



WACONIAH

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

Vol. 43 No. 1 Director's Theme: "Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities"



2015 – 2017
Pacific Region
Director
Kristie Livreri

*Here's to a
great two years,
Madame
Director!*

Director's Acceptance Speech

Well, here we are. The day has finally come. Over fifty years ago, a girl from Pioche got off a school bus and was greeted by Garden Club Royalty: Hobby St. Denis, Lee Pearn and Linnea Miller. They had come to Pioche to judge a flower show. My mother Helen Bosch and her friend Irene Fogliani had formed the Pioche Garden Club with the urging of Linnea, the President of then Nevada State Federation of Garden Clubs. I was sixteen at the time, but had met Linn earlier when she came to comb the dumps at the Bristol Silver Mine to find line material and containers for her design work.

Fast forward to 1976 when I was expecting my second child, Curtis. I received a telephone call from Linnea. She said she had received a call from my mother who had mentioned that I could use some help. She invited me to my first Rose Garden Club Meeting. The rest is history.

I stand on the shoulders of Hobby, Linnea, Imogene, Betty, Lee Heenan and Lee Pearn and many others

who have taught me so much through the years I have been a member of garden club.

I hope you, along with me, will think back and remember when you first joined your garden club, or better still, when you first felt that soil sifting through your fingers. When you smelled a lilac for the first time; when you blew the seeds from a dandelion and made a wish. Remember when you saw a worm inching through the earth or watched a beautiful butterfly or stood very still as a bumble bee buzzed by. Remember that first floral design that took your breath away and you thought to yourself "I could never do that," but then, with the help of others, you did.

I hope over the next two years that we can search for the inner child or remember when we were childlike in our discovery of this beautiful world around us. I hope we will rejuvenate our enthusiasm as we become aware of our stewardship of the earth and the beauties of the world around us. I hope we can look at the not-so-beautiful thing around us and commit to make it better. I hope we will pledge to do our part to educate and motivate youth to realize what an important part they play in being caretakers of this earth.

I want you all to know that I accept this position with great honor. I pledge to you that I will do my best. Vicki and I will be here for you as we carry out our theme: *Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child - a Kaleidoscope of Possibilities*. It is our hope that you will seek the inner child and you will reach out and help the youth in your communities, in your states. I can testify that what I learned at the knee of my mother I remember. I remember planting hyacinths with her in the fall and smelling the sweet surprise in the spring. I remember when people told her she couldn't grow peonies in Pioche and she

studied and did everything to prove them wrong and, on Memorial Day every year, we had peonies to take to the cemetery. We can instill those memories in children. We can *Leap into Action* and help them learn about this beautiful world around us.

Thank you again for your support.

Kristie

**Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs
Terry Critchlow, President**

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



My theme, "Back to the Future – One Leap at a Time" is a reminder that nature's future is at risk and it encourages us to take action to influence its outcome. CPR: Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration is a rallying call to promote

awareness of the natural habitat lost and the need to preserve our environment for the future.

During my term I hope to inspire members to promote and sponsor activities to reintroduce our natural environment to our youth and in doing so educate their friends and families. By bringing awareness to our community members we may help open the discussion on future developments to include natural habitat.

Washington's garden club members are active in promoting gardening to the youth in their areas. Members are holding children's programs, going into classrooms, and sponsoring projects to teach our youth about gardening. Students are submitting posters, poetry, and essays regarding issues and interests concerning our environment. Flower shows are scheduled across the state, as well as community activities and projects. By including and encouraging the awareness of the natural environment to these current and future leaders we may help influence outcomes. An appreciation of nature's gifts and their inter-relationship may "spark" an interest in conserving, preserving and future restorations of our landscape.

As I travel throughout the state visiting clubs and districts I will encourage our members to promote the awareness of our natural environment to both children and adults. NGC President Sandy Robinson and Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri will be proud of

Washington members' efforts promoting their special themes and projects.

Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri honored us by attending our convention held in beautiful Port Angeles. We watched the ferries, cargo boats and tour boats as they came in and out of the harbor.

The lights of Victoria, BC were visible at night across the straits from our rooms. The weather was picture perfect for her visit.



**Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Judy Tolbert, President**

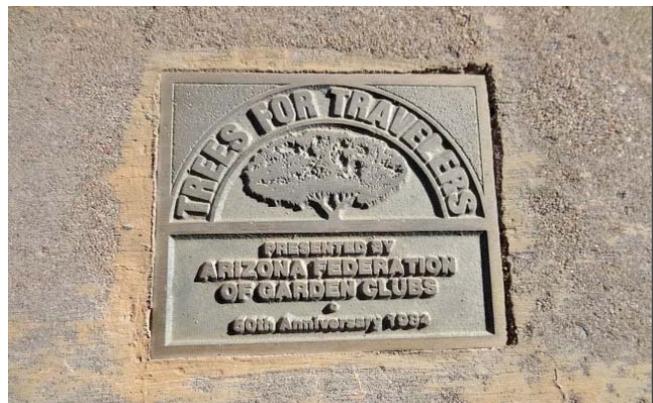
Theme: "People, Plants and Projects"



We have some of the best of everything in Arizona, but many of us do not consider the temperatures in the summer months to be among those to brag about. However, the Northern District continues to make us proud right through the year. **Alta Vista GC** in Prescott had a

great year, adding a new **Blue Star Memorial Marker** at the Rowle P. Simmons Community Center in Prescott. They also completed a brochure "*Making a Difference*" on Wildfire Prevention for the NGC President's Special Project which was awarded a **1st Place** for medium clubs.

The newest endeavor for the **Northern District** is to relocate a bench which currently resides in an abandoned rest area. The bench was found accidentally, and was identified as part of the 1984 "Trees for Travelers" (pictured below) project, in honor



of AFGC's 50th Anniversary, a project led by then-president Mary Cochran. Several benches were placed in Arizona between 1984 and 1985, and a tree was planted to shade each bench. The project won the 1984 National Arbor Day Award in the Organization Category, and was recognized by the Governor's Commission on Arizona Environment. Arizona Department of Transportation has agreed to relocate the bench to a new site and funds have been raised to purchase and plant a new tree.

Cerbat GC planted a tree at the annual Arbor Day celebration, one of their many civic projects that continue throughout the year.

Scottsdale GC and **Old Town Scottsdale GC** jointly dedicated a **Blue Star Memorial Marker** at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale. Scottsdale GC also presented "Floral Fireworks" a Standard Flower Show in April 2015.

Washington GC celebrated its 85th Anniversary with a lovely tea and we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Mary Cochran wearing her mother's beautiful black lace dress from the 30s.



Weeders GC celebrated its 60th Anniversary last month with a Garden Tea Party at the Sisk Park in Chandler.

On a much sadder note, we lost a very special past president in May 2015. **Elin Doehne** (pictured below), AFGC President from 2005 – 2007, was an inspiration to everyone she met. She had so much energy, and it was almost impossible not to be caught up in her enthusiasm. I remember her bright yellow car with a license plate that said "Bloom" and that is what she did,



day in and day out. Elin lived life to the fullest, and she once wrote that the "A" in AFGC stood for Awesome and Amazing.

My first few months in office have been exhilarating and somewhat overwhelming, but I can already tell that the next two years are going to be very special and I am grateful for the opportunity.

The Vegetable Family Tree

From Gardening Secrets (Reader's Digest)

Like all living things, vegetables belong to families. Knowing which plants are kindred will come in handy when rotating your crops.

Allium family – *Alliaceae* – Garlic, leeks, onions, shallots, chives

Brassica (mustard) family – *Brassicaceae* – Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, cauliflower, radishes, turnips

Carrot family – *Umbrelliferae* – Carrots, celery, parsley

Cucurbit family – *Cucurbitaceae* – Cucumbers, gourds, melons, pumpkins, squash

Goosefoot family – *Chenopodiaceae* – Beets, spinach, Swiss chard

Legume family – *Fabaceae* – Beans, lentils, peas

Nightshade family – *Solanaceae* – Eggplant, peppers, potatoes, tomatoes

Sunflower family – *Asteraceae* – Artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, lettuce



Nevada Garden Clubs, Inc. ***Vicki Yuen, President***

Theme: "Growing in Nevada"

We were so pleased to have Sandy Robinson visit us for our recent state meeting. She talked about the question we get sometimes "Why should I join a Garden Club?" She told us about the intangibles, the personal growth and rise in self-esteem that comes from taking on projects that you were not sure you could do. She told us about people whose lives were significantly changed by their membership and activities in garden club. These are not things that are easy to help new people understand – but we all need to take this to heart. You never know what you can accomplish until you try. I know I have grown in self-confidence by serving as state president.

One of our Cactus Society members, **Bob Middag**, was honored at Laura Dearing Elementary School in April for the work he did there this past year in redesigning and planting the school's cactus garden. He involved many

Life Membership: What is it? Why do I want it?

By Alexis Slafer, Life Membership Chairman



of the students in the planting and landscaping project, and they soon began calling him "Cactus Bob." Some of the plants came from his yard, and others were donated by other Cactus Society members.

Bob had heard that the school's cactus garden needed some TLC. He says, "I found it needed much more than that! I then took it upon myself to help the school out by creating a cactus garden that would be an educational tool as well. What is there today was done without any plans. I just created the design on site and added plants/rocks/decorative materials as I had them. The cactus garden is an ongoing project." I imagine Bob's life was changed from his work on this project.



Call to Pacific Region Meeting in St. Louis

A meeting of the Pacific Region Executive Committee will take place during the NGC Fall Board Meeting (September 16-19) in St. Louis. All region members attending the Fall Board Meeting are welcome. Specific time and place are to be determined and will be communicated during the Fall Board Meeting.



LEAP INTO ACTION!



"Life." It could mean being alive and enjoying that time, as in "What a life!" Or, perhaps, it means "for as long as you're alive." In our case it is a little bit of both.

Purchasing a Pacific Region Life Membership is a way to honor your members. You can recognize and reward your members who have worked so hard -- with a Pacific Region Life Membership -- to celebrate their guidance and commitment to strengthening your club, state organization, and/or our region. For just \$40, you'll honor a Pacific Region Life Member who will receive a lovely pin and certificate...while, at the same time, you'll be helping our scholarship program. And, remember your donation is fully tax-deductible.

To have some fun and provide an extra incentive while increasing our scholarship program by growing our life members' cadre...an exciting contest is taking place. The winner will be the state that has the largest percentage (per capita) increase of Pacific Region Life Members. This chairman will donate \$180 to the winning state to be used for a special project of their choice!



At the PR 2015-17 Board of Directors meeting an immediate response began the **"run for the roses"** pace. To date those in the running are:

- California with 5 life memberships
- Washington & Nevada tied with 3 life memberships
- Oregon with 1 life membership

It is absolutely wonderful to acknowledge & celebrate these Pacific Region Life Memberships and the \$480 that has been added to our scholarship program in just over two months.

Please be sure to follow any special life membership purchase procedures in your state. The application forms are available from this Life Membership Chairman or they can be found on the Pacific Region website: www.pacificregiongardenclubs.org/Forms

This chairman would like to express appreciation to those who supported and encouraged me to purchase my own Pacific Region Life Membership at the Board of Directors meeting in Eugene, Oregon – so I was no longer the only person in the room who was not a Pacific Region Life Member. **THANK YOU!**

Let's get those applications in and watch our scholarship program grow while honoring our deserving members!

**Alaska Garden Clubs
Martie Black, President**

Theme: "Share and Grow Your Knowledge"



Alaska held its convention in the beautiful city of Ketchikan. Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri was visiting and installed the new officers. Everyone had a great time.

The information received at the NGC Convention was shared with club presidents who were unable to attend the national convention. Everyone was excited about frogs and expressed interest in learning more about those in Alaska. The "Bee a Wildlife Hero" is close to Alaska's heart as our former state president Becky Hassebroek has worked hard getting it going. We would like to run a contest to name the bee. Can anyone send some ideas?

My theme is "Share and Grow Your Knowledge." What I'm interested in accomplishing is more communication between clubs and within clubs. I would like our members to realize they each have knowledge that the rest of us would like to hear about. A party planner could give us ideas on how to make our flower shows more exciting in carrying out our themes. A quilter could give a talk on colors that work better together. People always seem to feel unable to exchange information, like their own knowledge is not worth anything. I think we can learn from everyone. I would like to increase membership as much as everyone else. There is a lot to think about and how to get there.

After returning home everyone is in full gear doing last minute plantings and pulling weeds. There are over 500 wildfires burning in the state which means we are having warmer, sunnier days. I must close and get outside!

Advice from a Cactus

From Silver State Gardener



**Get plenty of sunshine.
Accentuate your strong points.
Be patient through the dry spells.
Conserve your resources.
Don't desert your friends.
Wait for your turn to bloom.
Stay sharp!**

- Anonymous

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

Theme: "Growing Minds, Planting Seeds"



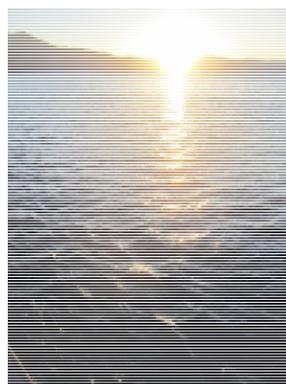
My President's Project for the next two years is *Encouraging Future Gardeners*. CGCI has been supporting youth gardening groups in California since 1931, and the goals and development are consistent with those of NGC. The goal of this project is to raise awareness of CGCI by distributing an **"Encouraging Future Gardeners Kit."**

A letter promoting CGCI and a questionnaire will be sent to established youth organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Scouts, Camp Fire, after school programs, Community Gardens and CGCI youth groups. The kit will contain donated seeds, printed instructions, a fabric pot and a reporting form. Ideas on how children can make their own pot(s) using recycled material will also be included, thus the child can learn the art of growing plants while being eco-friendly.

CGCI ended the 2013-2015 term with our annual convention held in Reno, Nevada; where both CGCI President Rita Desilets and Nevada Garden Clubs President Vicki Yuen unveiled the **Blue Star Memorial Marker**



which has both states listed. It was a moving ceremony.



On Friday, June 12, we took a fabulous tour. It started with us making and taking our continental breakfast (take a bag and fill it) for the bus ride. A few highlights included a train ride through a mining site in Virginia City, Nevada; then off to a fabulous lunch at an old Cider Mill, now a bed & breakfast. We had time in Virginia City to do some sightseeing and shopping. Then on to the Nevada State Museum, in Carson City. All this time we are looking at the beautiful Lake Tahoe out the bus window. Our last stop was a sunset dinner cruise on Lake Tahoe.



Attending the Pacific Region and the NGC conventions gave me inspiration to begin another year as President of Garden Clubs of Idaho. One of the most important things occurring at these meetings is rekindling old friendships and making new ones. At Pacific Region GCII won second place for the

Pacific Region Director's Project for 2013-15. I am proud of the work by the garden clubs to make this award happen. **Polly Dennier Taylor** of Hill and Valley GC, Clearwater District, received the prestigious Member Award of Honor for the Pacific Region at the NGC convention in Louisville, Kentucky. We want to express our sincere appreciation for her dedicated service to GCII.

Among the many ongoing projects in Idaho is The Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. GCII and one of its clubs, **Merry Tillers**, have the honor of participating in the care of the Anne Frank Educational Park in Boise. It is a .81-acre plot near the Boise River. Merry Tillers will be caring for the roses and the bee garden. Boise and the Anne Frank Memorial is the recipient of a sapling of the original Chestnut tree Anne Frank viewed out of her window while in her home in Amsterdam. It is a truly beautiful site with sandstone, roses, trees and a creek all included near the River. It is a beautiful peaceful place to stop, think and reflect on what is good in nature and the world. Also it is a place to take time and to remember what the tree and the garden represent-peace and tranquility.

Youth Contests

By Peggy Olin, Youth Poetry Contest Chairman

Themes for the coming two years for the Youth Poetry Contest are as follows:

2015 – 2016 **"Croaking Leaping Frogs"**

2016 – 2017 **"We Three: Bees, Butterflies and Me"**

Encourage our youth to participate. Deadline for submission to your state chairman is December 1.

High School Essay Contest –

Themes for the coming two years for the High School Essay Contest are as follows:

2015 – 2016 **"Don't Let the Frogs Croak!"**

2016 – 2017 **"We Need Our Pollinators"**



It was my third grade teacher who introduced me to the actual gardening experience when the class was invited to plant our own garden in an open area back of the playground. We watered and tended to the little vegetable seeds we had planted, and then on a magical day we were found digging the

produce and soon preparing our very own salads. My first gardening experience! So yes, how important the role of teaching children the joy of gardening! Thankfully, this term will find us more involved with our youth.

This president is challenging our districts and clubs to try things that inspire us. Let's "Leap Into Action" by upgrading a project or taking our projects to a higher level by adding something new to it – perhaps that we've never done before. Remember that Colonel Sanders had retired when he tried something new, and look what happened. Let's have courage and not be afraid.

Our biggest challenge will be to "Share the Bounty – Tip the Scale" in providing our abundant supply from our gardens for the thousands of Oregonians who suffer food insecurity – hunger. Food pantries are available all over the state to accept our donations which then share with charitable organizations. Each member's personal goal is to donate in pounds what our personal weight is!!! We can invite our neighbors and friends to assist us with our making this goal. We can do this!!

Gardening Tip

Graduate the blade of a spade or shovel in 2-inch increments with indelible ink and use the marks as a ruler when you need to dig to a specific depth.



Mark the shaft of a shovel, rake or other long-handled tool every four inches with indelible ink. When you need to figure spacing between plants, just lay it on the ground.

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.

Bees: The most commonly seen bees in Washington are the honeybee and bumblebee. Bees feed on pollen and nectar and their foraging activity help ensure the pollination of flowering plants. Bumblebees in Washington State come in 24 varieties of colors and various sizes, but are always fuzzy in appearance. Bees have robust and fuzzy bodies compared with wasps which serve to enhance their pollen gathering.



Honeybees (pictured left) live in colonies that nest in crevices of large trees or other protected areas. Unlike honeybees, bumblebees establish new colonies each spring. They prefer to build their nest in

abandoned mice burrows, small cavities in building walls, or other similar spaces.

Both the honeybee and bumblebee (pictured right) can sting and will aggressively defend their colony. While foraging, bees are passive and rarely



sting unless severely provoked. A honeybee stings just once. Their strongly barbed stinger lodges in the skin, then tears from the bee's body when it flies away which causes the bee to die shortly afterward. The bumblebee's stinger however lacks barbs, so it can sting repeatedly!

Josie Goodenow, Bee Chairman

Natural Habitats: You have an incredible resource available to you! Your Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provides comprehensive information on important fish, wildlife, and habitat resources through its Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) Program. Check out the website: wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs.

This site identifies the habitats and species that they consider priorities; the conditions required to maintain healthy populations of priority species and viable, functioning priority habitats based on the best available science; and maps showing their known locations. CHECK IT OUT!

Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

Birds: The American Gold Finch is found throughout the state of Washington. Commonly seen in flocks around fields and marshes, this beautiful golden bird was voted to be the State bird in 1951.

The male American Goldfinch is more vibrant gold in color, more noticeable by the black cap and wing tips, while the female is yellow with brownish wing tips and tail. Their song is long, high pitched and sweet, calling to one another about the weather and the food found in the marshes and fields of Washington State.



They migrate to the south in winter and are late heading up north, preferring to arrive about the time the seed heads are breaking open and are ready to eat, sometime in late June or early July. Finches' place their nests in saplings or shrubs 4 to 8 feet off the ground. It only takes the female a few days to build a nest made of spider webs and plant fibers taken from fields nearby.

Encourage these beauties to your garden by planting native thistles and milk weed or make sure to add sunflowers and fresh thistles to your own back yard feeders. Check with your local Audubon Society for more information on the birds in your area.

Orvalita Hopkins, Bird Chairman

Youth: Youth Doing Good – Focus on Youth: Kristie Livreri's Pacific Region Director's theme is **"Look to the Garden through the Eyes of a Child – A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities."** What could be better than focusing on the wonderful things that gardening youth are doing in their schools, clubs, or coordinated with scout and eagle projects? Each issue of *WACONIAH* will showcase a state in our region, highlighting a few of the projects, programs, or club activities that have helped educate and nurture our future gardeners, landscapers, botanists and more. This will just show a small facet of the whole kaleidoscope of worthy projects that make us so proud of our youth for accomplishing. You can be inspired by their dedication and imagine the great impact it will have for our future.

Focus on Washington: The Oak Harbor Garden Club of the Chuckanut District of Garden Clubs has a longstanding partnership with the Oak Harbor Hillcrest Elementary School. This enriching education and hands on program started five years ago with the club sponsoring 85 Junior Gardeners and the new projects that they continue to support each year. Through partnerships with local organizations and successful grant applications, this start-up has grown in size, scope, and success: fourteen raised beds, an irrigation system, rain barrels, worm bins, a native plant garden, and a chicken coop. Students recycle lunchroom waste to feed the worms, who in turn supply the students with



their castings to feed the soil. What a great education of the mutual benefit of sharing through gardening.

Top Honors: Hillcrest Elementary School was certified as a **Washington Green School** and named a **National Green Ribbon School** by the U.S. Department of Education for their use of the garden for teaching and realizing the benefits of environmental awareness. Not only did these kids learn about gardening, they became teachers to the other students and their own families as well.

Valuable Resource for Youth Project Planning:

The Frightened Frog K – 4 Lesson Plan, a free download at www.ngc.org. Also find *The Frightened Frog* K-4 Children’s Book available for purchase.

Brynn Tavasci, Youth Chairman

Tree: The Evergreen State is the unofficial nickname of Washington because of its abundant evergreen forests. The western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) was designated as the official state tree of Washington in 1947. *Tsuga* is from the Japanese *Tsu-ga*, the element for “tree” and “mother.” The *heterophylla* is Greek for “different leaves.” It is not related to poison hemlock but is named after it because of the similar smell of its crushed foliage.



A large evergreen coniferous tree native to the west coast of North America, the western hemlock is found from its northwestern limit on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska to its southeastern limit in northern Sonoma County, California. There is also a limited number at low altitudes in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana.



A shade-tolerant tree, it can be found under the canopy of Sitka spruce and Douglas fir. Eventually it replaces other conifers whose species cannot grow in the dense shade cast by western hemlocks. It needs a high level of organic matter and a moist acidic soil. The largest of its species, it can grow to 273 ft. high with a trunk diameter of 9 ft. and

is distinguishable by its feathery flattened sprays with pendulous branch tips and drooping top. The leaves are flat and needle-like. The numerous seed cones are small and pendulous, maturing to gray-brown.

Hemlock wood is important in the timber industry. It is used as wood pulp and the bark used in tanning leather. The wood has an even grain and resists scraping, making it a good architectural millwork item. It is used to make doors, windows, parts of staircases, and ladders. The needles can be used to make tea. Most importantly it is an important food for deer and elk.

Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman

Excerpts from GoodHousekeeping.com

In the Morning –



Brew “certified” coffee. A USDA Certified Organic label means it was grown using sustainable standards.

Green “to go.” Not brewing at home? Take a travel cup to your favorite java joint; they may fill it at a discount.

The BUZZ

By Josie Goodenow, Bee Chairman



I hope that you all are enjoying our beautiful summer weather. It’s the time of year that many of us just can’t stay indoors! The bees in our area seem to be doing very well this year. The blue orchard mason bees have done their pollinating, laid their eggs, and are through for the year. The leaf cutter bees are now busy filling in and taking over the yard. I am fortunate to have so many pollinators visiting my yard, maybe they liked the mild winter we experienced this year? It just seems like there are more buzzing bees of all types than usual out there. Possibly part of the reason may be that my neighbors and I are using less, if any, insecticides this year. I can only hope so!

As I have noted before, **one of every three bites of food we eat is from a crop pollinated by pollinators**, including bees. Yet, over the past decade, we have witnessed an alarming decline in bee populations across the world. During this time, there have been dozens of scientific studies linking bee declines partially to pesticide use. These studies have illustrated the devastating effects that toxic chemicals are having not just on honey bees, but also on native bees and other beneficial insects. Even though the European Union has taken action and implemented a ban on the use of certain pesticides, the USA has not.

I’ve read that just this year; Lowes announced they would no longer be selling plants and plant seeds that have been “soaked” in these harmful insecticides. However, Home Depot and Walmart, to name a few, continue to do just that with no warning to their customers. They continue to sell plants, including veggies, that include these pesticides!

By Terry Critchlow, Booster Chairman



Please, let us all stand up for beneficials. Ask your nursery if their plants contain insecticides, and if they say they "don't know," write to the company's home office or their suppliers and ask. Tell your nurseries that their continued use of pesticides not only affects the good "bugs"

but can also find its way into your garden and your drinking water as well. If you have children at home and do not purchase organic foods, ask your physician to measure the level of toxins in your children's urine. New studies are showing high rates of toxins in our children. While some studies a couple of years ago showed no difference in nutritional values of pesticide covered fruits and vegetables, it isn't nutrition that's the issue, it's the poisons we ingest! Ask yourself, would you give your child a teaspoon of insecticide a day along with their vitamins?

It's great that some folks advocate against the use of insecticides, but if you don't know the plants you buy already have them, you won't know that you are actually using the insecticide as well. If you plan on buying plants at the nursery for feeding bees and other pollinators, or yourself and your family,



take a few precautions to verify that your plants have not been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides. If this class of pesticide is persistent in the plant, or in the soil around the plant, it can continue to kill pollinators for several years after planting and it isn't doing your body any good either!

Enjoy being in your garden this summer, maintain a bee-safe yard, try not to use pesticides, especially insecticides in the garden, and NEVER on flowering plants!

All the pollinators and I thank you!

Booster Sponsorship has changed! We now support the Pacific Region Scholarship and youth programs. Becoming a PR Booster is an opportunity to support the Pacific Region in these worthwhile projects. Kristie Livreri's first action as Director was to double the scholarships offered from one - \$1000 scholarship to two - \$1000 scholarships. Help support the education of our youth in environmental fields by making a donation of \$30. Add your name to the list of boosters below.

Washington: Sally Priebe, Diane Franchini, Jeanette Pruin, Dorothy Munroe, Lana Finegold, Brynn Tavasci and Terry Critchlow

Arizona: Elaine Gunderson

California: Robin Pokorski

Oregon: Sherry Cossey, Peggy Olin, Garnet Ascher, Karen Brown, Sandra Ford

Nevada: Kristie Livreri, Judith Stebbins and Vicki Yuen

Idaho: Janet Peterson and Robyn McCarthy

Alaska: Becky Hassebroek

Kentucky: Sandy Robinson

State unknown: Peggy Stevens and Orvalita Phytz

A special **THANK YOU** to *Pacific Region Boosters*. Because of their generosity, **\$750** was raised to put toward youth educational projects. Congratulations! You're a Life Saver!



Pacific Region States' Websites

Washington: WAGardenClubs.com

Arizona: AZGardenClubs.com

California: CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

Oregon: OregonGardenClubs.org

Nevada: NevadaGardenClubs.org

Idaho: GCII.org

Alaska: AlaskaGardenClubs.org

**2015 – 2017 NGC President's Special Project
"Service in Action"**

By Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

*The first step to change is awareness,
followed by the desire to make a difference,
and finally, the necessary actions to
make the desire a reality.*

The goals of Sandy's Special Projects are to increase awareness of the seriousness of the demise of pollinators and amphibians and to encourage conservation and protection efforts by clubs, the general public and governmental agencies.

Often called the first bio-indicators, amphibians and pollinators reveal the state of their ecosystems by their presence, abundance and activities. Pollinator and amphibian populations are declining worldwide through effects of pesticides, habitat destruction, diseases, parasites, global warming, and introduced predators. Education, habitat conservation, and protection of at risk populations are issues we can change through action.

Clubs, states, and regions are encouraged to participate in the *BeeGAP*, *Monarch Watch*, *The Frightened Frog*, and *Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!* programs and projects designed to engage members in efforts to protect and conserve these important populations.

Significant monetary awards and Certificates of Participation are available. Coordinating projects with grants are being developed. Refer to our NGC website gardenclub.org and listed chairmen for further information.

We are gardeners, we are nurturers,
we are forever the optimists!

NGCers are **N**aturally **G**reat **C**onservationists!

We Care About Our World!

We KNOW that Together we can Make a Difference!

Let's All Go Do It!

BeeGAP (Bee Gardeners Adding Pollinators) a partnership with Crown Bees increases the awareness of native bees and encourages efforts to increase the population. Native bees are effective pollinators, often flying at lower temperatures and in cloudier weather than the honeybee, and appear immune to the costly infestation of the mite species often found in honeybees. Bees pollinate one-third of the food we eat with an estimated annual value to North American agriculture of \$14.6 billion.

The **Monarch Watch Committee** has programs and materials providing information about the decline of the monarch species with emphasis on the necessity of planting



milkweed and nectar sources for endemic butterfly species. Monarch Way Stations establish monarch habitats in public and private gardens. We can make a difference through action for this threatened species.



The Frightened Frog book and program highlights the environmental issues affecting amphibians. Clubs will use the early reader book in preschool through 4th grades. Lesson plans are available emphasizing the importance of amphibians and the role they play in healthy ecosystems. Amphibians are threatened with the largest mass

extinction since the dinosaurs.

Bee a Wildlife Action Hero! – By committing to garden for wildlife you will attract the pollinators, butterflies, amphibians, and other beautiful wildlife to your garden so you and your families and friends can enjoy them AND provide a safe haven where they can live and reproduce. You can commit to Garden for Wildlife on an apartment balcony, a yard or acreage,



school grounds, nursing homes, **Blue Star Memorial Markers**, community gardens and parks, commercial buildings – there are no

limits to the possibilities! By providing food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young - and by incorporating sustainable gardening practices - you not only help wildlife, but you educate others around you, and the Buzz will Bee "Congratulations! You have become a Wildlife Action Hero!"

Leadership Development materials will be available for local club and state officers, leadership development workshops, and club members on the NGC website.



Clubs and states are encouraged to host workshops and to promote leadership development. Garden clubs educate, engage, challenge, and develop leaders within their membership. Do not say "no one will lead our club" but **"Leap Into Action"** and help develop tomorrow's leaders today.

*Editor's Note: The kittens graphic above has **nothing whatsoever** to do with Leadership Development but since your editor is also chairman of that committee and there isn't an interesting leadership graphic, I wanted your attention – guess it worked, didn't it?*

million pollinator garden challenge

By Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

As a member of a Garden Club we can certainly make a positive difference in our community, but as a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. we can make a significant difference in our World!



Because of our renowned reputation, and the strength of our membership, NGC has been invited to be an Inaugural Network Partner of the National Pollinator Garden Network, recently formed to help establish one million gardens to assist in

restoring critical pollinator population recovery in the United States. Over the next two years, The Network will bring together the science and garden capabilities of industry with the outreach of nongovernmental organizations to empower a million private citizens and organizations to plant pollinator gardens nationwide.

This is an unprecedented collaboration and we know our members will be proud to participate! This website is accessible through a link on NGC's website gardenclub.org where you can obtain knowledge and expertise on native plants, pollinator science, food and habitat, planting ideas for habitat creation, recommended plants and seeds by region, seed sources (many free), and a multitude of other science-based research!

NGC is targeted as being part of the on-the-ground effort and visitors will be able to link to our website, as well! You will be able to link to the Pollinator Partnership S.H.A.R.E. (Simply Having Areas Reserved for the Environment) site where we hope you will register your gardens on a map and even upload pictures of your garden if you wish. Be sure to access the site through NGC so the Network can tell how strong our membership truly is!

Federal agencies have been directed to take steps to protect and restore pollinator populations due to recent declines in the number and distribution of pollinating insects causing significant concern among ecologists and agricultural interests. These declines include our managed bee population used in agricultural, native bees, monarch butterflies (suffering a decline of more than 90% over the past two decades), and many others. In addition to being important to natural ecosystems across our country, pollinators are critical to one third of our food production. While there may be many reasons for pollinator decline, experts agree that the overall loss in the amount and distribution of habitat and food plants is a critical contributor.

WE CAN FIX THIS!

Every household, business, and school can provide food and habitat for pollinators. It doesn't have to be on a large plot of ground – habitat and food plants can be

provided in a container on your deck, or a condo window planter. Include them in your public garden projects, your youth garden projects, nursing homes, botanical gardens, business areas, governmental offices. We want ALL of these gardens registered!

Monetary awards are available under the President's Special Projects. Be sure to apply! Write articles for your newsletters, in your local papers, wherever you can, to share in educating the public. Include signage on your projects sharing what you're trying to accomplish!

As support for this Challenge, we plan to coordinate grants to clubs that will plant pollinator gardens with our youth. As soon as we can put this in place, information on how to obtain these grants will be available on our website, from your state president, and from your state Habitat Chairman.

It is SO important to teach our youth how to take care of our land, our wildlife, our food supply for the future! Who will teach them if we don't!? We know that there are some clubs that don't involve our youth – we hope that you will be able to donate money instead to the grant program to be used exclusively to help clubs that do. Commercial donations are also welcome so that we can support even more club gardens! Certificates will be given to those that participate!

Let's show the nation that National Garden Clubs, Inc. deserves their recognition and that we can make a powerful difference!

Trees & Shrubs Project

By Robyn McCarthy, Trees & Shrubs Chairman



As project chairman I am encouraging each District in the Region to plant a tree or shrub by the end of January of 2016.

Ask your state president or District Director for the Pacific Region Trees and Shrubs Project form. Fill out the

Project Form when the tree and/or shrub is planted. When every District in a state completes and submits a form with the requested information, that state will earn a prize at the 2016 convention.

Region Director Kristie Livreri has asked that, if possible, children be involved in this project.

An exhibit will be made of the documents and photos sent to me. They will be displayed at the 2016 PR Convention. Several states can win a prize.

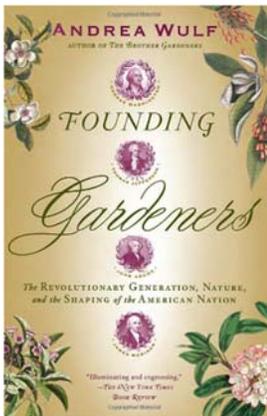
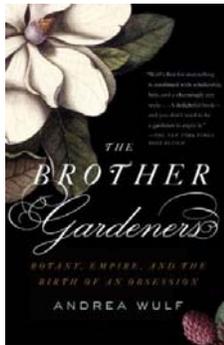
Please call or email me with any questions at 208-520-0128 or robnyngcii@q.com

By Linda Larson, Book Review Chairman

Andrea Wulf: *"The Brother Gardeners, Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession"* (2009)

"The Founding Gardeners. The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation"

As we prepare for another election season and a chorus of what the Founding Fathers believed, Andrea Wulf provides a fascinating story about how important plants, trees and sustainable agriculture practices were to these very people. History focuses on the treaties, laws and documents of the country's founding, yet the livelihood of all citizens depended upon a stable, predictable food supply. In "The Brother Gardeners" the story of John Bartram, an American farmer fascinated by plants, and Peter Collinson, a London merchant and passionate gardener, is revealed through their 40-plus years of over the ocean correspondence and seed sharing. Add in the problem of naming plants and the appearance of Carl Linnaeus in the middle of the century and this book gives significant insights into the importance of gardening in the beginning of our country. John Bartram's garden outside Philadelphia is designated America's first botanical garden on the National Register of Historic Places.



"The Founding Gardeners" moves forward in time to the tree, garden and sustainable agricultural passions of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and John Adams. Wulf's research reveals that, during the deadlock of the Philadelphia constitutional convention of 1787 as delegates worked to revise the Articles of Confederation, it was a point of compromise or collapse for this

new country. Weeks passed without progress and on a Saturday morning a group of them ventured out to visit John Bartram's garden. Wulf writes "It can only be speculation that a three-hour walk on a cool summer morning among the United States of America's most glorious trees and shrubs influenced these men. But what we do know is that the three men that changed sides and made the Great Compromise possible that day had all been there and marveled at what they saw."

These books reveal American history for a gardener. There is much to appreciate about the political conflicts and contributions of gardens which still resonate today.

By Marva Lee Peterschick, Flower Show Schools Chairman

Point Scoring at Flower Show Schools involves the use of a score card upon which certain qualities deemed important are allotted points to total 100 points or ideal perfection. It is the only device discovered to date which can reduce the possibility of personal preference. The Scale of Points serves as a beneficial purpose, avoiding extremes and keeping a sense of order in a complex and confusing field. This is why we carry our *Handbook for Flower Shows* – the scale of points is always available in it. If the schedule for the flower show does not contain the scale of points, it should at least refer to the page number you can go to in your handbook.

Every Judge must understand the mechanics of point-scoring and why we use the system, particularly in close decisions.

The exhibitor and the public are entitled to know the standards by which the exhibits are judged. Exhibitors have the right to feel confident that the Judges use the same standards which they try to follow in selecting their exhibits. If the exhibitor studies the Scale of Points, it forges a bond between her work and the Judge. Unless uniformity of ideals is established and followed, exhibitors will be less inclined to make the considerable effort required to exhibit.

If judges do not use the Scale of Points, they will miss details which might be overlooked. However, by using the scales, judges address the most important qualities of an exhibit. In using the Scale of Points, the Judge should never have two exhibits receive the same total points. By closer observation, the judge will reveal differences. The total one-hundred points rarely, if ever, is given. Perfection in living material is almost impossible to attain. Point Scoring is something learned by experience, based on knowledge, taste, color and design sense.

This is why it is important for all judges to refresh constantly, attending all flower show schools and symposiums when available in your area.

MAKE SENSE in your judging always.



Gardening Study Schools

By Sally Priebe, GSS Chairman



At the beginning of the 2013-15 term, of the eight states in Pacific Region, four had a Gardening Study School Chairman and one was working on it. A great start! However, only two out of eight states offered Gardening Study

School courses – California and Washington. Not great.

Washington recently completed Series X, Course III. Course IV is scheduled for October. A garden club president attended the second day of Course I. He attended courses II and III both days and took the exam for consultant credit. He said after Course III he was sorry he hadn't realized how much fun it was and how much you learned because he would have attended both days of Course I and taken that exam. Now, of course, he'll have to wait until Series XI to take Course I and become a Consultant.

Do you know what Gardening Study School is all about? It is for new gardeners and those that want to polish or update their gardening knowledge. Subjects range from basic botany to houseplants to veggies to propagation to plant diseases and pests to pruning to home irrigation to container gardening and beyond. It is a chance for members to meet and become friends with others outside their home district. If classes are open to the public, it is a chance to gain new members. In Washington many Master Gardeners attend our Gardening Study Schools for their continuing education credit. They learn that garden club members are serious gardeners and some Master Gardeners even become garden club members.

We are a Flower Show Club, a Landscape Design Club, an Environment Club, and so much more. However, our name says we are **National GARDEN Clubs**. Shouldn't offering our members the chance to learn more about gardening through Gardening Study School be a priority?



If you are a **GARDEN** Club member and there is not an active Gardening Study School program in your state, talk to your state president and offer to look into it. The Gardening Study School Handbook is available from NGC Member Services for ten dollars. It will tell you everything that is required to put on a series of four courses. Gardening Study School is well worth a ten dollar investment. If you still have questions, your Pacific Region Gardening Study School Chairman (who is also a State GSS Chairman) is only an email away.

Let's make Pacific Region a shining example by all states offering our **GARDEN** Club members the chance to learn to become better and up to date gardeners.

BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO!

By Becky Hassebrook, Habitat Chairman



BEE A WILDLIFE ACTION HERO! – Commit to Garden for Wildlife

What vision do you have when you hear the words "wildlife habitat"?

Do you wonder why that's even part of our organization?

"Wildlife" traditionally referred to non-domesticated animal species, but according to Wikipedia has come to include "all plants, fungi and other organisms which grow or live wild in an area without being introduced by humans". We worry about some of our past gardening practices and what serious impacts they have had on our land and waterways, AND our wildlife! We **KNOW** that chemicals that we have used in our gardens alter how children develop and lead to life-long effects, cause our pets to be at twice the risk of developing malignant cancer, reduce the hatching success and cause birth defects in our birds, and harm our earthworms and our beneficial insects and pollinators. We **KNOW** that runoff from rain and watering further contaminates our groundwater and watersheds. We **KNOW** that native habitats are decreasing at an alarming rate.

We not only have the obligation to ourselves to have a beautiful yard and garden that our friends and neighbors LOVE to visit – one of which we are proud with specimens that win those coveted blue ribbons – but we also have an obligation to our "wildlife" to protect their environment and increase their habitat so that they can thrive and prosper, as well!

We are asking you to "**Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!**" Ask **ALL** of your clubs, members, and friends to Commit to Garden for Wildlife and show them the way – not only in your own backyards, but in your public places, and with your Junior Gardeners at their homes and schools! Practice sustainable gardening, and provide food, water, cover, and a place for our wildlife and pollinators to raise their young.

These are exciting times where our members **CAN AND WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD!** Join Us as National Garden Clubs, Inc. members **LEAP INTO ACTION!**

Certificates of Participation will be given for each award application. Significant monetary awards are available. Award rules and the commitment validation form are available on the website. Send applications to this chairman, with commitment validations, to **Bee a Wildlife Action Hero!**

2015 Pacific Region Convention Highlights

By Lana Finegold, Correspondent

From the Mountains, to the Valleys, to the Waters was the theme of the 72nd annual Pacific Region Convention in Eugene Oregon, April 20 - 22, 2015 at the Hilton Eugene Hotel. The convention was proudly hosted by Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. and Oregon Federation President Peggy Olin sewed and painted all of the convention tote bags with the convention logo of mountains, valleys and water. All eight states were represented. With a voting strength of 51, there were 58 full-time and 38 part-time attendees enjoying interesting programs, workshops and tours. Huge thanks to Convention Chairman Sherry Cossey, Registrar Jennifer Rabner, Credentials Chairman Carol Norquist and PR Director Elaine Gunderson. Invitational designs representing the eight states in Pacific Region graced the lobby and named rhododendron trusses added color near the sales and meeting room entrances. Rhododendrons were also used in centerpieces.

The first evening we were mesmerized by Kay Huston in pioneer clothes, portraying Jane Franklin Mecom who was Benjamin Franklin's sister. We learned of the many hardships that women faced in that time period. The next day after the ceremonial convention opening and reports by our Region Officers and eight state Presidents, we shared a nature adventure with David Droppers: Gardening for Butterflies in the Pacific Region. Then some of us visited the Cascade Raptor Center and the Jordon Schnitzer Art Museum. Workshops taught Flower Pounding and Dealing with your Garden after Significant Weather Events. I learned that radical renovation can work for rhododendrons if needed (cutting them to the ground) and we saw this done at Hendricks Garden the next day. The evening design banquet featured designs by Oregon NGC Flower Show Schools Instructor Char Mutschler.



On our last day of the convention, following morning meetings, our lunch speaker Harold Greer familiarized us with rhododendrons. Awards were presented at lunch. That afternoon the tour of Hendricks Park with

guide Roger Gossler was informative with many blooming rhododendrons and other spring blooming plants. The tour also included the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History with a docent. Beautiful displays helped us learn about Oregon history and wildlife evolution. The Installation Banquet was festive with incoming NGC President Sandra H. Robinson inspiring us to ***“Leap into Action”*** and incoming Pacific Region Director Kristie Livreri urging us to ***“Look to the Garden Through the Eyes of a Child – a Kaleidoscope of Possibilities.”*** We thank our hosts in Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs for favors, centerpieces, tote bags and hospitality. Following the installation banquet, we enjoyed the Eugene New Horizons Band conducted by Convention Chairman Sherry Cossey and Tim Prendergast. We also enjoyed a dessert buffet and on that sweet note the convention ended.



Convention Business Recap

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- Meetings were held by the Executive Committee and other committees on April 20, by the Board of Directors on April 21, and convention sessions on April 21 and 22.
- Region assets of \$41,623.67 were reported.
- The 2015-2016 region budget and 2016 region convention budget were adopted.
- The invitation from Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs to hold the 2017 Annual Convention in the South Puget Sound area in April, 2017 was accepted.
- Revisions to the Policy and Procedure Guidelines and to the Convention Procedure were adopted and have been posted on the website.
- It was voted that two \$1,000 scholarships be given in 2016 and in 2017.
- NGC President-elect Sandra H. Robinson installed the 2015-2017 Executive Committee.
- Convention registration: 96. Voting strength: 51.
- The 2015-2017 Organizational Meeting on April 23 kicked off the new term.

2015 NGC Convention Highlights

By Lana Finegold, Correspondent

"Endless Possibilities" was the theme of the 2015 NGC Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in May. Along both sides of the halls leading to the meeting rooms were creative designs by Region representatives. The Life Member Banquet was held at Yew Dell Gardens honoring Life and Golden Circle Members and featuring Dr. Paul Cappiello who was also honored at the Award of Excellence Luncheon. NGC selects three people annually to receive Excellence Awards. Other programs: landscaper Jon Carloftis with a presentation showing before and after pictures of his work; landscaper Tracey Williams' PowerPoint focusing on vertical and urban gardening on apartment terraces; Children's Gardens PowerPoint by Marcia Faris; Designs by Bill J. Harper; Kentucky Caves and the National Park System History by park ranger Brice Leach and much more.



Voting strength was 427 with total attendance of 689. Educational exhibits and seminars provided learning opportunities with Endless Possibilities. NGC dues were raised to \$1 but that won't be enough according to IRS rules, so money was donated by the board and a new GAP fund will be established. See *The National Gardener* to learn more about when the dues increase will begin. The Pacific Region lunch gave delegates a chance to mingle in a smaller setting with other people in our region.

Sandra H. Robinson was installed as NGC President and each of us sent good wishes by writing a personal statement of support or SOS. Among Sandy's projects: leadership training tips and a new book, *The Frightened Frog, An Environmental Tale*. This darling book is available for \$10 from NGC Member Services and the hope is to put these in schools and libraries and spread the word that amphibians are threatened. "Imagine a spring with no 'ribbitt, ribbitt,' no deep croak of a bullfrog or squeak of a tree frog. It is not just a supposition; it is fast becoming a reality all over the world." Lynn White, Science Professor/book advisor.

The possibilities are endless as we **Leap Into Action** with our new NGC President, Sandra Robinson.

2015 NGC Convention – Business Recap

By Greg Pokorski, Parliamentarian

- Committee meetings took place May 12-14. The NGC Board of Directors met on May 15. Convention business meetings took place on May 15-17.
- 2015-2016 annual budgets were adopted.
- An expansion of the Blue Star Memorial Markers Program was approved to provide Gold Star Markers as a tribute to Gold Star Families who have lost a loved one defending the United States of America.
- 2015-2017 officers were elected and installed.
- The bylaw amendment to increase the per capita dues of state garden clubs from \$.50 to \$1.00 was approved.
- The Organizational Meeting on May 18 kicked off the new term.
- It was approved to change the method of distribution of *Keeping in Touch* from direct mail to an electronic version to be sent to state presidents for distribution to each club president.

Director's Travel Schedule

Sep 16-19 NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
Oct 5 Idaho Garden Clubs Board Meeting, Boise, ID

Calendar of Events

Sep 16-19 NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO

2016

April 4-8 73rd PR Convention, Henderson, NV

School Days

By Sheila Parcel, Schools Chairman

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOLS

September 21-23, Course I, Encinitas, CA
Registrar: Jill Coleman, 951-684-2635
bcnjill@hotmail.com

September 29-30, Course III, Portland, OR
Chairman: Garnet Ascher, 503-686-5334
garasch39@msn.com

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

August 26-27, 2015, Richland, WA
Chairman, Joann McDougall, 503-396-2285
joannMcDougall@yahoo.com

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL

October 13-15, 2015, Course IV, Woodinville, WA
Co-Chair, Marianne Wilkens, 425-391-4284
marianne@msn.com
Co-Chair Bonnie McEachern, 425-941-0732
bomcearn@yahoo.com

TRI-REFRESHER

October 29-30, 2015, Encino, CA
Contact: Robin Pokorski, 818-361-7873
RobinP@juno.com



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NGC Award-Winning
 Newsletter



Pick two people to share your WACONIAH with in your club and district

NGC announces National Wildlife Federation Partnership

By Becky Hassebroek, Habitat Chairman

NGC is proud to announce its Partnership with National Wildlife Federation!

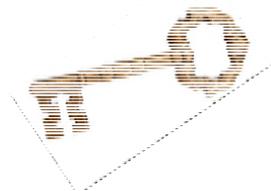
We both share a deep-rooted concern about the essential role gardeners play in providing habitat for wildlife across our nation! **We both desire** to help each other reach a broader audience with greater impact than either could achieve on its own! **We are proud** to work together to create garden habitat for pollinators and other wildlife!

For a limited time, National Wildlife Federation is providing National Garden Clubs, Inc. members a special discounted package. Go to: www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/UserAccount/SignIn?campaignid=WH15FGC to apply for and receive a Certified Wildlife Habitat certification (value \$20), attractive metal yard sign (value \$30), a one-year subscription to *National Wildlife Magazine*, and online *Garden for Wildlife* Newsletter (normally valued at \$35). Total special price for NGC members **May 15 through September 30** – \$35.00.

Be sure to visit NGC's "**B**ee a **W**ildlife Action **H**ero! Garden for Wildlife" page under your President's Projects! There are great awards available!

WACONIAH Staff

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People say money is not the key to happiness, but I always figured if you had enough money you can have a key made.