

# WACONIAH

Washington • Arizona • California • Oregon • Nevada • Idaho • Alaska • Hawaii

Vol. 49 No. 3

Director's Theme: **"One Green World"**



2021 – 2023  
Pacific Region  
Director  
Lana Finegold

Photo taken at  
Bellevue Botanical  
Garden, by Nancy  
Kartes, Garden  
Manager

## **Director's Message**

### **Tune: My Favorite Things from Sound of Music**

Seeing dear old friends and making some new ones  
Learning brand new things and having some new fun  
Going on tours in a state that's not mine  
All this can lead to a wonderful time.

Eating some meals that I have not prepared  
Gaining new insights just recently aired:  
Tips about gardens and new ways to plant them,  
Stretching my mind as I learn all about them.

Where the sun's warm, when the wind blows. When  
I'm feeling sad  
I simply sign up for my convention days and then I  
don't feel so bad.

Dear PRGC members,

**This WACONIAH is the convention issue.** On pages 11 and 12 you will find everything you need to know about the 2022 April 25-27 PRGC Convention in Las Vegas Nevada. Convention Chairmen Vicki Yuen and Kristi Livreri and the Nevada Garden Clubs have planned many events and a fun-filled convention with gardening interests in mind. Something for everyone.

Excitement awaits, so come for the fun and come for the sun. Register right away. And if you haven't done so already, book a room at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas. After March 25, our room block will be released. Thank you for all you do for garden club and I look forward to seeing YOU at the 2022 PRGC Convention. NGC President Mary Warshauer is scheduling an appearance. You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet her. So do register for this memorable convention in Las Vegas. Please observe the registration deadline. Can't wait to see YOU.

## **Resolutions for One Green World?**

*By Debbie Hinchey, One Green World Chairman*

As I have gotten older, I do not seem to even think about resolutions for the New Year. I don't know why that is.

The type of improvements I usually think about have to do with home and health. Maybe now, when I think I need to change something I had better start sooner than later, not wait until the year changes.

Home can mean the worn furniture, the house that needs painting, or the weeds in the garden. Home is also the community I live in and the planet I live on.

Most, if not all, of us garden club members want to make the world a better place. There are so many areas to make improvements. From a clean and reliable water supply to the kitchen tap to the rivers having water to supply. From growing food sustainably to reducing the packaging and distance (costs) to get it to me. The improvement possibilities are infinite and overwhelming to think about.

The goal of the **One Green World** project is to do something, not to overwhelm, but to inspire us to do more than we are doing today.

Whatever is of concern in your area of the world, there is probably some little change you can make. Just as a landfill is composed of all the little things we throw away, it can add up.

*Sharron Jordan-Carlson, President*  
*Theme: "Gardening Under the Midnight Sun"*

There are so many things you can do that are appropriate for your situation. Just pick one or two to start. Be it buying one more organically grown product, more locally grown products, and/or look for crops that do not need excessive amounts of water for a marginally nutritious food. Reducing what goes down the drain or into the trash reduces tax monies needed to treat the water or purchase more land for the next landfill. Toxic substances can be taken to designated places for proper disposal. Reducing or eliminating pesticide use reduces unintended consequences and resultant costs locally and globally. You could start a worm bin or compost heap or help someone else to do it. Turn your nitrogen rich coffee grounds into organic soil amendments. I bet you have better ideas than the few I have mentioned.

Even if you don't believe that the changes you make helps our **One** planet, **Green** (and blue) **World** we call home, it will help your club and state garden club federation gain points. If every state in the Pacific Region participates then our region wins. If your state has the highest number of participants then it will win the cash award.

Perhaps you will (go ahead and do what you were thinking about before to) help the situation. Just do a little something and count yourself as part of the solution, not the problem. That is what our Pacific Region Director, Lana Finegold has envisioned the **One Green World** project to be. I think the vision is a noble one and worthy as a New Years' Resolution.

**Website**

*By Launa Gould, Webmaster*

Be sure to check the website [pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org) for information, forms for all activities and much more. If you see something that needs to be updated, just let me know. [LaunaG@cox.net](mailto:LaunaG@cox.net)



**Amy Emary** and **Rea Heesch** as  
Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
(AFGC) Fundraiser Co-Chairmen are  
**GEMs** for leading their committee to  
produce a successful, fun event.

~Elaine Gunderson

Season Greetings from Alaska! We are hibernating like the bears. The days are short with about 5 hours of daylight. December 21<sup>st</sup> was the shortest day. Now we are gaining 1 to 2 minutes daily. I cannot wait for the 20 hours of daylight. The temperatures were extremely cold in mid-November but now the weather is teasing us with temperatures in high 30's to low 40's. It is a little early for breakup.

Right now, we are not gardening under the midnight sun. Instead, we are brushing the dust off our seed catalogs and preparing for the upcoming growing season. Many gardeners start seeds late February, so when the frost leaves, and the days are warmer and longer, they can plant and play in their gardens.

Alaska Clubs are meeting in person and using hybrid options. The Greater Eagle River Garden Club will start meeting again March 2022. Anchorage and Fairbanks clubs are scheduled to meet in January 2022.

In November the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Flower Show was held. There were many beautiful exhibits. Everyone had a wonderful time catching up with fellow gardeners. The Holiday Tea was part of the Show, which was also well received.

The different clubs are anxious to get involved in their gardening activities. Greater Eagle River has a number of forgotten gardens in the community that the club members volunteer to care for through the season. Both Anchorage and Eagle River clubs take great pride in our Blue Star Markers. We have strong commitment to the military presence here, so the club volunteers assure that the markers are well cared for.

One of my goals is to increase youth involvement with the different clubs and educate the upcoming generation about the importance of gardening and playing outside.

I am looking forward to spring. Alaska has a short growing season, but our days are long so "gardening under the midnight sun" gets us outside to play and enjoy the pleasures of getting dirty.

Happy New Year to all.

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**I 'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.**

## **National Garden Clubs Poetry Contest**

By Aleta MacFarlane, Poetry Contest Chairman

2021-2022 Theme: Sing with the Songbirds -  
Exploring the Glory of Nature

### Eligibility:

- Special Education: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.
- English as a second language: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.
- General Education: Kindergarten through Ninth Grade.

### Dates for Submission:

- Club entries must be sent to YOUR State Youth Chairman; observe your state deadline.
- State Winners must be sent to Region Chairman by February 1.
- Regional Winners must be sent to National Chairman by March 1.

Aleta MacFarlane, Region Chair  
5224 Apple Valley Ln, Las Vegas NV 89108-1402  
[aletainlv@cox.net](mailto:aletainlv@cox.net)

If a little bunny hops  
And a little wormie crawls  
Which would be the quickest  
At climbing over walls  
But before you say, "That's silly".  
Remember that one term  
Now who'd look the strangest climbing  
The rabbit or the worm?

See National Garden Clubs website for complete details.

Thanks to Patricia Clayes of California for being the first entry.

## **Are Sequoias Saved?**

By Robyn McCarthy, Arboreta Chairman

This is a continuation of my article on The Sequoias from the last issue of *WACONIAH*. I was so concerned that we could possibly lose the very famous Giant Sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the General Sherman. This tree is on my bucket list to visit. I am happy to say it is still among the living in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park due to the great work of countless firefighters.

The General Sherman and the four Guardsmen sequoias were protected at the bottom of their trunks by a structure wrap made of a reflective material and fiberglass sheeting. Firefighters wear the same



material in their suits. It was announced on September 26, 2021 that the General Sherman was still standing. The KNP Complex fire, which put the giant sequoias in danger, burned through more than 88,000 acres and was still smoldering in some areas according to the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> *Los Angeles Times*.

The sequoias are reliant on fires as their cones are serotinous, meaning that the cones are productive late in the season after a fire. The fire must be of a low intensity with just enough heat coming from the forest floor to open the cones so that they release their seeds. When the seeds scatter on the sterile ash coated forest floor, they sprout with the winter snowfalls and the baby sequoias grow. Their bark has many insulating air pockets which protect the trees. Many of the fires were of such high intensity this past season that they torched the canopies of the trees, burning the cones and killing the trees.

This cold wet and snowy winter has been a blessing to the sequoias.

As of  
January 7,  
Sequoia and  
Kings  
Canyon  
National  
Parks will be  
open if  
roads are  
cleared of snow.



In September California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a \$15 billion climate package in funding to tackle wildfire and drought challenges, following a devastating wildfire season that scorched over 2 million acres of land including areas of 33,000-year-old trees. Governor Newsom said our grandchildren will inherit a world eight degrees warmer than what we know today. He asks, "Will these trees survive us?"

## **Recruitment With Focus: The Plan**

*By Suzann Stahl, PRGC Membership Chairman*

In the world we live in right now, many garden clubs are facing extinction. Membership recruitment and retention has become more of a challenge than ever before. To adapt to these changes and the values of potential members, some garden clubs are starting to become more purpose-oriented.

If you and your garden club sat down and started thinking about it, together you could likely come up with hundreds (yes, hundreds) of ideas of how to recruit new members.\* That would be a bit daunting, wouldn't it? Where do you start? How do you organize that list into something doable? Something manageable. Something that would produce results.

It must start with planning. Ok, let's be honest. The planning piece is usually skipped over when so-and-so says she'll bring her neighbor to the next meeting, and another member may agree to do the same. This is an acceptable but passive approach. Is it sufficient to insure the sustainability of our garden clubs? Probably not. So, let's make a plan!

Step 1 Preparation. Before you begin to "sell" your club to others, your members should answer these questions:

1. What future activities is our club interested in doing? It can be more than one activity but for example, do we want to engage youth in planting and growing food? Be specific.
2. In what time frame do we want to begin this activity? What steps will need to be taken to be hands-on within six months, a year, or maybe two?
3. What talents are necessary to take these steps? Do our current club members have those talents? How many more members with these talents will be needed? Will we need professionals?
4. Where will we find these talented individuals in our community?
5. What steps will need to be taken to engage individuals with these talents?

After answering these questions, set goals, put them on your club calendar and decide on who will complete them. Once you've done that, you'll be ready to begin focused recruitment of valuable new members who will enjoy participating in a garden club with purpose!

Suzann is open to addressing questions about this article at [billnsuz5312@gmail.com](mailto:billnsuz5312@gmail.com).

\*There are at least that many GREAT recruitment ideas in Pacific Region's *Membership Matters* booklet available on the Membership tab of the website [www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org).

## **San Jose Garden Club Project**

*By Laura Carroll, Publicity Chair, San Jose GC*

San Jose Garden Club President Kathy Argabright, (center) along with members Nan Bartholomew (right) and Elaine Farace, collected 49 stuffed animals at their December holiday meeting. The stuffed animals are donated to Children's Services, where they will be given to children in crisis encountered by law enforcement officers. The club also collected \$7,855 to be donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. San Jose Garden Club exists to address local issues of food insecurity and other community needs as well as to promote the study of horticulture, gardening, landscape and floral design, conservation, and civic beautification.

For information Contact Laura Carroll, Publicity, San Jose Garden Club, (408) 529-9245



## ***Penny Pines***

*By Claudia Hambacker, Penny Pines Chairman*

Many thanks to Chris Schmidt, Account Assistant at NGC headquarters, who provided information of the total number of Plantations from the Pacific Region Garden Clubs from June 2020 to November 2021. There were 319 Plantations for a total contribution of \$21,592.00. Individual States are listed below from most to least.

State	Plantations	Monetary Amount
1. Oregon	183	\$12,444.00
2. Washington	54	\$ 3,672.00
3. California*	52	\$ 3,536.00
4. Arizona	12	\$ 816.00
5. Nevada	10	\$ 680.00
6. Idaho	7	\$ 476.00
7. Alaska	1	\$ 68.00
8. Hawaii	0	\$ 00

It is important to note that Oregon gave many honorarium and memorial plantations. This is an excellent way to increase your state's numbers and something other states may wish to consider. An Honorarium thank you to speakers at State or District meetings is an excellent way to provide lasting recognition of the speaker's presentation or an individual who has worked especially hard on a project or someone who has given generously of their time, talents, or contribution. In January of 2023 the numbers from January 2022 through December 2022 will be reviewed and posted. We will then be able to keep an accurate year to year accounting for States and the PRGC.

In the previous article we began to ask questions about the Penny Pines program and why it is important for each and every club to participate. This is a short historical summary. In the '30s a Forest Service Employee, Margret March-Mount, came up with the idea of "simple funding": a method that would encourage clubs and children's organizations to participate in replanting forests. In '39 the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) decided to promote the program as a part of its 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Anniversary and in '41 it became a statewide conservation program in California. National Garden Clubs partnered with the Forest Service in 2004 and the NGC Penny Pines program was born. Today approximately 200 seedlings can be planted with each contribution of \$68.00. The Pacific Region Garden Clubs helped plant 63,800 seedlings at a cost of about \$3.00 each. A recent article in Nature Conservancy

estimated that 3 billion trees will need to be planted each year to reforest 64 million acres in the United States, in order to contain the carbon dioxide produced in 2040. Currently the USFS produce and plant 1.3 billion. So we need to at least double our numbers.

Next time the precious seeds.

\*Editor's Note: *WACONIAH* Correspondent Greg Pokorski reports that California Garden Clubs members submit the vast majority of their donations through their independent Penny Pines program which pre-dates the NGC program. Through this program California donated 286 plantations (\$19,448) in 2020 and 349 plantations (\$23,732) in 2021. And these donations were lower than normal because of the Covid impact on club meetings and forest service office closures because of Covid and wildfires. CGCI's Penny Pines Chairman (Nina Blonski) is looking forward to a better 2022.

## ***Pollinator Poster Contest***

*By Lisa Cosand, Youth Sculpture Contest Chairman*

The exciting Pollinator Poster Contest looks pretty fun on the Pacific Region website. Your state might not have a youth contest for the 2021 year but if you have a chair, send entries to him/her and they will be forwarded to the Pacific Region. (If you don't have a chair, then mail the first place winner's entry directly to the Region chair, Terry Critchlow, by March 1.)

In California, I would like the sponsoring garden club to do the initial judging and then send me the first place winners. The first place entries will be sent to the next level.

Please follow the directions on the Pacific Region website as listed on the page with ants crawling on it. Remember, one pollinator type only but there can be several of the same type on the poster.

Send California entries by February 1, 2022 to:

Lisa Cosand  
6152 Chesebro Road  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
[sflowerplc@aol.com](mailto:sflowerplc@aol.com)

**How many of us have looked around our family gathering and thought "Well aren't we just two clowns short of a circus?"**

## ***One Green World – Making a Recycled Birdbath***

*By Brynn Tavasci, PRGC Historian*

Supplies: protective gloves, protective cover for table, bowl or bucket, sponge, soft cloth, tiles/marble gems/broken or cut ceramics, glass ceiling light cover (shallow), clear waterproof adhesive, grout (unsanded grout for joint spacing of approximately 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch, sanded grout for joint spacing of approximately 1/16 to 1/2 of an inch, and sealer (liquid penetrating sealer for stone and tile).

1. Glue gems to light cover, starting with covering the hole in the middle.
2. Gems will not fit together perfectly. Keep below the edge of the light fixture to allow for some grout application at the top.
3. Apply grout with gloved hand, smooth into the joints and remove excess. Let sit for 10 to 25 minutes then gently wipe off more excess grout with damp sponge. Repeat as necessary, but do not waterlog the project.
4. Allow grout to dry, time varies.
5. When dry, apply sealer with a soft sponge. Buff to a shine.



## ***Sustainable Consumerism***

*By Gail Vanderhorst, Sustainable Consumption Chairman*



It's time to think about sustainable consumption again. While you are out shopping at the mall or sitting at your computers shopping online, think about what items you can purchase that have more than one use or that were made naturally.

For instance, there are products that are made from recycled products, like wallets from recycled leather or plastic and jewelry made from recycled airplane parts, other metal pieces and even leftover military articles.

When shopping for food, think about buying from the local farmers' markets or local food stands to prepare your home cooked meals. They are fresher and more organic than the food from big box stores. And for sure, save those turkey bones to make turkey soup, or turkey stock for adding to other meals.

**Reduce, reuse and recycle...** Toilet paper, paper towels, cardboard and greeting cards are all made from recycled paper. Look on the back of greeting cards to see if they are made from recycled paper and use them to send your greetings. Most of us are already doing these things but if we can **add one more** item to the to do list then we are improving our world.

## ***Poster Contest***

*By Charlotte Tucker, Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman*

Attention all **State** Youth Poster Chairmen - Remember your (5) five first place only state winning posters need to be to me before February 24, 2022. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

[ctucker@mlode.com](mailto:ctucker@mlode.com) or (209) 533-9300

Support PRGC Scholarships by joining Pollen Pushers Garden Club. Applications on page 14.

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**Brynn Tavasci** is a **GEM** for all her work in finding a venue and finalizing the contract for the 2023 PRGC convention in Washington State.

~ Jeanette Pruin

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## Keep Your Backyard Birds Healthy

By Ann Kronenwetter, Birds Chairman

**Birdbaths:** Clean with one part bleach and 9 parts water. Scrub the birdbath with the bleach solution and rinse very well. Using a hose works great. Thoroughly cleaning the bird bath depends on when you think it needs cleaning; I do it monthly. Fill the bird baths with fresh water.

Every day, brush the bird baths and fill with fresh water. Only use the brush on the bird baths and rinse the brush off after each use. The 5-gallon bucket that I use to fill the bird baths is only used for that purpose and labeled. ("Bird Bucket").

**Bird Feeders:** Tube feeders can be cleaned using the bleach solution. Rinse very well and dry the feeders. Wooden feeders can also be cleaned using the bleach solution. Very important to keep all feeders dry to prevent the seeds from spoiling. Cover the bird feeders with commercial covers or make your own.

Hummingbird feeders can be cleaned using ONLY boiling hot water. Brush out the Hummingbird feeders between fillings with hot water. There are special Hummingbird brushes. Using q-tips to go into the small tubes works very well. Bee guards should be used. Feeding solution is one part sugar to four parts water. Dissolve the sugar and heat and let cool. Hanging the Hummingbird feeders in a shaded area is a good idea.

**Under the Bird Feeders:** Keep the area under the feeders clean. Putting straw under the feeders works well and is very easy to rake up and dispose of.

Prevention: Using decals works great to prevent birds from flying into the glass windows. Keep bird feeders away from windows. Place your bird feeders in an area that offers protection from predators.

Nesting material: Do not use a fabric softener sheet in the dryer if you use the lint from the dryer to provide nesting material.

**Pesticides:** Do not use any harmful chemical products in your garden.

Happy Birding!

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*Diane Franchini* is a **GEM** because she is a super garden club supporter. She works very patiently to complete all tasks.  
~Jeanette Pruin

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## What is a Bumblebee?

By Judy Unrine, Pollinators Chairman



Most of us have seen bumblebees and honeybees in our gardens. But what is the difference?

There are many species of bumblebees in the genus *Bombus* of the apidae family. Charles Darwin called the bumblebee a 'humble

bee' and wrote how indispensable it was to fertilize red clover in 1859. Dumbledor is an older name still, dumble meaning buzz and dor meaning insect.

Bumblebees vary in appearance but generally are more rounded than honeybees. They are robust, large in girth, have more hairs on their body than honeybees. Contrasting bands of yellow, orange and black are protective coloration. They have large, hairy tongues, called proboscis, to collect nectar. The nectar provides the energy they need for their activities. Their wings are short and stubby. To assist with flying they flap their wings back and forth rather than up and down.

Hum, buzz, drone, it is easy to notice a bumblebee.



They are called our fuzzy friends because they are pollination champs. They forage for pollen for use in their hives and are natural pollinators for many varieties of fruits and vegetables. The female performs "buzz pollination" by grabbing the plant with her jaws and beating her wings more than 130 times per second. The beating action of the wing muscles loosens trapped pollen.



Bumblebees can fly in cooler temperatures and lower light conditions than honeybees, which allows them to continue pollinating longer than honeybees in spring and fall.

They are said to be very docile and only sting when provoked. They can be out and about in early morning but must warm up before they can fly. It is said they are so docile you can hold one in your hand and pet it's furry body.

Bumblebees are social insects. They live in underground hives that can include 50 or more individuals. Sometimes they use small, abandoned animal dens for the home. You have probably never tasted bumblebee honey. They make only a small amount of honey to tide them over for a few days of bad weather. Most of the members of the hive die over winter. The queens hibernate through the winter underground. Only mated queens wake up in spring to start the new colony.

### **Ten Environmental Problems We Face**

*By Lori Robinson, Environment and Climate Concerns  
Chairman*

Our environment is facing challenges, but we may not be aware of the extent of these problems. Following are ten of the biggest problems our world is facing. Some of these are, themselves, drivers of other problems; for instance, overpopulation is a problem within itself, but may lead to other serious issues such as water and food shortage. Others are caused by human actions, such as pollution, waste disposal and over-fishing. Many of these problems could be attributed to lack of appropriate education about how to live an environmentally-friendly life without having to make drastic changes to our lifestyle.

**1. Overpopulation:** The population of the planet has more than doubled in the last 60 years, which has a negative effect on the environment. More people means more natural resources are required, so the more the population increases, the closer the planet gets to unsustainable levels and shortages of water, food and fuel. The need for more food has resulted in intensive farming practices, and a higher use of harmful substances to achieve this, such as pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

**2. Over-fishing:** At the current rate of fishing, it has been estimated that there will be no fish left in the sea by the year 2050. Over-fishing has already led to the extinction of many species of fish; this is only going to increase as the demand for seafood increases alongside a growing world population.

**3. Pollution:** When we talk about pollution, we often think of the air, but pollution is a problem for water and soil as well. It is a problem that requires millions of years to recover from. Water is polluted mainly by oil spills and acid rain, as well as plastics that we dispose of. Soil is polluted by heavy metals, nitrates and plastic. Air pollutants include fossil fuel combustion and chemicals released by factories.

**4. Deforestation:** In the past 30 years, half the rainforests in the world have been destroyed. Trees are dying at a higher rate than ever before, for a variety of reasons, including poor forest management and climate change-driven drought, as well as forest fires. This stresses our environment, as trees produce oxygen and therefore help to maintain air quality, temperature and rainfall. The increased demand for food and shelter means that more and more trees are being cut down, which worsens the problem.

**5. Ocean acidification:** Over the past 250 years, the surface acidity of the ocean has increased by around 30% and is estimated to increase by 150% by 2100. This is a result of excessive production of carbon dioxide, which is absorbed into the ocean. This has a harmful effect on marine life, such as shellfish and plankton, by dissolving their skeletons.

**6. Ozone layer depletion:** Depletion of the ozone layer (which forms a protective barrier from harmful UV rays from the sun) is a result of pollution, particularly by chlorine and bromide found in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which cause holes to form in the ozone layer. The Environmental Protection Agency says that a single chlorine atom can break down more than 100,000 ozone molecules. So, it makes sense that CFCs have been banned from many products and industries.

**7. Loss of biodiversity:** Human activities are leading to the extinction of other species and their habitats. This has a domino effect on the food-chain, ultimately affecting entire ecosystems. This loss of biodiversity is often referred to as The Sixth Extinction, and it will probably impact our world for millions of years.

**8. Climate change:** Climate change happens because of global warming, but human activities also contribute to the problem, and the damage cannot be reversed. Some of the outcomes include changes in the seasons, melting of polar ice caps, flooding and the onset of new diseases. The development of greener

energy production to replace fossil fuels is the best way to try to reduce climate change.

**9. Clean water:** Clean drinking water is becoming increasingly scarce. In fact, a third of the world population has inadequate access to clean water, and this is expected to rise by up to two thirds by 2050 — a massive amount. The growing population and the increase in pollution are only making the problem worse, particularly as toxins enter our waters through industrial development. One of the proposed solutions is desalinization.

**10. Waste disposal:** Massive amounts of rubbish are created and dumped around the world. A large amount of this is made of plastic, which is difficult to decompose. Waste ends up in landfills and our oceans, posing a threat to human life, as well as other species, and to the environment. Recycling efforts help to reduce the problem, but this needs to be stepped up to a much larger scale if we want to make a difference.

References: <https://thebluegreenjourney.com/green-matters/>

### **Green Gables Elementary Pollinator Project**

*By Debbie Angel, President, Marine Hills GC, Washington*

Marine Hills Garden Club provided support for a youth pollinator garden at a local elementary school. Along with our support, we acquired several grants to help. The Green Gables Pollinator Project connected students, families, and teachers to the powerful experience of pollinator gardening.

- Students first explored the important role pollinators play in the farm to table process. The role pollinator gardening plays in fruit and vegetable production was stressed.
- Students were then given opportunity to plant their own pollinator garden at home using Pollinator Seed Kits funded by the WSFGC Grant.
- School employees assembled the "Pollinator Kits". All needed materials for this project were included. Completed kits were distributed to families.
- Garden lessons about pollination and pollinators will be offered in the 2021-22 school year by the district garden specialist and the Marine Hills Garden Club.
- The Marine Hills Garden Club donated pollinator perennials, annuals, and seeds for the garden.
- Marine Hills Garden Club members and friends made face masks for kids who were working in the garden. Many of these had pollinator-related prints on the fabric.

- Educational signage was created and placed by each planting at beginning of the 2021-22 school year.
- Scholars were encouraged to take snapshots of their plant starts individually or on Zoom.
- This project came to full circle when school reopened in September with classroom visits to the garden.

**Note:** This initial project took place during distant learning. In the 2021-2022 school year, students have on-going access to our school garden, community resources, and hands-on learning within a school environment. Materials purchased through grants are an essential part of curricular implementation.



#### Spring Semester-2021

- Pollinator plants and seeds donated by Marine Hills Garden club were planted in garden.
- "Pollinator Plant Kits" were assembled by school staff and sent to all Green Gables families. Materials and planting directions were included so students could create their own "Pollinator Garden" at home.
- Staff introduced project to scholars by performing a lively pollinator skit on Zoom and our district YouTube Channel.
- Decatur High School Agriculture Leadership students created instructional videos that outlined each step of the planting process, the importance of pollinators and how we can ensure their survival by creating beneficial habitats. This project was part of their semester grade.
- During weekly Zoom assemblies, the Green Gable principal and office support staff played up the pollinator plant challenge, encouraging scholars to grow their seeds, show their plants on camera and rewarding participation with a drawing. Filming in the garden even took place!
- Green Gables Functional Core students assisted in planting.

#### Summer School- 2021

- Green Gables served as one of the four host schools for elementary summer school in 2021. Ten teachers and about 125 scholars in

the first through fifth grades participated in an 8-lesson garden unit at Green Gables. This unit focused on reciprocity and community in the garden, and it was heavily informed by Native people's connections and relationships to plants and animal communities.

- In the pollinator/beneficial insect lesson, scholars searched for all the pollinators they could find in the garden and then designed their own hotel room to add to a Bug Hotel built out of pallets. This included building rooms with bamboo tubes for solitary bees and rolled corrugated cardboard for lacewings. We heard a report from one family that scholars began building bug hotels at home! Scholars also felt so comfortable around bumble bees that they asked to pet them.



**Snow**

*By Lana Finegold, PRGC Director*

Snow on the roof and snow on the trees  
 Snow coming down on my head and my knees  
 Love snowy outlines of branches in white,  
 Making snow angels. Snow is all right.  
 Except for the driving, I slide off the road  
 Then wait for ages until I get towed.  
 The beauty of snowflakes I will always love  
 And treasure the feel of some very warm gloves.

## ***Pacific Region Convention in Las Vegas***

*by Vicki Yuen, Convention Co-chairman*

Convention is coming right up, and will be here before you know it! The dates are April 25-27, 2022. Our theme is **RESPECT the Region – Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose**. Some of you probably remember the hilarious R-E-S-P-E-C-T performance by Kristie Livreri and her crew at the Oregon Pacific Region Convention in August.

**State Presidents**, please note that you are expected to attend the Monday morning State Presidents' meeting, and then the Executive Committee meeting, the Board of Directors meeting, and all the Convention meetings. If for some reason you are not able to come to the Convention, please arrange for a substitute.

There will be a **Fashion Show** on Tuesday evening, with highlighted outfits featuring various recyclable (or non-recyclable) materials. Each State President received a popsicle stick with the type of material to be highlighted in the outfit. I hope you State Presidents remember what you chose! (If you don't remember, just contact Kristie at [kristabelle7@aol.com](mailto:kristabelle7@aol.com)) Whether or not you yourselves will be the models, I hope you will spearhead the development of the outfit. You may of course make more than one, and use a variety of materials. Brynn Tavasci will be our Fashion Show announcer, so she will need to know about your garb before the show.

**Hotel reservations** may be made at the Plaza Hotel, at 1 Main Street in Downtown Las Vegas. Reservation line is 800-634-6575. (Open 7 a.m.-10 p.m.). Group Code is SNVGRDN. The last day to receive the group rate (which varies by day) is Friday, March 25, 2022; reservations may be cancelled without penalty 72 hours or more before scheduled check-in (4:00 p.m.). To book online, use the link <https://book.passkey.com/go/SNVGRDN> Make sure which days you need to be there before you confirm your reservation. State Presidents and people who are involved with the Region's Finance Committee or Organization Study Committee might want to arrive on Sunday for Monday morning meetings at the hotel. Others might want to wait to arrive until Monday as the Executive Committee meeting isn't until Monday afternoon at the Nevada Garden Club Center (see Tentative Schedule on the next page). The first meal in our meal package (the Awards and Design Banquet) is Monday evening. Meals on Monday and Tuesday are buffet style. Wednesday includes a box lunch and a plated dinner.

The **Nevada Garden Club Center** is at 800 Twin Lakes Drive, in Lorenzi Park. It is about a ten minute drive from the Hotel. We will make every effort to arrange carpooling, by contacting those who are

driving and asking if they are willing to take a rider along. You can also get back and forth with Uber or Lyft, or a taxi. Most of the clubs in Nevada Garden Clubs meet in this building, which we have been using for 50 years. We even have an agreement with the City to take care of the Rose Garden nearby. Maybe there will even be roses in April!

One attraction of the Convention will be the **Repeat Boutique**. Many lightly used items will be available for purchase (bring small bills!). In addition, the latest children's book from NGC, *Network With Nature*, will be available for \$12. Earnings from the Repeat Boutique will go towards costs of the Convention, and book sales income will go to the Region.

Details on a **Wednesday afternoon tour** are still being worked out. The Republic Services recycling plant is a wonderful tour, but that one has been on hold until at least March, so it might not be available to us. If not, or possibly in addition, we will visit the Neon Museum and get up close and personal with many of the old Las Vegas neon signs. A one-of-a kind experience. As the details are worked out, you will hear more and have a chance to sign up for the tour.

We are also expecting a short visit from our **National Garden Clubs President**, Mary Warshauer! She should be there on Tuesday evening. Don't miss this chance to get to know her.

This Convention is only made possible by the efforts of all of our wonderful Convention Committee members. Kristie and I could certainly never have put it together without their help! ***Come and enjoy!!!***

## ***GEM Program***

*By Michele Noe, GEMs Chairman*



**G**enerous + **E**xceptional +  
**M**indful = **GEM**

Let's sprinkle the new year with good cheer and some **GEM**s! Suppose

you are not familiar with what a **GEM** is. It is a message to someone you'd like to recognize in *WACONIAH* for their Generous nature, Exceptional qualities, and Mindfulness of others. Check out the PRGC website at [pacificregiongardenclubs.org](http://pacificregiongardenclubs.org) for an order form and more information. Click on the Membership tab for the drop-down menu on the home page to find it.

Thank you for your consideration.

# PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

April 25-27, 2022

## "Respect the Region"

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All activities at Nevada Garden Club Center (NGCC) except as otherwise noted.

### Monday, April 25, 2022 Theme: Reuse

Breakfast and lunch on your own.

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Set -up Repeat Boutique, Exhibits, Silent Auction baskets  
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Committee Members Only Meetings – **Plaza Hotel**  
Finance Committee: Lana Finegold's Room  
Organization Study Meeting: Greg Pokorski's Room  
State Presidents' Meeting: Anne Sullivan's Room  
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Break on your own  
1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Meetings TBA – **Plaza Hotel**  
3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting - Officers, State Presidents - NGCC  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Awards and Design Banquet - "Repurpose, Recycle, Reuse"

### Tuesday, April 26, 2022 Theme: Repurpose

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration, Repeat Boutique, Silent Auction  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting, - Executive Committee plus Chairmen - NGCC  
10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Convention Opening Ceremony – Repeat Boutique closed during ceremony  
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Convention Business Meeting #1 - Repeat Boutique closed during meeting  
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch - Nocturnal Pollinators - Master Gardener  
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Workshop – Create something new from something repurposed  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshop - Parliamentary Procedure  
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Workshop - Create an Ikebana design  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Banquet and Fashion Show

### Wednesday, April 27, 2022 Theme: Respect the Region

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration, Repeat Boutique, Silent Auction  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Convention Business Meeting #2 - Repeat Boutique closed during meeting  
12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Box Lunch in the Park - Tree Planting  
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tour of Republic Services Recycling Plant and/or Neon Museum - TBD  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Workshop - Sustainable Living  
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Workshop - Create a Facebook page/Website  
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Enjoy the selection of items at the Repeat Boutique and Silent Auction or stroll through the Garden of the Pioneer Woman (weather permitting)  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Life Member Banquet - Speaker: Mark Hall-Patton: "*Respecting our History*"  
Results of Silent Auction

1.20.22B rev

This PRGC Convention is completely made possible by the efforts of all of our wonderful Convention Committee members. All of YOU deserve a HEARTFELT THANKS on behalf of all PRGC members.

**L**ife is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

## **Blue Star Memorial Marker Dedication**

By Rosemary Ecker and Bette Tang, from *The Green Thumb*



Veterans Day was a wonderful day to dedicate the Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Canoga Park, California VFW Post #2805. More than 50 people attended, including many club members of Southern California Garden Club.

The Santa Ana winds were blowing strongly as Robin Pokorski

welcomed everyone. Congratulatory greetings were read from NGC President Mary Warshauer, PRGC Director Lana Finegold, CGCI President Lynne Batchelor, and San Fernando Valley District Director Martha Smyser. George Unrine, CGCI Blue Star Memorials Co-Chairman, gave the history of the Blue Star Memorials. It was inspiring to see the El Camino High School ROTC present the Colors and for veterans in the audience to be recognized.

The dedication by Club President Harriet Vallens and the unveiling of the marker by Post Commander George Ortiz was breath-taking. Bouquets of red and white roses and a variety of other flowers were placed at the memorial. It was all very festive. At the end of the ceremony, there was an exciting special surprise – a flyover by an Air Force transport! It flew directly over us close enough to see the plane markings. Lunch followed with a wonderful buffet prepared by the Post.

The dedication was a timely reminder of the sacrifices of our servicemen and women and of the pride in our country. Rosemary Ecker remarked, "Each time I attend a Blue Star Memorial Dedication I think of my dad who was a Navy Seabee during WWII assigned to the Aleutian Islands and the Philippines. He had been a farm boy who went to help protect our country and continue its freedoms. He was very proud of what he learned and accomplished in the Navy and instilled in me the importance of being an American. We all should be thankful for our service men and women who give so much for us." Terri Taylor commented that she brought her grandson Micah because she wanted to share and to instill pride and respect for our armed forces. She said, "It is a wonderful tribute from our club." Indeed, it is! It's one of the most rewarding garden club activities.

## **Pacific Region States' Websites**

### **PacificRegionGardenClubs.org**

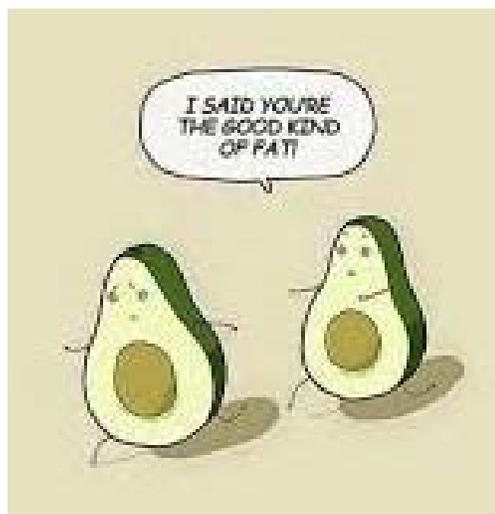
Washington: [WAGardenClubs.com](http://WAGardenClubs.com)  
Arizona: [AZGardenClubs.com](http://AZGardenClubs.com)  
California: [CaliforniaGardenClubs.com](http://CaliforniaGardenClubs.com)  
Oregon: [OregonGardenClubs.org](http://OregonGardenClubs.org)  
Nevada: [NevadaGardenClubs.org](http://NevadaGardenClubs.org)  
Idaho: [GCII.org](http://GCII.org)  
Alaska: [AlaskaGardenClubs.org](http://AlaskaGardenClubs.org)  
Hawaii: None

### **Issue Deadline**

The deadline for the May 2022 issue is 3-31-22.

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**Thank You for Supporting the  
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