organizations.

Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. – Oxbow Farm programs research talk followed by the first workshop discussion of local food and agriculture conservation followed by our second workshop with an Oxbow **native plant sale**.



One of our tours!

Kubota Gardens is unmatched in its quality of mature landscaping, streams, waterfalls, ponds, and rock features. Planted in a Japanese manner, the 20 acre garden was started in 1927. It is a City of Seattle Historical Landmark.



Other fun adventures, perks, and opportunities include: spouse tours, golf outing and a DIY Spa kit for everyone who registers. It is true! We have lovingly handcrafted and collected wonderful items to make your stay extra special! Our design program, "The Gallery – Portraits of the Northwest", will feature some of our best designers showcasing special places in our state. They are great, and we are proud to show off their talent.

Come spend some time with friends from across our region, support our current Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri and welcome our incoming director Peggy Olin. We know that you will love them as much as we do!

**Please save the date –
registration form coming soon!**

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

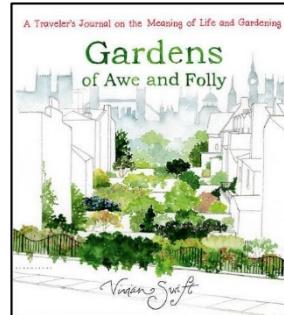
The Local Flower Show Schools Chairman selects Plant Groups for each of the four courses offered during a Flower Show School series. They are to be selected in order of the school preference based on seasonal growing conditions. The Chairman selects from a Required Plant Group and an Optional Plant or Plant groups. Each Group has a specific plant for study. NGC changed the criteria to use plant groups instead of just specific plants over ten years ago, the reasoning being specific plants that were chosen to use may not be available for the school date due to weather extremes but a plant group gives the school flexibility. For instance, if "Bulbous plants" are chosen out of the required plant group, and the specific plant in the required plant group is "dahlias," many other bulbous plants could be available in case dahlias are not. Bulbous plants might be titled "Summer Bulbs." The four types of bulbs are tubers, corms, true bulbs and rhizomes; all consist of fleshy tissue where nutrients and moisture are stored. When the flower show course date arrives with "Summer Bulbs," look around the garden, others in the plant group that would be available at the time of dahlias include *gladiolus*, *cannas*, *lilies*, *veltheimia*, *caladium*, *agapanthus* plus many more. The classroom would be a "horticulture paradise."



If herbs are chosen from the OPTIONAL Plants and Plant Groups, make sure you choose a specific herb to study as herbs have many families within the group. Just remember, choose two per course for in-depth study plus two specific plants within the groups. Locations with colder zones will require pre-starting in containers and also storing the bulbs, etc. for winter. Know your USDA zone for your location. Add some razzle-dazzle to your summer garden; offer them to the local flower show chairman. Now is the time to plan for next summer.

Idaho's Capitol Building is the only one in the U.S. heated by geothermal water. The hot water is tapped and pumped from a source 3,000 feet underground.

By Linda Larson, Book Review Chairman



GARDENS OF AWE AND FOLLY A Traveler's Journal on the Meaning of Life and Gardening

A Traveler's Journal on the Meaning of Life and Gardening by Vivian Swift

Visiting gardens wherever I travel is my greatest delight, yet friends ask, "Why? Don't you see the same plants over and over?" Vivian Swift in her new book *Gardens of Awe and Folly* has the best answer to this question. She writes, "If all you ask of a garden is What?, then all you'll probably get in reply is a planting list. But ask instead, Why? How? When? and most of all, Who? and then you're in for a nice, long conversation."

Swift's book is classified as Garden Essays, but it far exceeds this label. She describes her work as "an illustrated book for grownups," with watercolor art, stories, thought-provoking collages, and life lessons. Swift shares conversations she had with nine significant gardens. Not actual conversations with the gardeners but the stories found within and around the garden gate.

She is in awe of the complexity of the native plant societies and the powerful color of Majorelle Bleu. The spirit of gardeners is illustrated through Karen rebuilding her garden after hurricane Katrina. Karen purchased a French vintage garden gate, a "Katrinket, a ridiculously expensive, indulgent, and therapeutic thing" to help lift her out of misery. Swift appreciates the folly of gardeners taking on the burden of rearranging nature to create their vision of beauty and provides examples from garden history to make us all feel better.

After you have immersed yourself in this reading adventure, examining every little detail of this beautiful book, you will want to keep it close by. Then in an instant you can open it again to celebrate a sunset in Key West, have tea in Morocco, feel the chill of a winter rain in Scotland, walk in the light of brief autumn hours on Long Island, and sip champagne among a dozen roses in New Orleans. Thanks to Swift, you'll be prepared for your own conversations with gardens no matter where you travel.



Robin Pokorski is a Gem in CGCI, Pacific Region, and NGC. She wears so many hats she needs another head. She is loved and appreciated by me.

~Kristie Livreri

By Becky Hassebroek, NGC Million Pollinator Chairman



**YOU care about our Pollinators!
YOU'RE ALL PLANTING for them!
DON'T BE SO QUIET ABOUT IT!**

**SHOW THE WORLD WHO WE ARE AND
WHAT WE'RE DOING!
Go to gardenclub.org,
Click on the icon that you see above.
REGISTER EVERY GARDEN –
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE!**

NGC Fall Board Meeting Recap

By Lana Finegold, Correspondent



The eighty-seventh annual Fall Board Meeting of National Garden Clubs, Inc. took place at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland Maine, September 20-24, 2016. With mostly sunny days and a voting strength of 190 plus 29 guests we gathered together from all over the USA. **Rising Tides** was the theme and the Freeport Flag Ladies presented the Colors of the Flag. Delegates from Pacific Region attended a Pacific Region Executive Committee Meeting to approve new bylaws. After much discussion, the new bylaws were approved. (See page 6.)

Gracing the walls leading to the meals and business meeting were NGC photo contest entries with judges' comments and ribbons earned. We were privileged to see the final 30 images from the NGC International Photography Competition Celebrating the National Parks System. Lovely invitational designs added interest and were staged on tables in front of mirrors.

A highlight Friday was the Victoria Mansion "Botanical Elegance" Garden Party. Each room in this historic building was graced with floral designs appropriate to the time period. Designs were supplied by National Flower Arrangers, Inc. The Friday dinner speaker was Patrick Chasse, ASLA, "**From Eden to Acadia: The Landscapes of Mount Desert Island**".

Saturday was "meeting" day. After the Dialogue Breakfast, with keynote speaker Robin Pokorski, asking us to Rekindle our Garden Club Fire! in her motivational speech, the official NGC Meeting began. The lunch speakers, Ann Gibbs and Sarah Kirn, presented a PowerPoint concerning "**Currents of Citizens Sciences**" explaining how to get involved. The dinner design program, "**Horizons Unlimited**" was presented by Julie Lapham. The NGC Board meeting was followed by a Tri-Refresher in Bar Harbor, Maine.

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian



Most of us have been in meetings where someone "calls for the question." What does this mean, and how is this situation handled?

This comes up when a motion is on the floor and is being discussed/debated and someone in the assembly thinks the discussion has gone on long enough and wants to end debate and have the vote taken on the motion that has been under discussion. This is a motion to end debate and the proper wording to close debate is to say, "I move the previous question."

Closing debate takes away the right of members to speak – so as with anything that takes away rights of members, this must be adopted by two-thirds of the assembly. If the members of the assembly wish to continue the discussion, they can withhold seconding the motion of the previous question or they can vote against the motion.

Moving the previous question is often handled sloppily in meetings. Once the motion has been made and seconded, the presiding officer (e.g., club or state president) immediately puts the question: "It is moved and seconded to order the previous question." He/she may explain, "Ordering the previous question will cut off any further debate." Then proceed, "Those in favor of the previous question will rise" (a standing vote is often taken when a two-thirds vote is needed to adopt the motion). "Be seated. Those opposed will rise. Be seated." If two-thirds of the votes are in the affirmative, announce, "There are two-thirds in the affirmative and the previous question is ordered." Then immediately without any further discussion, "the question is now on the adoption of the motion to... (Go to the original main motion and take the vote)." Much too often only the vote to end debate is taken and that is interpreted as a vote on the underlying issue, the original main motion.

Remember in this situation you will always take two votes (if the motion to end debate passes) – the vote to end debate and the vote on the original main motion.

If there is lots of discussion on a motion in a meeting, that is an indication that the assembly is still working through the issue. Members should not be so quick to close debate in these circumstances. For the good of the organization and to avoid hard feelings, it may be better to be sure that all sides have been heard on an issue, rather than forcing a vote because someone just wants to speed up the meeting.

See *RONR*, pages 197-209 and *In Brief*, pages 35-37.

By Greg Pokorski, NGC Schools Coordinator



Will your Consultant status lapse December 31, 2016? If you don't know, check with your State Schools Chairman. If

you don't have a State Schools Chairman, contact me or the applicable NGC School Chairman listed on the NGC website. If your good standing expires December 31 and you have no further opportunity to refresh this year, request an **extension of time to refresh** from your State Schools Chairman. **We don't want to lose you as a Consultant!**

A presentation was made to state presidents and region directors at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in Maine to make sure they know that administration of Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools differs from (and in many ways may be easier than) Flower Show School (FSS). There are no time restrictions between our courses. The sponsoring club, district, council, state or region may hold one course per year or one per week or handle in any manner that you choose. You use local instructors and do not draw from a limited pool of NGC instructors as is the case with FSS. **Don't dismiss the thought of conducting a school, thinking that it may be too much work or too costly, without talking to our NGC Schools Chairmen.**

Fairbanks Garden Club in Alaska is sponsoring its first Landscape Design (LD) School and had already added six dynamic new members, including one of the instructors, because of the LD School – before the school even began. They are so excited about this educational project. **If they can do it, you can do it. Leap into Action!**

NGC National Garden Week and Schools Chairmen are collaborating to challenge all NGC Consultants to celebrate their consultant status and use and share knowledge gained in NGC schools during National Garden Week, June 4-10, 2017. The idea is to make NGC's Consultants more visible and vibrant, to give them a stronger purpose and a national purpose and to give them an opportunity to give back by observing a **National Consultants Day during National Garden Week**. We want you to recognize your achievement in completing an NGC school and we want you to share the information you have obtained while letting others know about NGC and your state garden club organizations. There will be more information in future issues.

By Lana Finegold, VP Sherwood Forest Garden Club



I was thrilled to receive tools from Ames for projects with youth and adults. For many years now, I have worked with students of the Frankel Religious School, Herzl-Ner Tamid, on Mercer Island in Washington. Each year Sherwood Forest Garden Club (Pacific Region, Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, East Lake Washington District) purchases bulbs to plant at the school. Each year we work with school children explaining how bulbs contain everything they need to grow beautiful flowers. Each year, more students want to join in the planting. Last April I went to the NGC website and requested tools from Ames Tool Company describing the planting project. I also chair monthly work parties on the ground of Herzl-Ner Tamid so I also ordered tools for grown-ups. A mixture of shovels, transplanters, bulb planters and a 100 foot hose arrived and I couldn't be more pleased. The annual bulb planting October 16 is made easier with Ames Tools.

Thank you, NGC, for creating this partnership with Ames Tools.

Helping Nature Together is the Junior Garden Club at Herzl-Ner Tamid. We started with Kindergarten and first grade students. Each year more and more students want to participate in bulb planting. Last year 280 bulbs were planted. This beautification makes everyone proud. I use adults and fifth graders to weed and dig the holes for the bulbs. Each child plants about 3 bulbs. This way, we can supervise and involve many children. We rely on Pacific Northwest rain and climate to nurture the daffodil and tulip bulbs. Yellow tulips are planted to honor those who died in the Holocaust. They bloom around Remembrance Day/Yom Hashoa in the spring.



What kind of pumpkin protects castles?

A royal gourd!

There's a Pollinator Party Going On

By Janet Petersen, GCII President



Chinden Gardeners Garden Club had the 1st Annual Pollinator Celebration in Garden City, Idaho. It was a beautiful evening along the greenbelt at the city hall in Garden City. Children and adults helping pollinators and learning about native bees, monarch butterflies, and native plants. The Forest Service provided us information about being fire-wise in planting around our homes by using native plants. Local nurseries attended with educational information. We learned how to raise honey bees and what the inside of a bee hive looks like. Microscopes were set up so we could look at pollinators. Bat houses which will be placed in the pollinator garden were exhibited. Smokey Bear stole the show when he showed up to help present the Smokey



Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest winners. We all had to have our pictures taken with him. A member of Chinden Gardeners Garden Club, Judy Snow, gave a colorful presentation about our native bees. The Mayor of Garden City helped rededicate the new native plant garden by planting a syringa, our state flower. After having pizza from the local food truck we all settled down to watch the amazing Disney nature movie "Wings of Life." GCII's First Vice President and Chinden Gardeners Garden Club member Claudia Hambacker organized and coordinated this wonderful evening. Thank you to all the Chinden Gardeners!

WORMS OF ENDEARMENT

From: Trowel & Error, Over 700 Short-cuts, Tips, & Remedies for the Gardener by Sharon Lovejoy

Worms work magic as they eat their way through the earth, leaving behind a vast net-work of slime-sided tunnels and rich mounds of nutritious castings (worm manure). Their excavations improve soil structure, increase aeration and root penetration, and allow water to percolate slowly and deeply into the ground. Before you mulch your beds to encourage a worm population, the most important thing is to stop using harsh fertilizers and pesticides.



BOOK OF RECOGNITION

A contribution has been made in the name of

Betty Stanaland



2016

to honor and express appreciation from the Pacific Region of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Karen Varty
Karen Varty, Book of Recognition Chairman
Kristie Livrett
Kristie Livrett, Pacific Regional Director

Donated by
Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs



See Shirley Schmidt's Oregon Report on page 4.



Idaho is called the "Gem State" because nearly every known type of gemstone has been found in the state of Idaho.

More than 72 different precious and semi-precious gemstones are mined from Idaho.

Horticulture: Persimmons

From Southern California Garden Club newsletter, The Green Thumb

Persimmons are the edible fruit of a number of species of trees in the genus *Diospyros* which is in the Ebenaceae family. Certain species of *Diospyros* are the sources of most kinds of ebony wood, and not all species bear edible fruit. In color the ripe fruit of the cultivated strains range from light yellow-orange to dark red-orange depending on the species and variety. They similarly vary in size from 0.5 to 4 inches in diameter, and in shape the varieties may be spherical, acorn-, or pumpkin-shaped. The calyx generally remains attached to the fruit after harvesting, but becomes easy to remove once the fruit is ripe. The ripe fruit has a high glucose content but a low protein content. Persimmon fruit has been put to various medicinal and chemical uses.



Like the tomato, persimmons are not popularly considered to be berries, but in terms of botanical morphology the fruit is in fact a berry.

The **Japanese Persimmon** is the most widely cultivated species. These are sweet, slightly tangy fruits with a soft to occasionally fibrous texture. Native to China, it is deciduous, with broad, stiff leaves. Cultivation of the fruit extended first to other parts of east Asia, and was later introduced to California and southern Europe in the 1800s. It is edible in its crisp firm state, but has its best flavor when allowed to rest and soften slightly after harvest. The Japanese cultivar 'Hachiya' is widely grown. The fruit has a high tannin content which makes the immature fruit astringent and bitter. The tannin levels are reduced as the fruit matures. Persimmons like 'Hachiya' must be completely ripened before consumption. When ripe, this fruit comprises thick pulpy jelly encased in a waxy thin-skinned shell.



The fruit are ripened off the tree by exposing them to carbon dioxide. The sharon fruit has no core, is seedless, particularly sweet, and can be eaten whole.

"Sharon Fruit" (named originally after Sharon plain in Israel) is an Israeli-bred cultivar of the *D. kaki* fruit. The cultivar is called 'Triumph'. As with all pollination-variant-astringent persimmons, the

The **American Persimmon** (*Diospyros virginiana*) is native to the eastern United States and is higher in nutrients like Vitamin C and calcium than the Japanese Persimmon. Its fruit is traditionally eaten in a special steamed pudding in the Midwest and sometimes its timber is used as a substitute for ebony (e.g. in instruments).

The **Black Persimmon** or **Black Sapote** (*Diospyros digyna* – see picture) is native to Mexico. Its fruit has green skin and white flesh, which turns black when ripe.



Director's Travel Schedule

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Jan 23-26 | NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia |
| Apr 18-21 | Pacific Region Convention, Seattle, Washington |
| May 16-21 | NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia |

School Days

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

November 1-3, Course 1, Woodland, Washington
Contact: Mary Lou Waitz, 360-928-3728,
Marylou.94@hotmail.com

Mar 13-15, 2017, Course 4, Poway, California Contact:
Jill Coleman, 915-684-2635, bcnjill@hotmail.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOLS

November 12-14, Course I, Phoenix, Arizona
Contact: Joyce Girvin, 774-217-8253,
joycegirvin@gmail.com

TRI-REFRESHER – ES, GS and LD

Feb 24-25, 2017, Long Beach, California
Chairman, Jane Kaylor

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Nov 4 | Hawaii Arbor Day – Plant a Kukui (Candlenut tree) |
| Nov 15 | America Recycles Day |
| Jan 24 – 25 | NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia |
| Apr 18-20 | Pacific Region Convention, Seattle Washington |
| May 16-21 | NGC Convention, Richmond, Virginia |



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Did you share your colorful WACONIAH with someone in your club and district?

Horticulture: Cinnamon

From Southern California Garden Club newsletter, *The Green Thumb*



Cinnamon is the inner bark of a tropical evergreen tree. The most common cinnamon sold in North America is from the Cassia, it is generally sweeter and more aromatic than true cinnamon but has an astringent edge. True Cinnamon is from Sri Lanka and is the bark of an evergreen tree related to the bay laurel. It has a thinner bark and more delicate flavor than the cassia cinnamon.



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I feel sorry for the trees in the Fall...
at least when I went through the
change, nothing fell off!

